



# The Dark Tourism Symposium 2012



The world's first academic centre for dark tourism research will soon open at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan, Preston, England). The **Institute for Dark Tourism Research (iDTR)** aims to become the global hub for dark tourism scholarship.

The iDTR aims to advance knowledge about the contemporary nature and consequences of visitation to tourist sites of death, disaster or the seemingly macabre. It will bring together scholars who seek to deliver internationally recognised research that contributes to the ethical and social scientific understanding of dark tourism and heritage, as well as to the appropriate development, management, interpretation and promotion of dark tourism sites, attractions and exhibitions.

The iDTR will be launched at a special one-day symposium at UCLan's Westleigh conference centre (Preston, England) on **24 April 2012**. The event will comprise of seven internationally renowned keynote speakers on dark tourism:

**Dr Philip Stone (University of Central Lancashire, UK)**

*"Mediating Mortality: Dark Tourism and the Significant Other Dead at Ground Zero"*

**Dr Gilly Carr (The University of Cambridge, UK)**

*"Self and Other: neglected dark legacies and accepted dark heritage in the Channel Islands"*

**Dr Tony Johnston (Kings College, London)**

*"The Dominion of the Dead: Thanatourism and (Other) Worldly Encounters"*

**Emeritus Prof. Tony Seaton (University of Limerick, Ireland / University of Bedfordshire, UK)**

*"Flags of Convenience, Rocks of Reification, and Quicksands of Theory: Charting Thanatourism in 2012"*

**Prof. Richard Sharpley (University of Central Lancashire, UK)**

*"Shining Light on Dark Tourism: an introduction to themes, issues and consequences"* (title TBC)

**Major and Mrs Holt (Major and Mrs Holt's Battlefield Guides and Maps)**

*"Pioneering the Modern Battlefield Tour"*

**Tony Openshaw (Director of Marketing - Lancashire & Blackpool Tourist Board, UK)**

*"Dark Tourism: a public sector perspective"* (title TBC)

Tickets cost **£89 (delegate rate)** and **£59 (student delegate rate)** and includes:

- Full access to the symposium event and speakers, including a copy of presentation slides
- Symposium pack (including a collection of articles, working papers, & electronic resources for teaching and learning)
- Morning coffee
- Hot buffet lunch
- Afternoon tea
- Conference table refreshments
- Plenary session and exhibition space for networking

**For further details and booking information, please visit:**

[www.dark-tourism.org.uk](http://www.dark-tourism.org.uk) / [www.facebook.com/darktourism](https://www.facebook.com/darktourism) / [www.twitter.com/dark\\_tourism](https://www.twitter.com/dark_tourism)

For general enquiries, please contact Dr Philip Stone at [pstone@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:pstone@uclan.ac.uk)



# The Dark Tourism Symposium



24 April 2012

- 8.45 - 9.30 **Symposium Registration**
- 9.30 - 9.45 **Welcome to The Dark Tourism Symposium**
- 9.45 - 10.15 **Prof. Richard Sharpley (University of Central Lancashire, UK)**  
*"Shining Light on Dark Tourism: an introduction to themes, issues and consequences"*
- 10.15 - 10.45 **Emeritus Prof. Tony Seaton (University of Bedfordshire, UK)**  
*"Flags of Convenience, Rocks of Reification, and Quicksands of Theory: Charting Thanatourism in 2012"*
- 10.45 - 11.00 **MORNING COFFEE**
- 11.00 - 11.30 **Dr Philip Stone (University of Central Lancashire, UK)**  
*"Mediating Mortality: Dark Tourism and the Significant Other Dead at Ground Zero"*
- 11.30 - 11.45 **'Cutting the Virtual Ribbon'**  
**The Institute for Dark Tourism Research (iDTR) Official Launch**
- 11.45 - 12.45 **LUNCHEON**
- 12.45 - 13.15 **Dr Tony Johnston (Kings College, London)**  
*"The Dominion of the Dead: Thanatourism and (Other) Worldly Encounters"*
- 13.15 - 13.45 **Dr Gilly Carr (The University of Cambridge, UK)**  
*"Self and Other: neglected dark legacies and accepted dark heritage in the Channel Islands"*
- 13.45 - 14.00 **AFTERNOON TEA**
- 14.00 - 14.30 **Major and Mrs Holt (Major and Mrs Holt's Battlefield Guides and Maps)**  
*"Pioneering the Modern Battlefield Tour"*
- 14.30 - 15.00 **Tony Openshaw (Director of Marketing - Lancashire & Blackpool Tourist Board, UK)**  
*"Dark Tourism: a public sector perspective"*
- 15.00 - 15.30 **Symposium Plenary & Open Debate**
- 15.30 - 16.00 **Connections, Contacts & Coffee**
- 16.00 **Symposium Close**



# The Dark Tourism Symposium



24 April 2012

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. *What is 'dark tourism'?*

Dark tourism (or thanatourism) can be referred to as travel to sites of death, disaster or the seeming macabre. It is a subject that has received increasingly academic and media attention over the past decade so. Yet, despite this increased attention, the subject area remains eclectic and theoretically fragile.

### 2. *What is the Institute for Dark Tourism Research (iDTR)?*

The Institute for Dark Tourism Research (iDTR) aims to become the global hub for dark tourism scholarship, and will be made up with a number of national and international partners. The iDTR will be based at the University of Central Lancashire, UK. The iDTR aims to advance knowledge about the contemporary nature and consequences of visitation to tourist sites of death, disaster or the seemingly macabre. It will bring together scholars who seek to deliver internationally recognised research that contributes to the ethical and social scientific understanding of dark tourism and heritage, as well as to the appropriate development, management, interpretation and promotion of dark tourism sites, attractions and exhibitions

### 3. *What is the purpose of this event?*

This event has been convened to formally launch the new Institute for Dark Tourism Research (iDTR). The event will also provide an excellent opportunity to showcase recent dark tourism research, as well as providing a supportive forum in which to discuss current themes, issues and consequences of dark tourism.

### 4. *Who should attend this event?*

This event is aimed at academics and researchers, the media, students, as well as industry practitioners who have an interest in dark tourism concepts and practices.

### 5. *Can I present a paper at this event?*

This event has been formatted as a symposium and will consist of keynote speakers as outlined in the event programme. All speakers are renowned for both dark tourism scholarship and/or industry engagement. Opportunities will be available to debate issues raised in the presentations, if you so wish.

### 6. *Will I have an opportunity to speak with the symposium speakers?*

Yes. The speakers will make themselves available during the day to informally talk about any issues you may have, especially during refreshments breaks. There is also a dedicated plenary and 'connection & contacts' session in which speakers and other delegates will be present.

### 7. *I am student. Do I receive a special delegate rate?*

Yes. The Student Delegate Rate has been reduced from £89 to £59.

**8. What is included in the Delegate Rate?**

Both the full Delegate Rate and Student Delegate Rate include full access to the event, conference refreshments including arrival coffee, morning coffee; hot buffet luncheon and dessert, and afternoon tea. A conference pack with several research papers and other dark tourism learning resources will also be included.

**9. Where is the location of the event?**

This event will be held at the University of Central Lancashire's Westleigh Conference Centre (Lea Road, Preston, Lancashire, PR4 0RB). Westleigh is a nineteenth century mansion house originally built in 1864 by Adam Leigh, a prominent mill owner from the area. It has had a long history, from a family home to a partial remodelling into a Cold War communications centre complete with nuclear bunker, and has now been carefully restored into a top-of-the-range Conference Centre.

**10. Is Westleigh Conference Centre on the main University city centre campus?**

No. Please note that Westleigh Conference Centre is NOT located on the main University campus, but on the northern outskirts of Preston. Westleigh is just over three miles (an approximate ten minute taxi journey) from Preston railway station. Westleigh is also easily accessible via public transport from all points around the City Centre including the railway station. The orbital bus stops directly outside the centre running approximately every 20 minutes - [Preston Orbit Bus Timetable](#). If you have any specific questions about how to get to Westleigh, please contact Emma Kelly at [eakelly1@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:eakelly1@uclan.ac.uk) or telephone the Conference Centre on 01772 894 500.

**11. Does Westleigh Conference Centre have car parking?**

Yes. Car parking is available for delegates on a first come first served basis. Please call the Conference Centre on 01772 894 500 if you experience any problems with car parking.

**12. I need to stay overnight. Where is the nearest hotel?**

Westleigh Conference Centre does not have residential accommodation. However, we can recommend a number of hotels to suit all budgets. Please note that the delegate rate does not include overnight accommodation. For further information on local hotels, please visit

[http://www.uclan.ac.uk/information/services/fm/services/conferences/hotels\\_accommodation.php](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/information/services/fm/services/conferences/hotels_accommodation.php)

**13. How do I book a place for this event?**

Bookings are now being taken for this event. Places are limited due to venue capacity, so early booking is strongly advised to avoid disappointment. To book a place, please visit

[http://www.uclan.ac.uk/information/services/fm/services/conferences/uclan/dark\\_tourism/registration.php](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/information/services/fm/services/conferences/uclan/dark_tourism/registration.php)

**14. I have other queries not answered here. Who do I contact?**

If you have a specific query, then please feel free to contact Dr Philip Stone (Symposium Convener) at [pstone@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:pstone@uclan.ac.uk) or Emma Kelly (Conference Officer) at [eakelly1@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:eakelly1@uclan.ac.uk). For further information, please visit [www.dark-tourism.org.uk](http://www.dark-tourism.org.uk) or

[http://www.uclan.ac.uk/information/services/fm/services/conferences/uclan/dark\\_tourism/index.php](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/information/services/fm/services/conferences/uclan/dark_tourism/index.php)