

New phenomenon - Dark tourism

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ABSTRACT

This article is focused on a relatively new phenomenon called Dark Tourism. In the literature, this term is often substituted by synonyms like thanatourism or catastrophic tourism. This form of tourism uses dark elements (events associated with misfortune, disaster) as one of the causes for individual travelling to these destinations. The article also offers an insight into Chernobyl accident as one of the dark tourism destination, a place and an event which affects all of us in some way.

Key words: Dark tourism, Chernobyl

INTRODUCTION

If we are considering tourism by purpose of trip participants talking about the types of tourism. If we look at the causes that affect tourism, or the impact that tourism brings, we are talking about forms of tourism.

Forms of tourism:

- in geographical terms - internal, national, foreign, international, regional,
- the number of participants - individual, collective, mass, organic,
- the age of participants - youth, family, senior,
- according to the season - seasonal, off-season, perennial,
- according to the means of travel - rail, sea, air, car tourism, motoring, caravanning,
- the length of participation - pleasure, short, weekend,
- according to the predominant place of residence - urban, suburban, rural, mountain, alpine, marine, coastal,
- according to the method of organizing

prostrieku - individual and organized road trip or stay,

- in terms of dynamics - Static (residence), dynamic (touring),
- from a sociological point of view - visiting relatives and friends, social, ethnic, genealogy.

Types of tourism are recreational, sports and adventure, cultural, and health spa, business. Recreational tourism is an active and passive recreation in a suitable environment in order to restore physical and mental strength. Sport and adventure tourism movement is in a suitable environment associated with the implementation of most sporting activities such as hiking, biking, tennis, golf, swimming, swimming, adventure sports like paragliding, snowboarding, bungee - jumping, climbing etc. Cultural tourism represents different ways of satisfying the spiritual needs of people. In practice, the form of visits to museums, galleries, monuments, festivals, exhibitions and social events. It also includes religious and pilgrimage tourism. The offer of Cultural tourism is a cognitive-oriented place with

attractions, cruise:

- Natural (caves, waterfalls)
- Civilization (urban, historic cores)
- Social (festivals, celebrations)

Healing - healing - health tourism poses a health preventive and treatment activities under professional supervision.

Business tourism has as its main objective business meetings, congresses, fairs and exhibitions. This type of travel is also known as Congressional tourism. This type of tourism takes place during working time and costs normally paid by the employer.

Urban tourism is a visit and stay in the city, its main purpose is enjoyment. It may be a business or cultural tourism. Allows you to explore cultural and historical landmarks. Construction, art, artwork, but also life in the city.

Rural tourism and agrotourism includes activities related to travel and stay of people in rural areas, hence the return of man to nature. Hunting requires the provision of specific services related to hunting.

In addition to these main types in the world are gaining popularity as well as new types of space tourism, scientific tourism and dark tourism.

ANALYSIS

Dark tourism (Lennon, Foley), grief or catastrophic tourism is a real issue these days. What can you actually imagine when we say "dark tourism"? What signifies the mentioned term "dark" in the phenomenon?

Catastrophic tourism (dark tourism/grief tourism/disaster tourism) was defined by *Lennon and Foley* in 2000 this way: "To this tourism belong the visits to the parts of the world affected by catastrophes as are for instance battle fields, places of tragic events as well as places affected by genocide, for example: concentration camps"[1].

Philip R. Stone defined **catastrophic tourism** as: "...an act of travelling and

sightseeing, visiting the landmarks connected with death, misery and nightmare"[2].

Macmillan's definition of grief tourist: "a person who travels specifically to visit the scene of a tragedy or disaster" [3].

Perhaps some authors say that grief tourism is more about the scene, spectacle, or history while dark tourism is more about the emotions a tourist feels [3].

The term Dark tourism was first used in 1996, when the extension of this phenomenon point out Lennon and Malcolm researchers [4].

Dark tourism means the journey/trips to the parts of the world connected with death, catastrophes, misery. It is sometimes marked as "the cruelty of the inheritance" (Beech) or thanatourism (Seaton) - derived from an ancient Greek expression Thanatos, death personification. "Dark tourism" can be understood as an interplay between the circumstances of both, the past era and the modern world. The pilgrims could be considered to be the first pioneers (we can agree that pilgrimage is one of the first forms of the tourism). Nowadays, the recognized connection between the immortal soul and mortal body is actually a kind of bridge or channel between the tourism and the spirit of our period. The phenomenon connected with the cult of death is shown by visits to the cemeteries, mausoleums, battle fields, places of natural disasters, murder places and so on. Tarlow (2005) defines the dark tourism as travelling to the places where big tragedies happened or such deaths occurred that influence our world or our perception of the world.

Authors Lennon and Foley sought to distinguish between only a "simple" curiosity with past events that involved visitation to sites of past battles, disasters and places of possibly morbid interest and, on the other hand, a phenomenon that was probably more meaningful cause the sites of death, disaster and man's inhumanity toward man raised questions about the nature of modernity. Such sites have also

global importance and comprised events that had occurred within living memory [5].

Dark tourism may be also identified as „visitations to places where tragedies or historically noteworthy death has occurred and that continue to impact our lives“ [6].

Of course travelling associated with the events closely connected with death, pain or suffering is not new. While religious pilgrimage took place mainly for the emotional and spiritual reasons that have attracted people to the places of death and violence for centuries, some tourists are interested in places associated with the mystery of death, accidents and emotional scars of human destiny. Early examples can be found in the "popular" Roman gladiator games, public executions of the medieval period ... Up to now trips with a similar theme have been offered- tour the morgue in Victorian England, Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris (Oscar Wilde, Morrison or Jimmy are buried here), Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, where an American activist and Baptist preacher, Martin Luther King Jr. was killed on the fourth of April 1968, Alcatraz or the horrors of the exhibition in a museum Madame Tussauds.

Dark tourism is facing an enormous interest of academic world. For instance, the University of Central Lancashire in the UK is involved in the research of dark tourism, which focuses its study on the field of advertising and management of dark tourism destinations as well as on the general cultural conditions of contemporary society. Coventry University is focused on the issue of recovery of destinations associated with slavery. The University of Glasgow, published a book entitled "Death by Design: The True Story of the Glasgow Necropolis", written by historian Ronnie Scott. The book offers an overview of architectural monuments "Necropolis", graves, mausoleum and architects who built them. Scott presents popular stories that relate to "Necropolis" or "City of the Dead" - the city of the dead, as the name of "Necropolis" tends to be translated. The

popularity of "Necropolis" reflects the growing popularity of catastrophic tourism in the world [7, 8, 9].

Another example is the University of Salford, which offers its students an individual learning domain focused directly on the study of dark tourism - thanatourism. The coordinator of the department is Neil Robinson. The study is focused on the following areas:

- critical evaluation of the phenomenon - catastrophic tourism,
- analysis of sociological, psychological and anthropological perspective on death and disaster.

Results of education - the key skills:

- development of theories for better understanding of the death and disaster factors
- identification of potential ethical and moral issues related to the administration of horror.

Program Division (syllabus):

- defining catastrophic tourism
- "thanatology" (science dealing with death), and history,
- typology of visitors
- creation of theories associated with disasters [10, 11].

In the United States, the Radford University deals with the theme of the dark tourism, namely Professor Teresa O'Bannon [12].

Australia is represented by the University of Ballarat, where an ethnographic study entitled "Prison: Cultural Memory and Dark Tourism" was published, which is a historical study of the Australian prisons - current tourist site of the author Jacqueline Wilson [13].

Today, Dark tourism is reflected in various forms and subgroups. These include tourism focused on places associated with the Holocaust, focusing on tourism sites of major battles, jail tours, pilgrimages in the footsteps of famous personalities, sadistic past times and so on. Dark field of travel

destinations linked to dark tourism in its various forms and shades becomes more diverse and interesting in recent years. With this in mind, an increasingly urgent question arises - what motivates people to visit these places, why are they able to travel hundreds of miles? It is an expression of fellowship and self-esteem, an effort for answering their own questions, their curiosity, their need to know, as well as the media and socio-cultural influences. Or is it just voyeurism, the thrill of being "near the death" or adrenaline?

Nevertheless, it should be noted that the operators of these sites become at the same time the administrators of history, which brings certain responsibility - which part of history to choose for interpretation and learning a lesson.

One of the places, which is closely related to our history is the nuclear plant explosion in Chernobyl (Ukrainian: Čornobyľ (Чорнобиль), Russian Chernobyl (Чернобыль)). The word chornobyl is also naming plant, in the Slovak language known as „palina“. In the seventies of the 20th century, 18 km northwest of the city, nuclear power station of V. I. Lenin was built, most notorious nuclear power plant accident, which occurred on the fateful 26th of April 1986.

History of Chernobyl dates back to the 1193, first mentioned as a village founded by the priest Rastislav. In 13th century the village was the Crown Village of the Duke of Lithuania. The Province was later, in 1569 annexed to the Polish Kingdom, in 1793, it was annexed to the Russian Empire. In 19th century the city was an important trade center. In the city there were a few Polish and many Ukrainian peasants as well as the relatively large number of Jews. In the second half of the 18th century, Chernobyl in fact becomes one of the major centers of Hasidic Judaism. Jewish population suffered many injuries during the pogrom in October 1905 and in 1919, where many Jews were robbed or killed. Since 1921, the city was incorporated into the Ukrainian SSR.

During the period 1929-33 Chernobyl suffered mass killings during Stalin's collectivization. In 1936 the Polish community was deported to Kazakhstan, the Jewish community was massacred during the German occupation in the period 1941-44. Twenty years later, this area was selected as the site of the first nuclear power plant on Ukrainian soil.

The first reactor was finished in 1977, but at the time of the accident reactor No. 5 and 6 were still not complete. However, reactor # 4 near the town of Pripyat, exploded after midnight on the 26th of April 1986 1:23:47. The increased vapor pressure caused large steam explosion, which destroyed and throw off the reactor guard. The scope of the forthcoming tragedy was amplified by incompetent and disorganizational measurements taken in the situation. The negative effects of the disaster were gigantic. Since then, Chernobyl is sadly known throughout the whole world.

Radioactive cloud was released in the air, transmitting towards Eastern Europe and Scandinavia. Were especially contaminated areas of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. The evacuation and resettlement of over 200,000 people was necessary. Only with difficulty we could accurately determine the number of deaths caused by the events at Chernobyl, the estimates range from hundreds to hundreds of thousands of lives. The number is still not final. In 2003, project called the Chernobyl Recovery and Development Programme (CRDP) for the rehabilitation of the affected areas was put into effect. The program focused on the human impact of the Chernobyl disaster. CRDP works in the four most affected regions of Ukraine: Kyivska, Zhytomyrska, partly in Kiev and Rivne Chernihivska. The main challenge is how to reduce the social and environmental impacts of the Chernobyl affected areas. On the 17th of Septembra 2007 French consortium Novarka signed a contract for a new sarcophagus built. Most of the funds are provided by Ukraine, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [14,

15, 16].

Travel agencies offer extreme tours to this zone of death. The similar program for the tour offered by the Kiev travel agency called Organic trip to Chernobyl is approximately as follows: Direction – Chernobyl, to the border of 30 kilometer restricted zone. However, you will not miss the prospect of adrenalin nor the Chernobyl reactor number four, the reactor of the death, from the distance of approximately 100 meters. Look at the "Red Forest", return to Chernobyl, finish the tour with a lunch. A visit to the research center of physical and chemical laboratories is included in the program. There is a chance to meet the local people of the Opachychi village, those who have decided to come back after the evacuation.

The tourists will spend some time crossing the checkpoint Dytyatky as well as measuring the degree of radiation. And then, they will return back to Kiev. In the original program, a tour of the village Rossokha and a visit to the military machine cemetery was included, but this was in April 2008 banned by the Government. By the entry and exit of the 30 kilometer zone, every participant undergoes control measurement of radioactivity. Although the trip by a travel agency is for 100% safe, to avoid undue exposure to self-dose of radioactivity it is necessary to strictly follow guidelines and instruction guide. The condition is also the age of 18 years, as well as good health [17].

Another option to see "Pompeii today's world" and move closer to the fatal events of this disaster is to visit the Chernobyl Museum, located in the center of Kiev. It offers a reconstruction of events, documents, photos ... It might seem that to find this unique facility will be no problem for the tourists. The reality is somewhat different. In the city there are no directional signs or other informative boards to help to find an "invisible" brown building with the inscription UKRAINIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM "CHORNOBYL. Tourists, however, be prepared for the

further complications. No promotional material or any kind of information was in other than Russian or Ukrainian language. Expert interpretation was again not available in any other language than Russian and Ukrainian. The description of the exhibits is naturally only in Cyrillic characters. Among the various objects and documents, there are televisions, with an opportunity to see the authentic scenes and documents.

Despite these difficulties, it is indescribable how fascinating and unique at the same time it is to visit this museum. It is the effort to remember, remember the fate of people who rescued the world. People who risked their lives, their children's naive smiles, they walked towards the death. And they did not know what danger threatens them. They walked without any protective equipment, all they had was textile linen jacket cover of the mouth and canvas gloves. The authentic scenes that are graven in our mind forever. Pictures from the city of Pripyat, a city that boasted of modern architecture, amenities, the city, which was a kind of showcase of socialist progress. It was built for the nuclear power plant at the time of the disaster inhabited by around 50,000 people, average age of adults was around 26 years, the majority of the population consisted of young families with children. Television scenes show resting and enjoying people staring at the blank "Comrade" with measuring instruments in their hands, strung in protective suits. Indeed the city was evacuated more than 24 hours after the explosion. The museum also stores some personal items of people who were present at the time of the explosion in power plant. Watches, Sunglasses ... many photos (Fig. 1, 2).

Documents related to examinations of people affected by radiation, the reactor body, interactive maquette of the reactor before and after the fatal crash. The building of the museum keeps the "protective spacesuits" but also fragments of the media campaign, which was aimed to help the affected area and was initiated

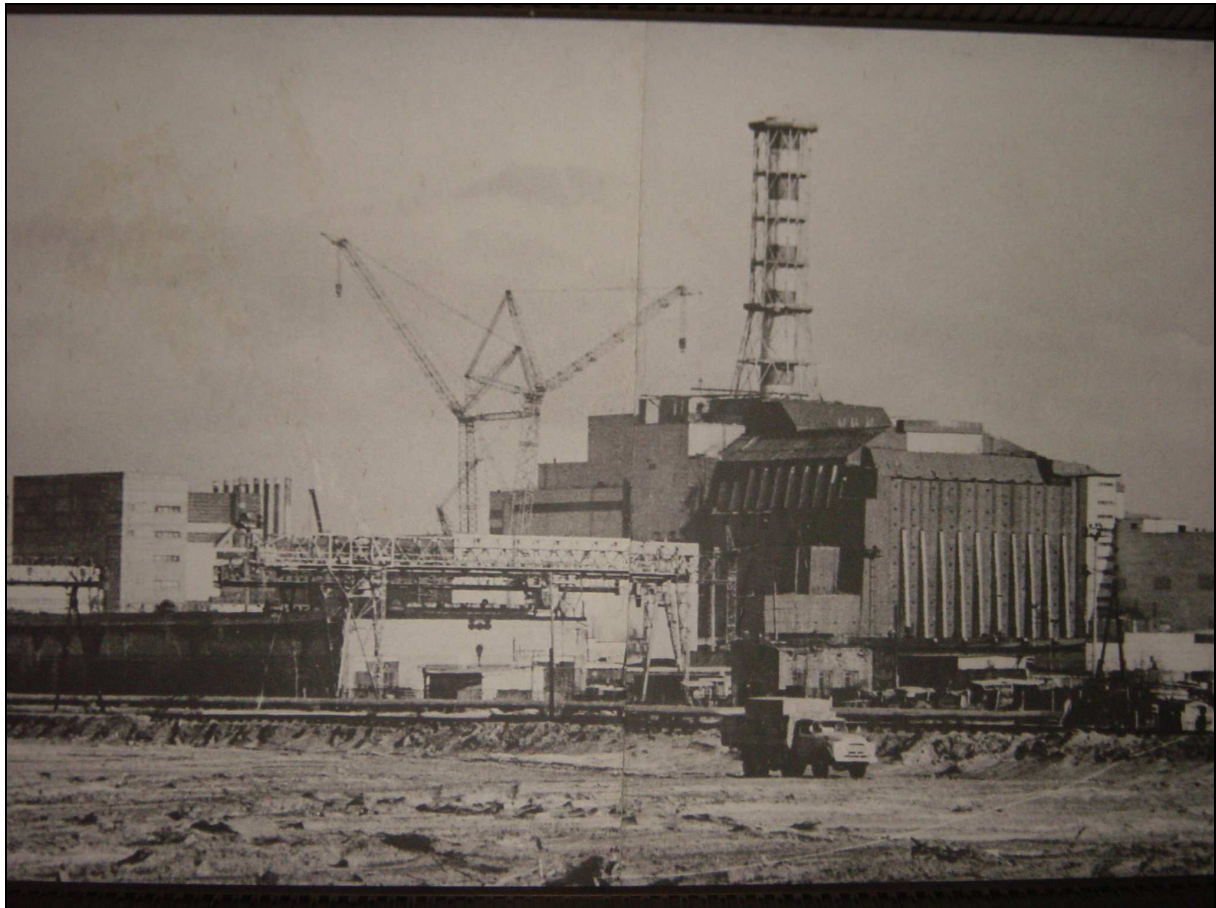


Fig. 1 Chernobyl reactor



Fig. 2 Exponates in the Chernobyl Museum

by the neighboring countries. Museum itself is also associated with the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the establishment of a Kiev museum is visibly supported by the Japan Foundation and other international forums. The uniqueness of this place is undeniable. It is the lifted finger, past reminder of what should not have happened and yet it did. It is also a warning and a lesson. It refers to a mixture of random, technical errors and bad decisions. There are many versions of the disaster from human error to technical imperfections in the circulation and various conspiracy theories.

CONCLUSION

Dark tourism is one of the new forms of tourism and we would have it due attention. It's not just the whims of certain groups of people and deserves our attention. The principal essence of this phenomenon is not only shocked but mainly to learn and remember. This is also one of the main tasks of the phenomenon called Dark tourism.

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