

Call for Papers on
Sacred Site Visitation: Policies, Experiences and Commercialisation
Special Session at the International Conference on Tourism (ICOT 2011)
Tourism in an Era of Uncertainty



Organised by

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and
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Rhodes Island, Greece
27th – 30th April 2011

In order to complement the regular program with emerging topics of particular interest, the ICOT 2011 Conference on “Tourism in an Era of Uncertainty” will include a Special Session on “Sacred Site Visitation: Policies, Experiences and Commercialisation”. This Special Session focuses on the hybrid nature of religious tourism and the tourism-pilgrimage dichotomy as well as on the intersecting journeys of tourists and pilgrims within the context of the same sacred site. This session offers the opportunity to study the sacred site visitation in an interdisciplinary way bringing together researchers who share interest in religious tourism but come from different fields of study such as ethnography, anthropology, sociology, psychology, geography, as well as management sciences and economic related fields. The discussion is open to researches from western and eastern cultures (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism) and the aim is to combine research from a variety of sacred sites, of either well-known or less known places.

The special session will seek papers that attempt to address the following key issues, including (but not limited to) the following themes:

- Motivations and experience of tourists/pilgrims
- The enchantment of sacred site experience
- Religious tourism as an alternative form of tourism
- Development policies of religious tourism
- The economic impacts of religious tourism and pilgrimage
- Local economic development of sacred sites
- Economic impact of retailing of religious souvenirs
- Sacred sites management: Regional, national and local aspects
- Tourism-pilgrimage dichotomy and duality of space
- Touristification of sacred sites
- Authenticity and commercialisation

Abstracts of no more than 350 words should be submitted electronically by **February 15th, 2011** to Dr. Filareti Kotsi at the following email address: f-kotsi@otenet.gr. Papers presented at the special session will be considered for publication in a special issue of the *International Journal of Tourism Anthropology* (<http://www.inderscience.com/ijta>) published by Inderscience or an Edited book.

For further enquiries regarding conference fees, conference programme, recommended accommodation, maps/instructions, and registration forms, please visit the web address at <http://www.cut.ac.cy/icot/>.