



Research Article

## Dark Tourism: Concepts, Typologies and Sites

Ana Paula Fonseca<sup>1\*</sup>, Claudia Seabra<sup>1</sup> and Carla Silva<sup>1</sup>

### Abstract

Dark Tourism, understood as the type of tourism that involves a visit to real or recreated places associated with death, suffering, misfortune, or the seemingly macabre, is not a new concept, even from a touristic point of view. In fact, places of war, disasters, death and atrocities always fascinated humans and are subject to visits. People have long been drawn, purposefully or otherwise, towards sites, attractions or events linked in one way or another with death, suffering, violence or disaster. The concept of dark tourism has been designed and studied for the last years and many are the destinations around the world where it has been implemented, playing an important role in both a country's economy and its image. However, there is a gap in literature about this specific type of tourism. The main goal of this paper is to present a literature review about this new tourism product where the thrill seeking is the main motivation. Specifically, it's our intent to present some Dark Tourism definitions, history and evolution, as well as, to introduce its typologies and identify the most important dark tourist sites all over the world.

### Keywords

Dark Tourism; Motivations; Supply; Typologies; Sites

### Introduction

Tourism is a complex phenomenon involving a wide range of people, increasingly seeking for new and unique experiences in order to satisfy the most diverse motives, reason why the world tourism landscape has been changing in the last decades [1]. Tourists' motivations, as the destinations they seek, are no longer related with the traditional sun, beach and beautiful sceneries. The concept of 'pleasant diversion in pleasant places' is changing and broadening into new market demanding, more complex and even unusual [2]. This is the case of dark tourism, considered as the phenomenon which encompasses the presentation and consumption (by visitors) of real and co modified death and disaster sites [3]. In a more specific way, dark tourism is considered as the "visitation to places where tragedies or historically noteworthy death has occurred and that continue to impact our lives" [4]. Nonetheless, it has also been referred as the act of travel to sites associated with death, suffering and the seemingly macabre [5]. This is a topic recently addressed but death is indeed one of the oldest reasons for travelling [6,7]. Attraction and curiosity for death are not new concepts; there has always been a fascination for the human nature darkest side [8]. The demand for places and

experiences related to death reassemble to the Middle Age and the Romantic period, very often with religious or pilgrimage purposes [9]. Early examples of Dark Tourism were the pilgrimages to holy sites, the patronage of Roman gladiatorial games, the public executions of the medieval period, the guided morgue tours of the Victorian period, the ancient city of Pompeii "the greatest than atopic travel destination of the Romantic period", among others [10]. Dark Tourism covers all the sites that celebrate the death, fear, fame or infamy [11]. Since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the demand and supply for this specific type of tourism has increased significantly in both size and scope [12]. Dark Tourism was pointed as a contemporary "leisure activity" that has been explored and offered by the popular press. Media giving easy access, particularly through films, photographs and news of accidents and tragedies, allows the global community to experience a remote event as if it had occurred locally [13]. Despite the major importance of this market niche and the significant amount of research both "by the academic and the media community" (Stone), there is little consensus among researchers on the definition, designation and typology of this controversial tourism product. Therefore, the main goal of this paper is to present some Dark Tourism definitions, typologies and sites based in the main studies done so far on the product.

### Dark Tourism – A Troublesome Concept

Dark Tourism as a tourism product started to gain researchers' attention since the early 90s, but there is no consensus not only on the conceptualization but also on the designation. In fact, other designations were used to describe the same phenomenon, namely: "Black Spot" as "commercial developments of grave and sites in which celebrities or large number of people have met with sudden and violent deaths [14]. "Thanatourism" - is the "travel to a location wholly, or partially, motivated by the desire for actual or symbolic encounters with death, particularly, but not exclusively, violent death, which may, to a varying degree be activated by the person-specific features of those whose deaths are its focal objects" (Seaton). "Atrocity Tourism" like the type of tourism that leads the individual to visit holocaust sites (Beech), "Morbid Tourism" considered as the travel to attractions that focus on accidents and sudden violent death [15].

### Dark Tourism - Typologies

The attention given to events of death, suffering, and atrocity and the subsequent development of dark tourism sites is attributed to an inherent human curiosity towards mortality and the darker aspects of humanity [3]. Once recognized as a phenomenon, several countries have tried to integrate dark tourism as a product into their tourism industry [16]. Many destinations around the world implemented structures to support this new offer, playing dark tourism an important role in both a country's economy and its image. Thereby, for the individual who wishes to journey and gaze upon real or recreated death, a plethora of sites, attractions and exhibitions are now emerging across the world to cater to the 'darker side of travel' [12]. The consensus between the literature researchers is that dark tourism has a typology depending on the visitors' motivations and sites, namely *War/Battlefield Tourism*, *Disaster Tourism*, *Prison Tourism*, *Cemetery Tourism*, *Ghost Tourism*, and *Holocaust Tourism*. *War/Battlefield Tourism* can be described as the recreational travel to war zones for sightseeing or historical studying purposes, tourists

\*Corresponding author: Ana Paula Fonseca, Higher School of Technology and Management, Polytechnic Institute of Viseu, Viseu, Portugal, Tel: +351232480500; Fax: +351232424651; E-mail: [anathestudent@netcabo.pt](mailto:anathestudent@netcabo.pt)

Received: December 22, 2014 Accepted: February 29, 2015 Published: March 04, 2015

deliberately visit nations that have been involved in a war, looking for evidence of the conflict. The artifacts of war such as battlefields, cemeteries, monuments, museums and living history demonstrations have historically served as resource bases for the development of a wide variety of war tourism attractions and related infrastructures [17,18]. War tourism isn't something new, since the Waterloo and Gettysburg battles, the armies that gathered there attracted the curiosity of innumerable individuals to the local, the phenomenon is not new what is new is its marketing (Stone). Generally speaking, war tourism appears associated with battle and suffering scenes, but not only, it also emerges linked with places that have an important role in the nations' history, to military museums, fortifications, castles, among others [19]. In fact, there are a number of reasons why tourists visit these conflicts sites, including commemoration, entertainment, education and pilgrimage [20]. Battlefields are especially significant as memorial landscapes because they challenge us to recall basic realities of historical experiences, especially those of death, suffering and sacrifice [21,22]. *Disaster Tourism* is the practice of traveling to areas that have recently experienced natural or man-made disasters. Information about disasters and their effects draws human attention and also play an important informative and educational role. Individuals who participate in this type of tours are typically curious to see the results of the disaster and often travel as part of an organized group (Rózycki). One of the oldest disaster tourism sites are Pompeii and Herculaneum, where tourists can learn about the history and aspects of the Vesuvius' volcanic activity and experience the unique attraction of seeing casts of human remains preserved in volcanic ash [23]. Other natural disasters sites became well-known worldwide, specifically, the Hurricane Katrina considered one of the five deadliest hurricanes, in the history of the United States; the 1960 Chile Earthquake the most powerful earthquake ever recorded struck near Valdivia, where 6,000 people were killed; the great flood in 1931 in central China was the deadliest natural disaster ever recorded, among others. Concerning the disasters made by man, it's imperative to speak about the Chernobyl disaster that happened in Ukraine in 1986. This disaster was the worst nuclear power plant accident in history in terms of cost and casualties. The magnitude of the incident was reflected in the number of the resulting deaths, as well as in the consequential costs and long-term effects left by the radiations, such as cancer and other deformities. *Prison Tourism* is the visit to prisons that have a dark history attached and it combines education and entertainment. With this type of tourism, former sites of punishment and incarceration have become popular tourist experiences as deactivated prisons are converted into museums or heritage sites. In the last decades, several old prisons were rehabilitated and converted into tourism destinations. The most famous prisons in the world are Alcatraz and Robben Island. Old prisons such as Alcatraz and Robben island are "stony silent witnesses to the acts that former regimes were prepared to do to people who violated laws or who seemed threatening or suspicious" [24]. Visit to prisons combine education and entertainment. These prison sites are becoming tourist attractions that register a growing number of visitors. Deactivated prisons all over the world have found a second life by operating as tourist attractions, museums and even hostels, offering everything from spooky evening tours by candlelight to the chance to stay overnight in a cell. The visitors to these sites are curious people, history buffs and more and more, ghost hunters [25]. *Cemetery Tourism* is the movement of people to visit cemeteries to see statuary and funeral ornaments in tombs of notable and famous people and other anonymous [26]. If it is true that most people associate cemeteries

with sadness and morbidity, it is also true that there is a growing number of people for whom they are a source of fascination or interest [27,28]. Cemetery tourists can be interested in the historical aspects of cemeteries or the historical relevance of its inhabitants. One of the most famous cemeteries in the world is the Parisian Père Lachaise cemeteries, in which were buried renowned personalities such as: Jim Morison, Edith Piaf, Oscar Wilde, Marcel Proust, Eugène Delacroix, Moliere, among others. Equally famous is the "Cimitero Acattolico" in Rome, known as the poets' and artists' cemetery. There are also cemeteries in Europe that deserve to be mentioned, namely, the Prazeres cemetery in Portugal, the cemetery of San Amaro, in Spain, the Old St. Matthew's cemetery, in Germany, and many others. The existence of numerous cemeteries with personalities that have marked the world history in various fields (literature, philosophy, music, etc.) led to the creation of the ASCE - Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe. The main goal of ASCE is to promote the European cemeteries as a fundamental part of the cultural heritage of humanity, as well as, to raise awareness among European citizens of the importance of the relevant cemeteries [26]. *Ghost Tourism* concerns the commercial exploitation of ghosts, though; this concept is not necessarily new. It was common in the past crowds joining together, to allegedly proceed to ghost hunting's with the local commercials gaining rewards with it [29]. Even the upper classes were fascinated with this phenomenon, for instance in Scotland, considered as a repository of ghosts and supernatural in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century [30]. Recently, there was a change in the way locals and communities deal with the alleged apparitions. Ghost tourism came to contradict the historical vision in which communities wanted to get rid of their own spirits, instead, they are now very popular and sought. Ghost tourism divides itself assuming a lighter and darker facet (Stone) depending on the purpose it is intended for. The ghost tourism, whose infrastructures were developed for entertainment purposes, tends to be in the lightest part of the dark tourism spectrum, an example of that is the Dracula Park. However, this does not exclude moments of dark reflexing and belief as well as genuine attempts to provide historically accurate representations of paranormal activity, which are normally associated with the darker part of the dark tourism spectrum [31]. Ghost tourism often involves the movement through public spaces, reason why, the excursions to observe paranormal activity are becoming increasingly frequent. The ghost tourism promotion has been based on three essential forms: haunted hotels that use that specific particularity to attract the public; the enterprises that focus exclusively on paranormal events; and the paranormal tours to find ghosts [31]. Some of the most remarkable ghost tourism sites are: the Waverly Hills sanatorium, in Kentucky, the Tower of London, the Ancient Ram Inn, in Gloucestershire, the Island of the Dolls in Mexico, and so on. Sites of genocide and crimes against humanity or *Holocaust Tourism*: consists in the visit to places where cruel historical events have occurred, especially areas connected with exterminations. Holocaust tourism appeals to young travelers, born long after the events that such sites represent, as a way to present the perpetrated errors committed in the past. Auschwitz remains the most important site of Holocaust, remembrance and collective mourning in the world [32]. Holocaust cultural representations have grown drastically in the last decades due, in part, to movies such as the "Der Untergang" - The Downfall - (2004), "Schindler's List" (1993), the "Killing Fields" (1984), "The Diary of Anne Frank" (1959) and many others, that retract the most dark period of our history and "have placed the holocaust in the popular consciences" [33].

## Dark Tourism Supply – Shades and Intensity

The universal term dark when applied to tourism is too broad and does not readily expose the multilayer's of dark tourism supply. Dark tourism presence is diverse and widespread. It is due to this diversity of sites that the authors feel a need to distinguish shades of darkness between types of sites, based on characteristics, perceptions and the product traits. The dark tourism supply is much differentiated, in some destinations death really occurred; others were built purposefully to recreate those events. Some researchers consider that dark tourism sites can be measured accordingly to their degree of darkness, in a continuum from the darkest to the lightest (Stone) (Figure 1). In accordance with this idea, Seaton defined seven types of Dark Tourism suppliers.

### Dark fun factories

Visitor sites, attractions and tours that have an entertainment focus and commercial ethic. They represent fictional death and macabre events, as that, they need a high degree of tourism infrastructures. At this degree, attractions such as the London Dungeon or the Dracula Park should be pointed out, as being the lightest dark tourism places in the world.

### Dark exhibitions

Dark Exhibitions offer products that circle around death and suffering with an often commemorative, educational and reflective message. These exhibitions are drawn to reflect education and potential learning activities. The museums that display death with educational and reminiscent purposes are the best examples of dark exhibitions.

### Dark dungeons

Dark Dungeons places/attractions related to justice and criminal matters, namely former prisons. Dark Dungeons offer products that combine entertainment and education as a main merchandise focus. The Alcatraz Federal prisons, the Robben Island prison, the Missouri State penitentiary among others, are good examples of dark dungeons.

### Dark resting places

Dark Resting Places focuses upon the cemetery or grave markers as potential products for Dark Tourism (Seaton). More and more tourists include the cemeteries in their tours. Those of large dimension are true open-air museums that include several architectural works and sculptures of refined taste. The most visited cemeteries nowadays are the *Cimetiere du Pere Lachaise*, the Arlington National cemetery, *La Recoleta* cemetery and many others.

### Dark shrines

Dark Shrines sites based on the act of remembrance and respect for the recently deceased. Dark Shrines are non- purposeful for tourism and do not possess much tourism infrastructures due to their temporal nature. The most evident example of a Dark Shrine is the Solomon Isles where the battle of Guadalcanal occurred.

### Dark conflict sites

Dark Conflict sites associated with war and battlefields. These sites have an educational and commemorative focus, as well as an historic one. The Solomon Isles, where the battle of Guadalcanal occurred, are one of the well-known dark conflict sites.

## Dark camps of genocide

Dark Camps of Genocide are those sites that mark a concentration of death and atrocity. Currently, the tourist attractions associated with genocides and wars constitute one of the largest categories of visiting spots around the world. Auschwitz- Birkenau, Cambodia, and Rwanda, can be highlighted as being, some of the few sites, where past genocides and mass atrocities happened. The dark sites and attractions can switch between the darkest black and the lightest black, being the darkest black the places where death really occurred and because of that use less tourism infrastructures to attract the visitors, and the lightest black that concerns the places/attractions where death is recreated and need to use higher tourism infrastructures to attract tourists [8]. According to this “Darkest-Lightest” framework of supply (Stone), the continuum represents different levels of contact with the Dark provided by Dark Tourism sites. On the left side of the image we can see the Darkest Tourism that concerns the sites where death and suffering have actually occurred, like Auschwitz the world’s most dark destination, symbolizing the genocide of thousands of Jews. At this level the main goal is to educate tourists about the place/ event. On the right side of the color scale we are able to see the lightest tourism, which is performed at sites merely associated with death, and therefore, need to possess excellent touristic infrastructures created with the intention of being attractions and entertain the tourists, one example is the Dracula Park.

## Dark Tourism Sites and Attractions Worldwide

A bit scattered all over the world, Dark Tourism plays an important role in both the economy and image of some destinations. Destinations considered as dark tourism sites, are museums, cemeteries, slums, concentration camps, war scenarios, attempts or others places of tragedy [34]. Having that in mind, it’s now time to exhibit some of the most visited Dark Tourism sites in the world (Table 1).

## Conclusion

Conflicting is the word to use when we think on the attitude of the contemporary society towards death. On one hand, individuals fear it, on the other hand they want to know more about it so they can lose that same fright. Becker [35] argues that “the idea of death, the fear of it, haunts the human animal like nothing else; it is the mainspring of human activity - activity designed largely to avoid the fatality of death, to overcome it by denying in some way that it is the final destiny for man”. Having that in mind, we can see that Dark Tourism in its various forms came to demystify the fearful idea that individuals have about death, because it allows them to confront and behold their own mortality. Strongly related to the culture and to the heritage of the destinations, Dark Tourism brings to life the history of the tragedies

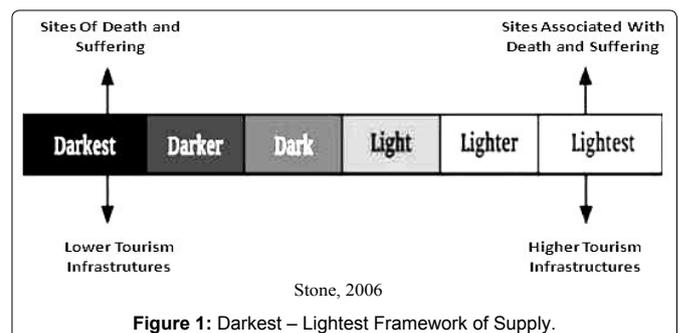


Figure 1: Darkest – Lightest Framework of Supply.

**Table 1:** Dark Tourism Sites Worldwide.

Site or Attraction	Location	Definition
Concentration and Extermination Camp in Auschwitz	Auschwitz (Poland)	Between June 1941 and January 1945, one million men, women and children perished in the 3 Auschwitz concentration camps. The whole complex of the death camp was a deadly prison to some 150,000 inmates that were being either murdered outright or starved and worked to death. Lately, the concentration camps were transformed into a memorial museum, that every year counts with the visit of 1,400,000 persons.
Ground Zero - The National September 11 Memorial	New York (USA)	A tribute of remembrance and honor to the nearly 3,000 people killed in the terror attacks of September 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center site. According to the 9/11 site, this memorial receives each year approximately 1.000.000 visitors.
Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park	Hiroshima (Japan)	Tells the history of Hiroshima and the advent of the nuclear bomb, on the 6 <sup>th</sup> of August of 1945. The personal details displayed in the museum are quite upsetting, and are there to remind the visitors that we shouldn't take peace for granted. Since its opening the museum have been visited by 53 million people.
The Dracula's Castle - Bran Castle -	Wallachia (Transylvania)	It's the most visited tourist site in Romania. Located in Transylvania, has 500,000 visitors annually and gets a profit of 1 million Euros each year.
Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary	San Francisco Bay (USA)	Was a high-security prison, located on the island of Alcatraz. This prison was designed to hold the incarcerated prisoners who continually caused problems in other federal prisons. One of the most famous prisons in the world, Alcatraz housed some of the most vicious criminals of America. Currently the prison is a museum and one of the main tourist attractions of San Francisco, attracting 1.5 million visitors annually.
Pompeii	Naples (Italy)	Was an ancient Roman city near Naples, Italy, destroyed during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. The eruption destroyed the entire city, killing all its inhabitants and burying it under tons of ashes. Nowadays, the city acquired the status of World Heritage Site, by UNESCO and is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Italy, with approximately 2.5 million visitors per year.
Leap Castle	Coolderry County Offaly (Ireland)	In Ireland was considered the most haunted place in the world. According to a popular legend the castle is haunted by a supernatural entity called the Elemental that died there of leprosy, and whose spirit remained over the years. The castle has been used as background for some of the well-known American TV series. Massively known for its television exposure this castle annually attracts 800,000 visitors.
Père - Lachaise	Paris (France)	Is the largest cemetery in Paris, and with its 3.5 million visitors per year, it is also the most visited cemetery in the world. In this cemetery are buried distinguish personalities of the music scene (Jim Morrison, Édith Piaf, Frédéric Chopin), poetry writers (Honoré de Balzac, Oscar Wilde, Marcel Proust), sculpture and painting artists (Eugène Delacroix, Max Ernst) and a lot of others famous residents that contributed to enrich the Parisians culture.
Squatter Camp Soweto	Soweto (South Africa)	Impregnated with the history of the struggle against apartheid and abuzz with the energy of the city of gold, Soweto is the most visited attraction of South Africa.
Tuol Sleng Museum	Phnom Penh (Cambodia)	Where the Cambodian tragic past is portrayed (former extermination camp where thousands of Cambodians were killed).
Dharavi Slum	Mumbai (India)	In Mumbai / India, this slum gained great projection after the release of the film Slumdog Millionaire, and is one of the most visited slums worldwide.
Latvian Prison Hotel and Museum	Liepāja (Latvia)	Karosta Prison was a working prison for most of the 20th century, but it now serves as a museum, attraction, and hotel. The prison offers tours, accommodation, and special activities (recreating the reality of the structure's history).
Alma Bridge	Paris (France)	Princess Diana's tunnel of death. In 31 August 1997 Princess Diana died at this tunnel, victim of a car crash. Only 10 years after the incident became this tunnel open to the general public. Since then, receives millions of visitors annually.
Arlington National Cemetery	Virginia (USA)	Is a United States military cemetery in Arlington County, Virginia, in whose 624 acres have been buried the dead of the nation's conflicts beginning with the American Civil War, as well as reinterred dead from earlier wars. Visitors per Year: Approximately 4 million.
Paris Catacombs	Paris (France)	Are underground ossuaries in Paris, France. The ossuaries hold the remains of about six million people and fill a renovated section of caverns and tunnels that are the remains of historical stone mines, giving it its reputation as "The World's Largest Grave". The catacombs receive approximately 300,000 visitors per year.
Titanic Belfast	Belfast (Northern Ireland)	It's a visitor attraction and a monument to Belfast's maritime heritage. It's a must see place on a trip to Belfast and became the most popular tourist attraction in Northern Ireland.
Sedlec Ossuary	Sedec (Czech Republic)	Is a small Roman Catholic chapel, located beneath the Cemetery Church of All Saints in Sledec. The ossuary is estimated to contain the skeletons of between 40,000 and 70,000 people, whose bones have in many cases been artistically arranged to form decorations and furnishings for the chapel. The ossuary is among the most visited tourist attractions of the Czech Republic, attracting over 200,000 visitors yearly.
Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum	Oklahoma (USA)	Is a memorial in the United States that honors the victims, survivors, rescuers, and all who were affected by the Oklahoma City bombing on April 19, 1995. The memorial has an average of 350,000 visitors a year.
Museum of Genocide Victims	Vilnius (Lithuania)	The museum is situated in the former KGB building (in Vilnius), where the crimes of the Soviet regime were planned and executed for fifty years. This museum receives the visit of millions of people each year.
Hoa Lo Prison	Hanoi (Vietnam)	Was a prison used by the French colonists in Vietnam for political prisoners, and later by North Vietnam for prisoners of war during the Vietnam War when it was sarcastically known to American prisoners of war as the "Hanoi Hilton". The prison was demolished during the 1990s, though the gatehouse remains as a museum. It welcomes about 35,000 to 40,000 thousand people to visit it every year.

Chapel of Bones	Évora (Portugal)	Is one of the best known monuments in Évora, Portugal. It is a small interior chapel located next to the entrance of the Church of St. Francis. The Chapel gets its name because the interior walls are covered and decorated with human skulls and bones. Is one of the most visited attractions in Évora.
Island of the Dolls	Mexico City (Mexico)	Localized in Mexico this island is dedicated to the lost soul of a poor girl who met her fate too soon in strange circumstances. This island is home to hundreds of terrifying dolls. Their severed limbs, decapitated heads, and blank eyes adorn trees. It's one of the creepiest and visited sites in the world.
The Suicide Forest	Mount Fuji (Japan)	Is a 35-square-kilometre forest that lies at the northwest base of Mount Fuji in Japan. The forest contains a number of rocky, icy caverns, a few of which are popular tourist destinations. Aokigahara forest is dense, shutting out all but the natural sounds of the forest itself. The forest has a historic association with demons in Japanese mythology and is a popular place for suicides.
The London Dungeon	London (UK)	Is a London tourist attraction that recreates various gory and macabre historical events in a gallows humor style aimed at younger audiences. It uses a mixture of live actors, special effects and rides. This attraction receives approximately 750,00 <b>visitors</b> a year.
Chernobyl Disaster	<u>Pripyat</u> (Ukraine)	After the nuclear accident that occurred in Chernobyl on 26 April 1986, the site sees more visitors than ever. Several tour operators organize lead excursions to the zone and to their abandoned villages being Pripyat one of the most visited. Yearly, Chernobyl counts with more than 10.000 tourists.
Gallipoli Campaign	Gallipoli (Turkey)	Dardanelles Campaign (25 April 1915 - 9 January 1916) was a campaign of World War I that took place on the Gallipoli peninsula. Gallipoli is one of the most holy attractions for the Turkish because it represents the soldiers that lost their lives in the battle. It's a historical site that offers tours around the monuments and tombs to account the incidents that happened there. Every year the Gallipoli peninsula receives thousands of visitants in order to pay tribute to the ones killed during the campaign.
Belchite	Saragoça (Spain)	Belchite is maybe the most prevailing reminder in Spain of the destruction that the civil war of 1936-39 (Battle of Belchite) brought to that population. Since it was destroyed has served as a war memorial and the ambience of the ghost town attracts millions of tourists per year.
Jack The Ripper Tours	London	Jack the Ripper was a serial killer that brutally murdered several prostitutes in the streets of London. Media as intensely promoted this story and because of that a tour – Jack The Ripper - was created, for all of those who wanted to “live” the story. Nowadays it seems to be held up as one of the most iconic dark tours in the world.
Hothell	Porto (Portugal)	Hot Hell is the first permanent haunted house in Porto, Portugal. It recreates the horror stories that happened in the city. Recently opened , the site has been massively searched,
Anne Frank House	Prinsengracht (Amsterdam)	Anne Frank was a writer that during the holocaust wrote her experiences in a journal that become worldwide known as the Diary of Anne Frank. In her memory a museum was built - Anne Frank House was established as a biographical museum that portrays the stories written by her. Since its opening the number of visitors has been increasing and in 2015 reached 31056300 visitors.
Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre	Rwanda	This memorial commemorates the Rwanda genocide that took place in 1994. The site receives about 77,000 visitors per year

Source: Fonseca, A. 2016

once occurred, reason why, the innumerable sites/attractions that it offers, permit the individuals to have further contact, in a safe ambience, with death. Also plays an important role in bringing to the present, past events, sharing information and causing emotions, expanding the discussion of the darker side of history and humanity. Within dark tourism, death becomes real (again) for the individual (Sharpley and Stone). Not only for emotional and educational purposes, can dark tourists also look for these destinations to seek their own heritage or to satisfy their curiosity, amongst other reasons. As stated in this paper, dark tourism sites are scattered throughout the world and attending the number of visitors they receive every year, this alternative type of tourism is gaining an increasingly interest and needs to be designed more profoundly. Dark Tourism cannot be perceived as an expression of tourist demand only, but rather needs to be considered in conjunction with tourism supply. It is likely that the consumption of Dark Tourism isn't restricted to the contemplating of the death, so future studies should focus on its consumption as well as to the empirical examination of the motives inherent when choosing a dark destination [36-38].

## References

- Seabra C, Abrantes J, Kastenholz E (2014) The influence of terrorism risk perception on purchase involvement and safety concern international travellers. *J Mark Manage* 30: 874-903.
- Wight AC (2006) Philosophical and methodological praxes in dark tourism: Controversy contention and the evolving paradigm. *J Vacat Mark* 12: 119-129.
- Lennon J, Foley M (2009) *Dark tourism- The attraction of death and disaster*. London: Cassel.
- Tarlow P (2005) Dark tourism: The appealing “dark” side of tourism and more. In M. Novelli (Ed.), *Niche Tourism: Contemporary Issues. Trends and Cases* pp. 47 -57 Oxford: Elsevier.
- Stone P (2006) A dark tourism spectrum: Towards a typology of death and macabre related tourist sites, attractions and exhibitions. *Interdiscipl Int J* 52: 145-160.
- Lennon JA (2000) *Dark Tourism: The Attraction of Death and Disaster*. London: Continuum
- Stone P, Sharpley R (2008) Consuming dark tourism: A thanatological perspective. *Ann Tourism Res* 35: 574-595.
- Stone P (2005) Institute for Dark Tourism. Retrieved Março 17, 2013, from Global Scholarship Hub.
- Seaton A (1996) Guided by the dark: From thanatopsis to thanatourism. *Int J Herit Stud* 2: 234-244.
- Seaton AV (2002) Thanatourism's final frontiers? visits to cemeteries, churchyards and secular pilgrimage. *Tourism Recreat* 27: 73-82.
- Dann G (1998) *The dark side of tourism*. University of Luton, Tourism & Leisure. Provence: Centre International de Recherches et D'etudes Touristiques.
- Sharpley R, Stone P (2009) *The darker side of travel: The theory and practice of dark tourism*. Bristol: Channel View Publications.
- Seaton AA (2004) *New Horizons in Tourism – Strange Experiences and Stranger Practices*. CABI Publishing 63 - 82.

14. Rojek C (1993) *Ways of escape: Modern transformations in leisure and travel*. Basingstoke, Australia: Macmillan.
15. Blom T (2000) Morbid tourism - A postmortem market niche with an example from Althorp. *Nor J Geogr* 54: 29-36.
16. Keyes M (2012) *War tourism: Shaping memory and perception in Post-War Vietnam*. Summer Research. Washington, USA: University of Puget Sound.
17. Smith VL (1996) War and its Tourist Attractions. In A. Pizam, Mansfeld Y (Eds.), *Tourism, Crime and Security Issues*. (pp. 247-264) Chichester: Wiley.
18. Smith VL (1998) War and tourism: An american ethnography. *Ann Tourism Res* 25: 202-227.
19. Blackford M (2005) Tourism, the environment and the military: The case of Guam. *Business and Economic History Online*, 3: 1-6.
20. Dunkley R, Morgan N, Westwood S (2011) Visiting the trenches: Exploring meanings and motivations in battlefield tourism. *Tourism Manage* 32: 860-868.
21. Lloyd DW (1998) *Pilgrimage and the commemoration of the great war Britain, Australia and Canada, 1919-1939 (Legacy of the Great War)*. Bloomsbury: Kindle Edition.
22. Gough P (2008) Commemoration of war. In B. Graham, Howard P (Eds.), *The Ashgate Research Companion to Heritage and Identity* (pp. 215-230). Burlington: Ashgate.
23. Rucinska D, Lechowicz M (2014) Natural hazard and disaster tourism. *Miscellanea Geographica - Regional Studies on Development* 18: 17-25.
24. Strange C, Kempa M (2003) Shades of dark tourism: Alcatraz and Robben Island. *Ann Tourism Res* 30: 386-405.
25. Lemer A (2010) *Prison Tours: a taste of life behind bars*. Retrieved 05 30, 2015, from Lonely Planet.
26. Abranja A (2012) Conhecimento e práticas do turismo cemiterial: Um mercado emergente no sector. *Turismo & Desenvolvimento* 3: 1286.
27. Queiroz J (2009) *Os cemitérios do Porto e a arte funerária oitocentista em Portugal: Consolidação da vivência romântica na perpetuação da memória*. Tese Doutoramento não publicada.
28. Logan W (2009) Remembering places of pain and shame. In R. Logan, K. Reeves (Eds.), *Places of pain and shame: Dealing with "difficult heritage"* (pp. 1-14). London: Routledge.
29. Davies O (2007) *The haunted: A social history of ghosts*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
30. Inglis D, Holmes M (2003) Highland and other haunts: ghosts in Scottish tourism. *Ann Tourism Res* 30: 50-63.
31. Gentry G (2007) Walking with the dead: The place of ghost walk tourism in Savannah, Georgia. *Southeastern Geographer*, 47: 222-238.
32. Thomas TR (2009) Engaging Auschwitz: an analysis of young travellers' experiences of holocaust tourism. *J Tourism Consumpt Practic* 1: 1-52.
33. Schwarz N (1998) Warmer and more social: recent developments in cognitive social psychology. *Annu Rev Sociol* 24: 239-264.
34. Fonseca A, Silva C (2014) Motivações de procura do dark tourism como uma forma alternativa de turismo. *Turismo & Desenvolvimento* 21: 173-175.
35. Becker E (1973) *The denial of death*. New York: Free Press.
36. Farmaki A (2013) Dark tourism revisited: A supply/demand conceptualisation. *Int J Cult Tourism Hospit Res* 7: 281-292.
37. Cohen EH (2011) Educational dark tourism at an in populo site: The holocaust museum in Jerusalem. *Ann Tourism Res* 38: 139-209.
38. Beech J (2000) The enigma of holocaust sites as tourist attractions - The case of Buchenwald. *Manag Leis* 5: 29-41.

## Author Affiliation

Top

<sup>1</sup>Higher School of Technology and Management, Polytechnic Institute of Viseu, Viseu, Portugal

### Submit your next manuscript and get advantages of SciTechnol submissions

- ❖ 50 Journals
- ❖ 21 Day rapid review process
- ❖ 1000 Editorial team
- ❖ 2 Million readers
- ❖ Publication immediately after acceptance
- ❖ Quality and quick editorial, review processing

Submit your next manuscript at • [www.scitechnol.com/submission](http://www.scitechnol.com/submission)

This article was originally published in a special issue, **New Trends in Tourism Management** handled by Editor, Dr. Cláudia Seabra, Polytechnic Institute of Viseu, Portugal.