

DARK TOURISM IN RAJASTHAN AFTER COVID-19: A NEW TREND OF TOURISM IN RAJASTHAN

Neelima Modi Rawat*
Dr. Anukrati Sharma**

ABSTRACT

The deadly virus "COVID-19" has affected our life in every aspect. We don't know how it will end and how many dark marks it will give to the world. India stands at third highest number (33.1 lakh) of COVID cases (Till 1 September 2020) after US and Brazil. Although with increase in cases, recovery rate is also increasing (76.2 %). The global economy hit very badly with 5.2 percent contraction in global GDP and tourism sector is worst affected that have lost almost five to seven years' worth of growth. India's GDP is dropped sharply to 23.9%. Travel and tourism are one of the major sources of economic growth and income, where 1 in every 10 jobs are part of this sector in worldwide. To get back Travel and tourism on track, government have opened few states for tourists from 2 June 2020 with some strict protocols and guidelines. The land of King's "Rajasthan" is always in bucket- list of India travelers. Its vibrant culture, heritage sites, palaces, museums, golden sand, forts, authentic cuisine, always attract both domestic and international travelers and give them experience of the royalty. Due to pandemic state tourism places are deserted and heritage hotels are facing bankruptcy. Tourism in pandemic is a topic of controversy. Some are planning to step out and some wanted to stay at home. People are preferring to visit places of less crowd and near to their home. Bhangarh Fort near Alwar, Kuldhara village near Jaisalmer, Padmini Palace of Chittorgarh, Bada Bagh of Jaisalmer, Haldi Ghat at Mount. Abu are some places that have dark chapter in history and somehow connected to death or tragedy. These are actually Dark Tourism sites which are far from city and could attract potential domestic tourists in Rajasthan in this pandemic. Present Study focuses on awareness level of people about Dark tourism and such destinations of Rajasthan. Will they prefer dark destinations of Rajasthan or will select conventional tourism places after COVID- 19. For such research, Data is collected through google forms with some open-ended and with some close ended questions. Rajasthan have abundance of Dark destinations but are ignored from society and government from years. Some are promoted enough. But many are still less known and hidden. Due to pandemic Rajasthan tourism is facing hard time and this could be the new trending product to reposition the image of Rajasthan tourism place and could attract more tourists in future even after COVID_ 19.

Keywords: *Dark Tourism, COVID- 19, Rajasthan Tourism.*

Introduction

Travel and tourism are part of daily life other than the industry. Indian tourism Industry is one of the biggest industries and source of economic growth. Global 1 in every 10 people are in tourism industry. On 30 January 2020, WHO has announced global public health emergency due to coronavirus disease. (*WHO Declares Coronavirus Outbreak A Global Health Emergency : Goats and Soda : NPR, 30 January 2020*)

India is one of the highly affected country from COVID- 19. Till 1 September 2020, it is third after US and Brazil. Number of COVID cases is increasing exponentially. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, and Gujarat are highly areas. (*India International Flights Reopen - When Will Tourism Resume In India? When Will Borders Open? *Updated 1st September 2020* - Wego Travel Blog*). India is recorded

* Research Scholar, Department of Commerce and Management, University of Kota, Kota, Rajasthan, India.
** Associate Professor, Department of Commerce and Management, University of Kota, Kota, Rajasthan, India.

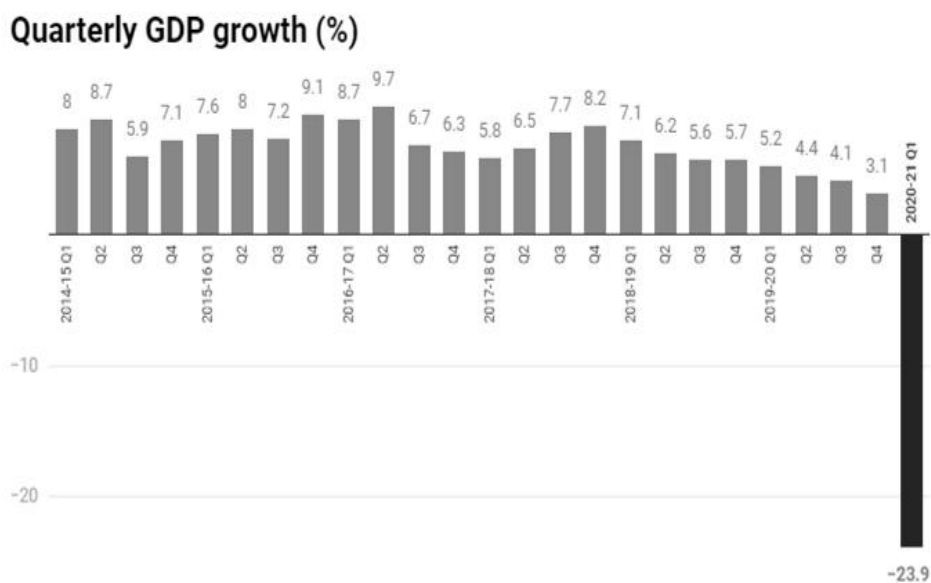
with 3,936,747 COVID cases and 68,569 deaths till September 4. Total of cases of Maharashtra (843,844), Andhra Pradesh (465,730), Tamil Nadu (439,959), Karnataka (370,206), and Uttar Pradesh (247,101) is 62% of total active cases of India. (*Coronavirus LIVE: "Widespread Vaccination" Not until Mid-2021, Says WHO | Business Standard News*, n.d.). Land of Maharajas (Kings) Rajasthan is now deserted and heritage royal hotels are facing bankruptcy. (*Jaipur: Royal Rajasthan Experience Faces Bankruptcy amid Coronavirus Lockdown | Business News*, 20 May 2020).

Due to nationwide lockdown, people were staying to their home, tourism was restricted, roads were empty. After two months of lockdown government have relieved some restrictions. Things are opening so that tourism too. With increase of cases, recovery rate is also improved. Tourists have started coming in Rajasthan again with following new norms. This paper focuses on changing attitude of tourists for selecting tourism destination of Rajasthan due to pandemic and attitude of those who are planning to visit in this year. Likewise, their selection of hotel and hygiene concern, short trip vs long trip, safety measure.

Literature Review

- **COVID- 19 in India: Impact on economy and Tourism**

On 30 August 2020, India set a new record having 78,000 COVID cases in a single day. (*Coronavirus as It Happened: Global Case Numbers Pass 25m - JHU - BBC News*, 30 August 2020). Even after nationwide lockdown in India, cases are increasing exponentially. It has reached o 33.1 lakh cases with 76.2% recovery rate and 60, 472 deaths till 157th day of lockdown. (*MoHFW | Home*). This has badly impacted economy of India with sharp drop to 23.9% in first quarter of financial year 2020-2021 (*UNWTO Releases a COVID-19 Technical Assistance Package for Tourism Recovery | UNWTO*, 12 May 2020).



Source: (*UNWTO Releases a COVID-19 Technical Assistance Package for Tourism Recovery | UNWTO*, 12 May 2020)

As pandemic has forced us to think more on safety and hygiene, Shravan Bhalla, Chief Executive High Flyer, India, also mentioned that now safety will be must factor for travelers. (*Experts Share Insights on the Effects of Coronavirus on the Tourism Industry - Outlook Traveller*, 8 April 2020).

Rajasthan that is largest state of India, is a famous touristic destination. Domestic and international tourists come here to experience the royalty. Tourism in Rajasthan is the second highest foreign exchange earner after gems and jewels (*Coronavirus: Rajasthan Hotels, Bars Struggle To Survive Due To Covid Brakes On Tourism*, 25 June 2020). This year (2020), number of Rajasthan tourists has fallen to 40%. In 2019, 20.63 million domestic and 8.05 lakh foreign tourists are recorded. While in first five months of year 2020, 11.40 million domestic and 4.39 lakh foreign tourists are reported (*Tourist Arrivals in Rajasthan Plunge over 40% in First Five Months, Outlook Uncertain | Jaipur News - Times of India*, 15 July 2020).

- **Restart of tourism: after two months of lockdown in India**

COVID- 19 has given us an opportunity to rethink our irresponsibly done traveling practices and reengineer art of exploring. Mutual coordination and collaboration, innovation and new ideas are today's strategic steps to move ahead (*Experts Share Insights on the Effects of Coronavirus on the Tourism Industry - Outlook Traveller*, 8 April 2020).

COVID- 19 breakdown is first found in Wuhan, China that is now coronavirus free. China has unlocked the country after the zero COVID cases and started welcoming domestic tourists. (Will Enger, 11 May, 2020). UNWTO has also eased COVID- 19 restrictions from 87 tourist's destinations. (Rodriguez, Cecilia, 30 July, 2020). To support the responsible, safe and healthy World Travel and tourism council has suggested some safety protocols (*CAR RENTAL LEADING GLOBAL PROTOCOLS FOR THE NEW NORMAL OVERARCHING OBJECTIVES & APPROACH FOR THE TRAVEL & TOURISM SECTOR OBJECTIVES*). These are 1. Operational and Staff Preparedness, 2. Ensuring a Safe Experience, 3. Rebuilding Trust & Confidence, 4. Implementing Enabling Policies.

These health and hygiene protocols are to ensure safety of travelers and employees, and guidelines for restaurants, cafes and hotels to rebuild trust among travelers through effective communication & marketing. (*Car Rental Leading Global Protocols For The New Normal Overarching Objectives & Approach For The Travel & Tourism Sector Objectives*)

From 25 May 2020 Indian airlines also returned to fly again for domestic air travel under strict guidelines and control of Indian government. Other than few specific nations and of selected categorical people (business visas/ B- 3 visa for sports, foreign health care professionals, managerial professionals, engineers, technicians and design specialists) International flights are restricted (*India International Flights Reopen - When Will Tourism Resume In India? When Will Borders Open? *Updated 1st September 2020* - Wego Travel Blog*).

After two months of strict lockdown, Indian government has eased some restrictions and even some state government has opened their doors for tourists. 'IntezaarAapka' (Waiting for you) campaign is promoted to restart tourism in Madhya Pradesh. Uttarakhand, Himachal, Goa and Rajasthan are also opened with some restricted places, and guidelines for tourists. Tourists have to undergo through basic screening at entry point and have to show a negative test report of COVID- 19 test furnished from an Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). (*Your Favourite Places in India Are Now Open For Tourism! (2020)*, 28 July 2020)

Rajasthan state has restarted welcoming of tourists from 2 June 2020 which were closed from end of March 2020. Places are sanitized timely with regular intervals. Even now from September 7, 2020 religious places are also opened for devotees with some strict protocols and social distancing (*Rajasthan Shrines to Reopen | Trainman Blog*, 3 September 2020). To attract domestic tourists, Rajasthan government is offering discounts on tickets of monuments and archeological places, and no entry fee for first 15 days after lockdown. In just two days of reopening of touristic places in Rajasthan, more than 1400 tourists were reported. (*Tourism Resumes in Rajasthan with over 1400 Visitors, Entry Fee to Tourist Spots Waived for 15 Days - India News - Hindustan Times*, 4 June 2020)

According to Tourism Minister, Vishvendra Singh promoting new tourism trend and new circuits of tourism, coordination with other states, aggressive marketing campaign, creative and innovative social marketing, digital platforms engagement and revamping of Rajasthan tourism website could help to attract domestic tourists in the Rajasthan. Even the royal train "The Palace on Wheels" have to focus on attracting domestic tourists. (*COVID-19: Rajasthan Govt Brainstorms with Tourism Stakeholders*, 27 April 2020).

Ranthambore National Park (Sawai madhopur) have reopened from 8 June 2020, along with hotels, restaurants and clubs near to wildlife sanctuary. To maintain social distancing, only 50 % of tourists are allowed in safari with masks. Thermal testing is conducted at entry point of tourists. It is reported that every day average ten to fifteen safari vehicles are coming and maximum of tourists are from Delhi, Gurgaon and Rajasthan (*Reopening of Wildlife Tourism in Rajasthan - Outlook Traveller*, 19 June 2020)

- **Dark Tourism- A new tourism trend in Rajasthan**

Introduction to Dark Tourism: From past 20 years "Dark tourism" is attracting researchers, scholars, tourists and media due to its uniqueness. Netflix's 2018 series of dark tourists is first tv series on dark tourism that attracted media and people.

Various researchers worked on Dark tourism and thanatourism. Till December 2016, total 18,600 times the word 'dark tourism' is searched in Google. (Light, 2017)

Dark tourism is first introduced by Lennon and Foley in the twentieth century. Here, dark stands for 'dark chapter of history'.

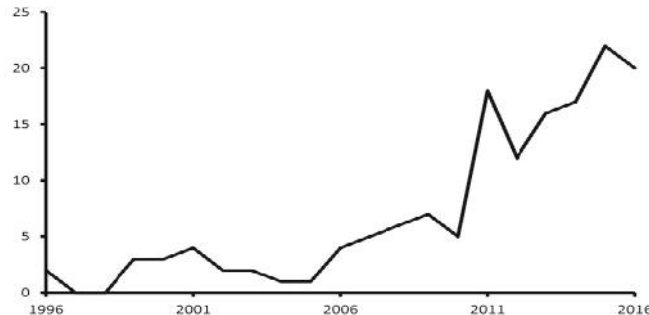


Fig. 1: Number of Published Papers on Dark Tourism and Thanatourism (1996–2016).

Source: (Light, 2017)

Initial researches on Dark tourism were theoretical. While after mid 20's exploratory researches specifically on tourist's motivation have conducted. (Light, 2017)

According to Sharpley and Stone (2009), traveling to death connected sites are not new. People used to travel suffering sites, disaster, violence and death related sites from medieval ages. In 1993, Rojeck analyzed tourists intend to places of fatal attractions and graves, and labeled such travelling as "Blackspot tourism" (Rojek, 1993). Black tourism is a narrow term. In 1996 Lennon and Foley introduced wider term for such travelers and named it "Dark Tourism". (Lennon and Foley, 2000). According to Lennon and Foley "dark tourism is travelling of places which are connected with death, disaster and tragedy". (Lennon and Foley, 2000)

Dark tourism is sometimes taken as Thanaotourism or Black tourism. Various names are given by researchers to 'Dark Tourism' as morbid tourism, Atrocity Tourism, penal/prison tourism, fright tourism, genocide tourism, grief tourism, disaster tourism, trauma tourism, favela tourism, poverty tourism, suicide tourism, atomic tourism, and conflict heritage tourism. Dark tourism sites can be Dark fun factories such as Dracula park, Dark exhibitions such as museums, dark dungeons such as prisons, dark resting places such as cemeteries/ graves, Dark shrines, Dark conflict sites such as war/ battlefield sites, dark camps of genocide.

Dark Tourism sites in Rajasthan

Dark tourism hold learning lessons and tells the importance of life. "Death" and "tourism" making the term Dark tourism which sounds contradicting terms. Dark tourism is a western concept and acceptance of such unique tourism bond in India is different. Incredible India is the country that have abundance of religious places, heritage sites and natural scenic spots. Dark tourism sites are actually those old sites that have dark/ black chapter in history.

Hit of Indian television show "Mano Ya Na Mano", proved that Indians like to engage in activities and places related to death and sufferings and have immense potential of Dark tourism. (*The Sunday Tribune - Spectrum*, n.d.). Bhopal museum, Taj Mahal, Jallianwala Bagh, Taj Hotel, Dharavi slum area in Mumbai, Indira Gandhi memorial museum, Bhangarh fort, Gandhi Smriti, Khooni Darwaza, are some famous dark touristic spots of India. Rajasthan is semi-rural state of India, famous for historical tales and heritage forts. As dark tourism is also a heritage site that have dark history. Rajasthan is full of such dark destinations. Bhangarh fort, Kuldhara village are famous spooky dark destinations of Rajasthan. (*Welcome to Rajasthan - Official Website of Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan*)

Bhangarh is known as the 'most haunted place' of India. It is 50 kilometers far from the Sariska Sanctuary. Archaeological Survey of India have restricted entry of tourists after sunsets. Kuldhara Village is 18 km far from amin city of Jaisalmer and famous as another haunted place of Rajasthan. Some have claimed paranormal activities and weird voices. No entry is allowed after dusk. (*Welcome to Rajasthan - Official Website of Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan*) Bada Bagh is also in Jaisalmer. It is place for remembrance that have series of royal chhatris (cenotaph) of kings of Jaisalmer. (*Bada Bagh Jaisalmer | Places To Visit | Jaisalmer Tourism*) Jauhar place of Padmini is the famous historical place where queen Padmini self-immolated with her 700 female followers. She decided to burn self rather caught by the enemy Alauddin Khilji. (*Padmavati Palace In Chittorgarh Fort Whispers Secrets From*

Centuries Ago). Haldighati is famous historical war field area near to small hill station Mount. Abu. Battle between Brave 'Rana Pratap Singh' of Mewar and general of Mughal Akbar 'Raja Man Singh' of Amber lasted for 4 hours and bloodiest battle of history (Welcome to Rajasthan - Official Website of Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan)

Research Methodology

Research is a scientific and systematic process to solve the problem and knowing unknown facts. Research methodology consist of all tools, methods and techniques to direct and proceed research rightly.

Statement of the Problem

This paper focusing on opportunity in tourism sector in Rajasthan after pandemic. COVID- 19 hit India badly and impacted tourism sector. Government has opened state doors for domestic tourists. More than 1400 tourists visited in first two days after unlock of touristic places in Rajasthan (*Tourism Resumes in Rajasthan with over 1400 Visitors, Entry Fee to Tourist Spots Waived for 15 Days - India News - Hindustan Times*, 4 June 2020).

Pandemic has changed every- thing viz our way of socializing, daily workings and travelling. People are rethinking before going out and visiting a place. Travel lovers started step out again but with new norms, masks and sanitizers. Pandemic have shifted tourists demand from conventional crowded places to less crowded and off beaten paths.

The objective of the present research paper is to find significance of dark tourism in Rajasthan after COVID- 19. Deadly virus COVID- 19 has hardly hit tourism sector and people got cold feet by pandemic. Present paper throw light on awareness of people about the term Dark tourism and about the dark places of Rajasthan.

Rajasthan have immense potential of dark tourism. It is place of heritage sites, folk tales and glorious history that include abundance of places with dark history. Some of these places are famous touristic spots but many are still ignored by society and government.

During pandemic, government is focusing on domestic tourists. People those are comfortable in travelling during pandemic are selecting unconventional places for visit. Here is the right time to promote unveil jewels of Rajasthan to attract people from Rajasthan and near from Rajasthan.

Objective

The main purpose is to find the significance of new tourism trends specifically dark tourism in Rajasthan after COVID- 19.

Secondary objectives are:

- To know awareness level of tourists about dark tourism and Dark destinations of Rajasthan
- To analyze impact of pandemic on choosing of touristic place in Rajasthan.
- To find comfortability of tourists to travel during pandemic.
- To know the curiosity of visiting dark destinations of experienced or potential dark tourists.
- To find out the potential dark destinations of Rajasthan that could be future tourism product.

For such objectives, hypothesis is formulated as:

H_{o1}: People are aware with the term Dark tourism and about dark tourism destinations of Rajasthan.

H_{o2}: Dark place experienced tourists recommends others to visit state dark destinations.

H_{o3}: Promotion of dark tourism sites of Rajasthan in social media platforms could attract domestic tourists during pandemic.

Research Design

- **Questionnaire Designing:** For the present research, structured questionnaire is formed through google form and data is **collected** virtually. It consists of both open and closed questions to get essential information. An online survey instrument was distributed through What's app application, Instagram application and via mail. Total 175 forms are forwarded and among them 110 has received well. Further data is analyzed and interpreted from sample of 110.

Questions are formulated on the basis of past study and current situation. Total 12 questions were asked including the demographic information of respondents.

Table 1: Research Design

1	Type of Research	Descriptive Research
2	Area of Research	Rajasthan
3	Focus area	Dark tourism sites of Rajasthan
4	Type of respondents	Potential tourists of Rajasthan and residents (no specific demographics)
5	Population	Dark Tourists in Rajasthan
6	Sample Size	110
8	Sampling method	convenience sampling

Data Collection

- Primary data is used for the research which is collected virtually through google forms. Total 12 questions are framed with open and closed questions.
- Secondary data is collected from various articles, journals, blogs, news, government reports, and previous researches.

Table 2: Data Collection Method

S. No.	Data Collection	Method and Techniques
1.	Primary data collection method	Online survey instrument (Google form)
2.	Secondary data collection	News, articles, Journals, blogs, e books, government reports, previous research papers

Limitations of Study

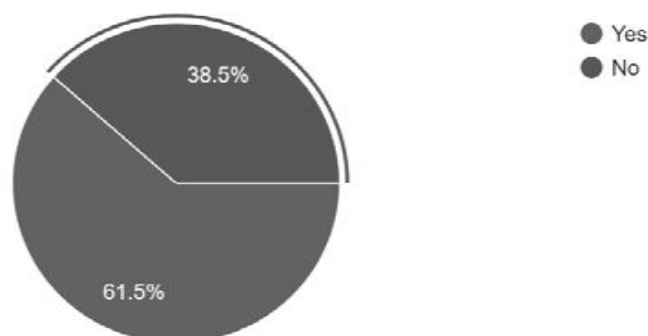
- Due to COVID- 19 crisis, virtual methods are used for data collection. Social media platforms are the only way to collect data due to pandemic situation. Field survey method couldn't be possible.
- Observation of tourism sites was prior to pandemic. No updated sites observation.
- Convenience sampling method is adopted for collecting data as no field survey have conducted. Friends, family, colleagues and reference people are the respondents.
- Limited time and limited respondents are constraints of present research paper.
- Unavailability of software packages for hypothesis testing.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Demographic information: maximum of respondents are youngsters (18 to 30 years old). Among 110 respondents, 52% are male and 48% are female.

Have you heard about the term "Dark Tourism"?

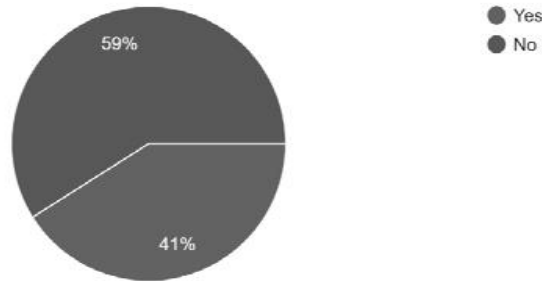
39 responses



After collection of primary data, it is analyzed that 61.5 % of respondents are aware about the term "Dark tourism" while for 38.5 % it is a new term. So maximum of people are aware with the term 'Dark tourism'.

Have you visited Bhangarh /Kuldhara/ Jouhar Palace of Padmini/ Haldi Ghati/Bada Bagh or such kind of places that are haunted or connected to some tragedy or disaster in Rajasthan?

39 responses



It is found that 41 percent of respondents are experienced with dark sites of Rajasthan. While, 59% respondents have no such experience. So many haven't visited dark sites of Rajasthan. These dark sites are new tourism sites for them and could attract many unexperienced domestic people.

If you visited or planning to visit than what factors attracted you visit such dark spots of Rajasthan?

39 responses

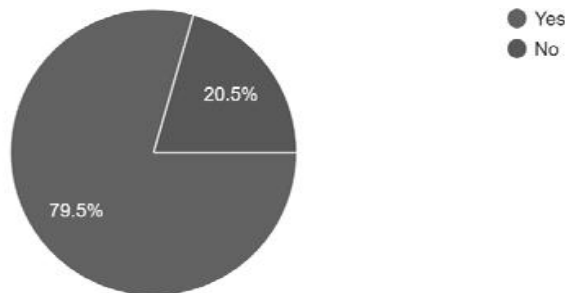


It is analysed that total 38.5% of respondents visited or want to visit dark sites to know the history of place. While 17.9% respondents like to see the beauty and authenticity of place. 10.3% of respondents are curious to see paranormal activities and 10.3% respondents wanted to seek the truth behind the story. 2.6% of respondents going such places or planning to visit for educational purpose. 20.5% of respondents not at all curious and motivated to visit dark spots of Rajasthan.

So maximum of respondents (79.5%) are curious and attracted towards dark destinations and could be future dark tourists.

Maximum of these places are far from cities. Do you like to visit such places after end of pandemic?

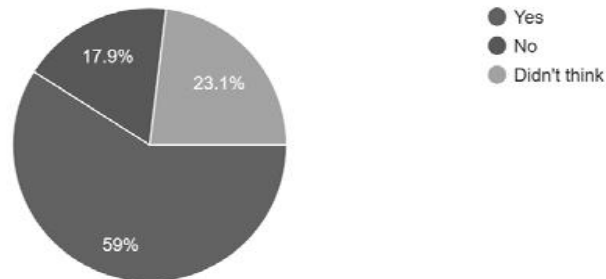
39 responses



It is analysed that maximum of respondents (79.5%) are like to visit dark tourism sites after pandemic, even they know that these are far from cities. These could be the reason because these are far from cities, less polluted and less crowdly.

If you already know and visited dark tourism spots (sites that are related to tragedy, disaster and death), will you recommend your friends and family to visit these places?

39 responses

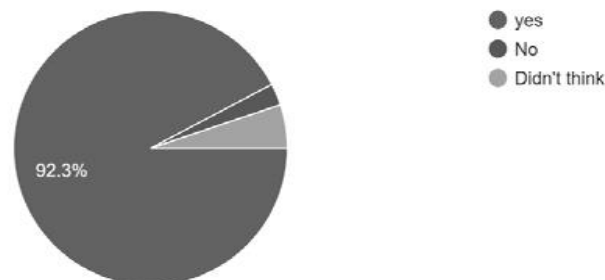


59% of respondent will recommend there near ones to visit and promote dark destinations of Rajasthan. 17.9% of respondents will not do this and 23.1% didn't think to recommend the place or not.

23.1% of respondents are confusing because they are not experienced with dark places. Probably their experience with the dark spot of Rajasthan could change their decision (either yes or no).

Do you feel that these sites which are ignored from societies and govt. (Only few are known and protected) and many are unaware, must be promoted?

39 responses



It is clearly understood that maximum of respondents (92.3%) wanted the development of Dark tourism in Rajasthan and must effectively promoted to make more people aware and attract.

Question

If you are dark place experienced person than what must be developed in Rajasthan Dark destinations for betterment? You can recommend some suggestions for Rajasthan tourism government or for tourists also. This question is open ended to get depth views of respondents.

Some respondents have suggested the development of infrastructure and roads to facilitate the tourism site. Some respondents are concerning on the safety at tourism site and about the awareness and promotion of those places. One of the senior respondents recommended that govt can take steps to find the truth/facts behind dark spots and must preserve the old sanskriti/ places, which can be used as tourism spot, mark such places and improve its conditions. Some kind of restoration work must be done to give a glimpse of what actually existed in history as. The Rajasthan government should spread more information about these palaces so that people can interact more. There should also be some more facilities for the tourists in regards of their safety for a positive viewpoint. Another valuable suggestion is these places should be promoted more and steps should be taken for stopping the false stories related to these places by the govt. and the people live near to such places.

Other than history restoration, preservation and promotion of dark spots, some have suggested importance of hotels and trained travel guides at these places, and improved tourism services.

Findings

- Rajasthan have potential of Dark tourism. It has both dark tourism supply and dark tourism demand. Maximum Rajasthani travelers don't know about the dark spots of Rajasthan and those who are aware are not experienced with such places.
- After the COVID- 19 breakdown, less are preferring to travel.
- Tourists demand are switching from crowded conventional places to less crowded and unveil sites.
- Most of the people are planning to visit dark tourism sites of Rajasthan after pandemic.
- Most of the people are aware with the 'Dark tourism' term, while not aware about dark destinations other than Bhangarh fort.
- After coronavirus breakdown, people are concerning on safety and hygiene. That's why wanting these factors as essential part of Dark tourism in Rajasthan and formulation of policies about this.
- People are curious to visit dark spots of Rajasthan and like to recommend such places to near and dear ones. So effective promotional strategies will attract large number of people and help Rajasthan tourism to back on track.
- Most of the tourists/ potential tourists are fascinated with dark sites to know the history of the place and to seek the truth behind the story. Some are fascinated with ghost houses and haunted places and visit such places to see paranormal activities.

Suggestions

Rajasthan that always in bucket list of India travelers have tremendous potential of Dark tourism. These are places that are somehow connected to death, tragedy, trauma and disaster. Rajasthan is famous for heritage sites, forts and palaces. But it's now places of dark destination. Increasing number of Bhanagrh fort tell us that people are wanting new tourism products in Rajasthan. Choices of tourists are shifting from heritage to new unveil sites and mysterious places. We can find many youngsters and thrill seeker at weekend in Bhangarh. Aura of such sites motivate them to visit more of these places.

Bhangarh is known as spookiest place of India. It has got fame as most haunted. Researcher has observed that Government have developed the fort, wide clean roads connecting to highways, cleaning and maintenance of forts, ticketing process, food and parking facility. That rural area near to Alwar (80 km far from Jaipur) has developed much after promotion of Bhangarh. People are employed, women and youngsters are earning from such development, and they are facilitated with better living standards.

Development of touristic spots in rural area not just help in development of society and economy of that area. But also attract people from urban area who wanted to experience nature and life of rurales.

For the safety and health of public, Indian government-imposed lockdown that have increased screen time of social media users. Total 376 million Indians are active social media users. (*Number of Social Media Users Worldwide | Statista*, 15 July 2020)

According to a survey 75 % of social media users in India are spending time on What's app, Facebook and Twitter. Screen time has increased from 150 minutes per day (average) to 280 minutes per day in the first week of lockdown (*Coronavirus: 87% Increase in Social Media Usage amid Lockdown; Indians Spend 4 Hours on Facebook, WhatsApp*, 30 March 2020)

This must be noted that today social media and digital platforms are the best media channels for marketing, campaign and promotion.

- This pandemic time must be utilized by government to work on promotion of niche tourism products and promotion of dark tourism sites to attract domestic tourists.
- Instagram, Facebook and Twitter are great platforms that could be used for effective marketing of Rajasthan tourism with its new tourism sites. Attractive activities on official social pages, virtual cultural programs, short clips of destinations having USP, webinars and online artistic meetings on festivals, could create attention among the general people and can make them potential tourists of Rajasthan.

- Rajasthan have potential of dark tourism. Due to pandemic Rajasthan tourism is not as before. Only few tourists are coming. So, Rajasthan government department of tourism can work on infrastructure development and construction work (Roads constructions, Maintenance work of forts/ palaces) at this time for development of new tourism sites.
- As pandemic has forced us to think on safety and cleaning. So steps must be taken by government to make the areas clean and safe.
- Cleaning and keeping place beautiful is not just responsibility of government but also of tourists. Some tourists training programs and webinars can help to educate tourists about their responsibility to make place beautiful as it is. As corona teaches us not to over- exploit the natural resources for our mean. Reuse, less waste and no spitting must be the life rule of everyone.
- Many of dark tourism sites are still hidden and not preserved. These sites must be preserved well. Government can take steps to find the actual facts and history about the place and some kind of restoration work must be done to give a glimpse of what actually existed in history and steps for stopping the false stories.

References

- Sharpley, R. and Stone, P. (2009) *The Darker Side of Travel: The Theory and Practice of Dark Tourism* Bristol: Channel View Publications.
- Rojek, C (1993) *Ways of Seeing Modern Transformations in Leisure and Travel*, London, Macmillan.
- Lennon, J. and Foley, M. (2000) *Dark Tourism: The Attraction of Death and Disaster*. London: Continuum.
- Chandra, A. Padmavati Palace In Chittorgarh Fort Whispers Secrets From Centuries Ago. Retrieved from [traveltriangle.com](https://traveltriangle.com/blog/padmavati-palace-chittorgarh/): <https://traveltriangle.com/blog/padmavati-palace-chittorgarh/>
- Reopening of Wildlife Tourism in Rajasthan - Outlook Traveller. (19 June 2020). Retrieved June 22, 2020, from <https://www.outlookindia.com/outlooktraveller/explore/story/70563/reopening-of-wildlife-tourism-in-rajasthan>.
- Your Favourite Places in India Are Now Open For Tourism! (2020). (28 July 2020). Retrieved August 4, 2020, from <https://www.fabhotels.com/blog/places-in-india-are-now-open-for-tourism/>
- Rajasthan Shrines to Reopen | Trainman Blog. (3 September 2020). Retrieved September 4, 2020, from <https://blog.trainman.in/blog/rajasthan-shrines-to-reopen/>
- Tourism resumes in Rajasthan with over 1400 visitors, entry fee to tourist spots waived for 15 days - india news - Hindustan Times. (4 June 2020). Retrieved June 14, 2020, from <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/tourism-resumes-in-rajasthan-with-over-700-visitors-entry-fee-waived-for-two-weeks/story-Qj9GJoVTkXV9cZhDceeaGP.html>
- COVID-19: Rajasthan govt brainstorms with tourism stakeholders. (27 April 2020). Retrieved July 4, 2020, from <https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/covid19-rajasthan-govt-brainstorms-with-tourism-stakeholders/1816590>
- India International Flights Reopen - When Will Tourism Resume In India? When Will Borders Open? *Updated 1st September 2020* - Wego Travel Blog. Retrieved September 4, 2020, from <https://blog.wego.com/when-will-india-open-its-borders-and-resume-tourism-in-the-country/>
- (CAR RENTAL LEADING GLOBAL PROTOCOLS FOR THE NEW NORMAL OVERARCHING OBJECTIVES & APPROACH FOR THE TRAVEL & TOURISM SECTOR OBJECTIVES, June 2020)
- UNWTO Releases a COVID-19 Technical Assistance Package for Tourism Recovery | UNWTO. (12 May 2020). Retrieved June 2, 2020, from <https://www.unwto.org/news/unwto-releases-a-covid-19-technical-assistance-package-for-tourism-recovery>
- Jaipur: Royal Rajasthan experience faces bankruptcy amid coronavirus lockdown | Business News. (20 May 2020). Retrieved June 4, 2020, from <https://www.timesnownews.com/business-economy/industry/article/jaipur-royal-rajasthan-experience-faces-bankruptcy-amid-coronavirus-lockdown/594576>

- Coronavirus as it happened: Global case numbers pass 25m - JHU - BBC News. (30 August 2020). Retrieved September 1, 2020, from <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-53964059>.
- Experts share insights on the effects of coronavirus on the tourism industry - Outlook Traveller. (8 April 2020). Retrieved May 3, 2020, from <https://www.outlookindia.com/outlooktraveller/explore/story/70362/experts-share-insights-on-the-effects-of-coronavirus-on-the-tourism-industry>
- Coronavirus: Rajasthan Hotels, Bars Struggle To Survive Due To Covid Brakes On Tourism. (25 June). Retrieved July 4, 2020, from <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/coronavirus-rajasthan-hotels-bars-struggle-to-survive-due-to-covid-brakes-on-tourism-2252025>
- Tourist arrivals in Rajasthan plunge over 40% in first five months, outlook uncertain | Jaipur News - Times of India. (15 July 2020). Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/tourist-arrivals-plunge-over-40-in-1st-5-mths-outlook-uncertain/articleshow/76968258.cms>
- WHO Declares Coronavirus Outbreak A Global Health Emergency : Goats and Soda : NPR. (30 Jan 2020). Retrieved May 3, 2020, from <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/01/30/798894428/who-declares-coronavirus-outbreak-a-global-health-emergency>
- Tourism resumes in Rajasthan with over 1400 visitors, entry fee to tourist spots waived for 15 days - india news - Hindustan Times. (4 June 2020). Retrieved June 14, 2020, from <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/tourism-resumes-in-rajasthan-with-over-700-visitors-entry-fee-waived-for-two-weeks/story-Qj9GJoVTkXV9cZhDceeaGP.html>
- Bada Bagh Jaisalmer | Places To Visit | Jaisalmer Tourism. Retrieved March 22, 2020, from <https://www.tourmyindia.com/states/rajasthan/bada-bagh-jaisalmer.html>
- Light, D. (2017). Progress in dark tourism and thanatourism research: An uneasy relationship with heritage tourism. In *Tourism Management* (Vol. 61, pp. 275–301). Elsevier Ltd. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tourman.2017.01.011>
- The Sunday Tribune - Spectrum. (2 June 2006). Retrieved March 22, 2020, from <https://www.tribuneindia.com/2006/20060702/spectrum/tv.htm>
- Welcome to Rajasthan - Official Website of Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan. Retrieved March 22, 2020, from <http://www.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in/travel-diaries/Hellysthan.html#Most%20Haunted%20Places%20In%20Rajasthan%20For%20The%20Thrill-Seekers>
- Number of social media users worldwide | Statista. (15 July 2020). Retrieved August24, 2020, from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/278414/number-of-worldwide-social-network-users/>
- Coronavirus: 87% increase in social media usage amid lockdown; Indians spend 4 hours on Facebook, WhatsApp. (30 March 2020). Retrieved April 4, 2020, from <https://www.businesstoday.in/technology/news/coronavirus-87-percent-increase-in-social-media-usage-amid-lockdown-indians-spend-4-hours-on-facebook-whatsapp/story/399571.html>.

