

THE YOUTH TOURIST

Motives, Experiences and Travel Behaviour

ANNA IRIMIÁS



The Youth Tourist

THE TOURIST EXPERIENCE

Series editor: Richard Sharpley

The Tourist Experience series addresses a notable gap in the literature on Tourism Studies by foregrounding the tourist experience in a cohesive and thematically structured manner.

Taking a novel approach by presenting both short form publications and longer form monographs exploring issues in the tourist experience, the series will seek to build a comprehensive set of texts that collectively contribute to critical discourse and understanding of the contemporary tourist experience. Short form publications will review specific types of tourist by focusing primarily on the influences and nature and significance of their experiences within a socio-cultural framework while longer titles will embrace contemporary empirical and conceptual perspectives and debates as a means of understanding experiences.

Recent volumes:

Un-ravelling Travelling: Emotional Connections and Autoethnography in Travel Research

Sue Beeton

The Adventure Tourist: Being, Knowing, Becoming

Jelena Farkic and Maria Gebbels

The Backpacker Tourist: A Contemporary Perspective Márcio Ribeiro Martins and Rui Augusto da Costa

The Mindful Tourist: The Power of Presence in Tourism *Uglješa Stankov, Ulrike Gretzel and Viachaslau Filimonau*

Forthcoming Volumes:

The Responsible Tourist: Conceptualizations, Expectations and Dilemmas Dirk Reiser and Volker Rundshagen

The Sport Tourist Sean James Gammon

The Youth Tourist: Motives, Experiences and Travel Behaviour

BY

ANNA IRIMIÁS

Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary



Emerald Publishing Limited Howard House, Wagon Lane, Bingley BD16 1WA, UK

First edition 2023

Copyright © 2023 Anna Irimiás. Published under exclusive licence by Emerald Publishing Limited.

Reprints and permissions service

Contact: permissions@emeraldinsight.com

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without either the prior written permission of the publisher or a licence permitting restricted copying issued in the UK by The Copyright Licensing Agency and in the USA by The Copyright Clearance Center. Any opinions expressed in the chapters are those of the authors. Whilst Emerald makes every effort to ensure the quality and accuracy of its content, Emerald makes no representation implied or otherwise, as to the chapters' suitability and application and disclaims any warranties, express or implied, to their use.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-80455-148-6 (Print) ISBN: 978-1-80455-147-9 (Online) ISBN: 978-1-80455-149-3 (Epub)



ISOQAR certified Management System, awarded to Emerald for adherence to Environmental standard ISO 14001:2004.









Contents

About the Author		iχ
Acknowl	edgements	XI
Introduct	ion	1
Chapter 1	1 The Youth Tourism Domain	5
1.1	Size and Growth of the Global Youth Population	5
1.2	Youth Populations in Tourism Source Countries	8
1.3	'Youth': A Concept That Needs Definition	8
1.4	Generational Labels for the Young	12
1.5	Normative Discourse on 'Youth Tourists' in Tourism	
	Studies	14
1.6	Millennials	16
1.7	Youth and the Pandemic – Pandemials	19
1.8	Generation Alpha – Children and Preschoolers	20
1.9	Youth-oriented Policies Within the EU	21
1.10	Interrail – The Sustainable Way to Travel	21
1.11	Youth-oriented Services: Hostels	22
1.12	Conclusion	24
Chapter 2	2 The Young Tourist and Personal Development	25
2.1	Identity Formation and Tourism	25
2.2	Learning and Personal Development	26
2.3	Interactions With Culturally Different Individuals:	
	Intercultural Sensitivity	29
2.4	Interactions With Culturally Similar Individuals:	
	African-Background Students' Trips 'Home'	32
2.5	Interactions With Older People: Religious Tourism and	
	Pilgrimage	33
2.6	Work-Travel Experiences	36
2.7	Volunteer Tourism	3.8

viii Contents

	2.8	Volunteering at Sporting Events	40
	2.9	Travelling to Learn (Gap Years and Backpackers)	40
	2.10	Backpackers	42
	2.11	Conclusions	43
Ch	apter 3	3 The Young Tourist and Hedonistic Experiences	45
	3.1	Young Tourists on Family Holidays	45
	3.2	Hedonistic Holiday Experiences (4-S and Winter Tourism)	48
	3.3	Young Tourists, Sex, Intimacy	50
	3.4	Festivals and Spaces of Heterotopia	53
	3.5	Fandom-Tourists: Film Tourists, Anime, Cosplay	57
	3.6	Anime, Manga and Cosplay	59
	3.7	Conclusions	61
Ch	apter 4	The Young Tourist and Social Media	63
	4.1	Gen Me: Are Today's Youth Narcissistic?	63
	4.2	Togetherness and Performing Roles	66
	4.3	Wanderlust	67
	4.4	Young Tourists: The New Nomads	69
	4.5	Vanlife	70
	4.6	A Trusted Travel Companion: The Smartphone	71
	4.7	Smartphones as Travel Companions	73
	4.8	Nudging	74
	4.9	Instagram and Influencers	75
	4.10	Influencer Marketing	76
	4.11	FOMO, JOMO and the Metaverse	77
	4.12	Metaverse	79
	4.13	Conclusion	81
Conclusion and Future Research Paths			83
Re	ference	es	89
Index			101

About the Author

Anna Irimiás is Associate Professor of Tourism Management at the Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary. Her research interests include consumer behaviour, tourism destination management, cultural tourism and film tourism.



Acknowledgements

This volume has come to fruition, thanks to the encouragement of many friends and colleagues. I would like to acknowledge the support of the Series Editor Richard Sharpley (University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK) and to Sheena Reghunath (Emerald Editorial team). Writing of this book took place between June and November 2022 in Budapest for which I acknowledge the support of the Corvinus University of Budapest (Hungary). I am indebted to Gábor Michalkó and Ariel Mitev (Corvinus University of Budapest) for their critical insights and for our discussions around the kitchen table. The photos and insights from young tourists, Nicole Betta, Zsófia Fekete, Fiamma Gomes, Eszter Klapka, Edoardo Marangon and Zsófia Szabó, are particularly valuable to this volume. Thanks for sharing them. I am also grateful to Maria Della Lucia (University of Trento, Italy) who insisted that I should 'write that book'.

Finally, the support of my husband Alessio, my daughter Caterina, my parents Judit and György and my mother-in-law Sandra has been essential to the completion of this book.

Anna Irimiás Budapest, Hungary