

Dark Tourism and Local Development. Creating a Dark Urban Route

Authors : Christos N. Tsironis, Loanna Mitaftsi

Abstract : Currently, the various forms of tours and touristic visits to destinations associated with the “dark” facets of the past constitute one of the most dynamic fields of touristic initiatives and economic development. This analysis focuses on the potential development of urban dark routes. It aims a) to shed light to touristic, social, and ethical considerations and to describe some of the trends and links combining heritage and dark tourism in post-pandemic societies and b) to explore the possibilities of developing a new and polymorphic form of dark tourism in Thessaloniki, Greece, a distinctive heritage destination. The analysis concludes with a detailed dark route designed to serve a new, polymorphic and sustainable touristic product that describes a dark past with places, sights, and monuments and narrates stories and events stigmatized by death, disaster, and violence throughout the city’s history.

Keywords : dark tourism, dark urban route, local development, polymorphic tourism

Conference Title : ICDT 2022 : International Conference on Dark Tourism

Conference Location : Paris, France

Conference Dates : July 19-20, 2022