

Editorial

In line with the definition of the World Tourism Organisation a tourist destination is an important place visited by tourists. We can differentiate between three types of destinations: from a geographical point of view, the one furthest away from their place of origin; from an economic perspective, the place where they stay the longest and, therefore, where they spend a greater amount of money and, finally; from a psycho graphical perspective, the destination which constitutes the main reason for their journey. Therefore, destinations refer to a geographical location with particular characteristics which gives a tourist reasons for visiting it. As such, it ought to have proper references and limits, although two perspectives can be differentiated between here as well, the real, or physical, perspective and the perspective that is perceived, influenced by the image given by companies or official tourist offices themselves. An example of the former might be an island's physical shape, where real limits impose a basic determining factor as to how it is perceived by the tourist. An example of the latter could be the limits created by the market in the widest sense ("Green Spain" is a way of offering a group of destination regions with common and unique characteristics, which makes it different from others).., The term Destination Regions will be used for the geographical area in which the tourist activity is concentrated, defined as the place chosen by a person to visit and spend at least one night with the aim of experiencing some aspect or characteristic perceived as a satisfactory manner of occupying free time. A tourist can choose to go to various different places but only the place where he decides to spend the night will be considered a destination region, thus its borders are subjected to the journey's characteristics and models and so regions can be large or small, overlap or not, depending, for example, on the transport system and distance. Planners must be aware that regions exist on different levels in a destination and that the existence of administrative borders can limit the planning and design of the destination region Within the geographical area in question the structure of the tourist services on offer which, logically, are situated in specific places, called Nodes, in reference to the clusters of attractions and services which together form a local sub-destination, is shaped. The spatial structure of these nodes takes the form of three concentric rings. The core is the centre: it can be an attraction, a landscape or an area with monuments important to the tourist. It is surrounded by an area of contemplation which acts as both the direct physical and

psychological scenario for the tourist experience. In turn, this area of contemplation is also surrounded by an enclosure which is the external area of influence where the services and facilities which sustain tourism are to be found. For their part, the nodes have two main elements which are often independent: the attraction complexes and the service components.. The markers carry out various different functions, from prompting the journey, choosing a destination and planning the journey to choosing the activities or itineraries within the destination region and identifying the attraction core or cores. With this approach, the separate markers mainly influence the choice of destination and the journey's itinerary, whereas the adjacent markers influence the choice of the cores and the attractions to visit, which is why they are of special relevance with regard to the behaviour of the tourist, providing adequate information on the attractions and encouraging trips and itineraries within the region, sometimes even encouraging the tourist to prolong his stay. The most common model assumes that not all the nodes can be linked to each other and that the journey along the routes can be in one direction or both ways. That is, not all travellers choose to take the same way back to their accommodation. The present volume of SAJTH gives basic inputs in research as far as tourism management principles and practices are concerned.



 Dr Abhinav Kamal Raina
Chief Editor