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DARK TOURISM PROPOSALS AND PRODUCTS IN GIRONA

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Abstract

Everything related to tragedy and death has caught people's attention throughout history, from Ancient Rome, when citizens enjoyed watching gladiator fights, up until the current moment, when people visit sites associated with pain and suffering such as the Auschwitz Genocide Camp or Chernobyl.

The fact of traveling with this kind of motivation has always existed, even if people were not aware that they were experiencing what is called Dark Tourism. In any case, the lack of people's knowledge may be due to the lack of articles and studies related to this kind of tourism.

Seaton was one of the first authors to publish on this subject, referring to it as Thanatourism; years later, Lennon and Foley baptized it as Dark Tourism, as it is known today. Stone took a big step with the discovery of the Seven Dark Suppliers and its later Dark Tourism Spectrum Framework that helps to classify the different tourist attractions according to their degree of darkness' intensity. Nevertheless, a lack of information on the subject is still visible and, above all, when it comes to detecting potential Dark Tourism destinations and their potential attractions.

This thesis offers new theories and authors to add information on the origins and evolution of Dark Tourism, as well as new current sources of knowledge. Furthermore, this thesis, based on the study model carried out by Zaccaria, Romano & Puertas (2020), apply the Dark Tourism Attractiveness Scan Model in the province of Girona and the recognition of its potential attractions. Finally, the last aim is to promote the province of Girona as a Dark Tourism Destination through a catalogue of its tourist attractions and the creation of new routes.

Keywords: Dark Tourism, Thanatourism, DT Spectrum, DT Destinations, DT Attractions, DT Attractiveness Scan Model.

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Table of Contents

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY.....	10
1.1 Context of the research	10
1.2 Identification of the research problem.....	10
1.3 Originality and contribution to the knowledge	11
1.4 Aim and objectives.....	12
1.5 Structure of the study	13
CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW	15
2.1 Definitions, theories and authors	15
2.2 The origins and current state of Dark Tourism	16
2.3 The 10 Attributes of a Successful Tourism Destination	17
2.4 The Obsolescence of Tourism Product	18
2.5 The Optimal Experience	19
2.6 Typologies of Dark Tourism	21
2.7 Dark Tourism Spectrum	23
2.8 Sources of knowledge and influence	25
2.9 Literature map	28
2.10 Conceptual framework	29
CHAPTER 3. METHODOLOGY	30
3.1 Overall research design.....	30
3.2 Data collection techniques and research instruments	31
3.3 Research context and participants	35
3.4 Ethical considerations	36
CHAPTER 4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION.....	37
4.1 Recognize a Tourism Destination.....	37
4.2 Catalogue of Dark Tourism Products in Girona.....	44
4.3 Dark Tourism Spectrum Framework.....	48
4.4 Proposition of a Dark Tourism Route in Girona.....	64
4.5 Survey and interviews' analysis	68
4.5.1. Survey analysis	68
4.5.2. Interviews analysis	74

CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSIONS	77
5.1 Conclusions	77
5.2 Recommendations	78
5.3 Limitations and further research	79
5.3.1 Limitations.....	79
5.3.2 Further research	80
CHAPTER 6. REFERENCES	82
CHAPTER 7. APPENDICES	87
7.1. Survey.....	87
7.2 Interviews.....	
7.2.1. Interview 1	
7.2.2. Interview 2	
7.2.3. Interview 3	
7.2.4. Interview 4	
7.2.5. Interview 5	
7.2.6. Interview 6	
7.2.7. Interview 7	
7.2.8. Interview 8	
7.2.9. Interview 9	
7.2.10. Interview 10	
7.2.11. Interview 11	
7.2.12. Interview 12	
7.3. Consent Forms	107

Table of Contents of Tables

Table 1. Identification of the thesis research aim and objectives	12
Table 2. Summary of 'The 10 As of Successful Tourism Destination'	17
Table 3. The 'Seven Dark Suppliers'	21
Table 4. Categories of Dark Travel Activities	22
Table 5. Relational Lines of Objectives with Content and Methodology.....	32

Table of Contents of Figures

Figure 1. Dark Tourism Spectrum	24
Figure 2. Literature map	28
Figure 3. Conceptual framework	29
Figure 4. Number of followers in social media	39
Figure 5. Level of recommendation according to the place of origin of the visitors.....	41
Figure 6. Destination item ratings (1-5).....	42
Figure 7. Entities supporting the Strategic Plan of Girona.....	43
Figure 8. Catalogue of DT products in the province of Girona	47
Figure 9. Dark Tourism Route 1	65
Figure 10. Dark Tourism Route 2	66
Figure 11. Dark Tourism Route 3	67

Table of Contents of Images

Image 1. Jewish Quarter in Girona.....	48
Image 2. Museum of the Jews' History in Girona.....	49
Image 3. Argilera Bunker in Llançà.....	50
Image 4. Cap de Ras Bunker in Llançà.....	50
Image 5. "Bateria de Costa L-6 La Clota" Bunker in l'Escala	51
Image 6. Montgó Tower in l'Escala	52
Image 7. MUME in La Jonquera	53
Image 8. l'Escala Sailor Cemetery	54
Image 9. Walter Benjamin Memorial "Passatges" by Karavan.....	55
Image 10. 'Can Vall-Ilosera' Bunker in Vidreres	56
Image 11. Aerial View of the Bombing of the Town Center from Cassà de la Selva in 1939	57
Image 12. Empordà's Fortress	58
Image 13. Lluís Companys Memorial	59
Image 14. La Carbonera	60
Image 15. "Jardí de la Infancia" Anti-Aircraftshelter	61
Image 16. The Checkpoint of the Prison Pelosa's Camp.....	62
Image 17. Time SKP Girona.....	63

Table of Contents of Graphics

Graphic 1. Age.....	68
Graphic 2. Gender	68
Graphic 3. Location	68
Graphic 4. Do you know what Dark Tourism is?	69
Graphic 5. If so, how did you know it?.....	69
Graphic 6. Have you ever practised it?	71
Graphic 7. Did you know you were practicing it?	71
Graphic 8. Would you travel with Dark Tourism as your first motivation?	72
Graphic 9. Do you think it is a well-regarded kind of tourism?	72
Graphic 10. Do you know any Dark Tourism place in Girona?	73
Graphic 11. Would you go to Girona to practice DT?	73
Graphic 12. Do you think this kind of tourism is well promoted?	74

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

1.1 Context of the research

Dark Tourism (DT) is a type of tourism that has become important in the last few years thanks to studies, theories and researches from authors such as Stone (2006), Lennon, J. and Foley, M. (2000) and Sharpley (2008), among others. At the same time, some promotion in movies, television series and virtual games has contributed to the public acknowledgement and to raise the interest in this specific tourist phenomenon.

Although it is beginning to be known by its own name recently, it is a type of tourism that has existed for hundreds of years and the fact that it can be related with horrifying events, death and suffering makes it a taboo subject for the society.

This research will consist of explaining Dark Tourism, its characteristics, possible varieties that it may have and with all the information collected, a deep analysis will be done to a specific territory, the province of Girona, following an existing model by Zaccaria, Romano & Puertas (2020) done in Tarragona's province. It will detect and analyze different products and spaces that this province may offer, and they may be unnoticed for most of the population.

This topic will contribute to creating DT literature and add information to previous studies as at the moment there is still a shortage in researches or theories about this kind of tourism and especially, when it comes to studies related to Girona.

This subject is special since with this thesis, there is a possibility to contribute to the growth of this type of tourism and have the opportunity to categorize it as important as all other tourism types.

1.2 Identification of the research problem

The main problem of this research is the lack of knowledge about the concept of Dark Tourism and the lack of awareness usually leads to misinterpretation and meaningless prejudices.

On the other hand, there is also the fear that by not being known, this type of tourism may disappear as a new niche, either in the form of research and studies or literally, not properly preserving its infrastructure.

That is the reason for this study to continue developing a tourism issue yet to discover and complete the analysis done last year by Zaccaria, Romano & Puertas (2020) about Dark Tourism in Tarragona. The objective is to apply this model to Girona, improve if possible, find its most significant Dark Tourism elements and create awareness.

1.3 Originality and contribution to the knowledge

The existence of research papers talking about Dark Tourism is found to be restricted (Stone, 2009). Consequently, the main contribution of this paper is to follow the model applied by Zaccaria, A., Romano, P. & Puertas, X., (2020) to Girona as there are no studies or articles related to Dark Tourism in there. The originality is a key factor as there will be at least one research talking about DT in the mentioned province and there might be the possibility to potentially create different tourist routes within this type of tourism. The idea is to raise people's awareness about this "new" niche and also help the tourism professionals in Girona realize all the DT products that surround them and they do not even promote.

The intention of this thesis is to spread word and emphasize a type of tourism that seems non-existent in society since when authors or professors talk about tourism typologies, it is not usually among them. All in all, the objective is to contribute to the knowledge with a new collection of information and an analysis that could show the population of Girona, above all, what they have and do not take advantage of.

1.4 Aim and objectives

The aim and main objectives of this research are exposed in the following table:

Table 1. Identification of the thesis research aim and objectives

Working Title	Dark Tourism proposals and products in Girona
Research Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the most important aspects of Dark Tourism and explore the knowledge required for its subsequent use in a Tourism Destination. 2. Application of the model to a real geographic area, Girona, identifying its most important examples. 3. Propose undeveloped tourist products and at least a route at the domestic level. 4. Gain knowledge about how the situation is going nowadays regarding DT in Girona

Source: Own creation

The main objective of this research is to study and collect information about the DT products that may exist in Girona because in spite of the recent development of investigation into this concept (Dale & Robinson, 2011; Lennon & Foley, 2000; Stone, 2013; Tarlow, 2005) and the improvement of the Dark Tourism market (Biran & Hyde, 2013; Stone 2005; Stone & Sharpley, 2008), not enough interest has been shown regarding the understanding of the relationship between Dark Tourism and Urban Tourism (Page & Hall 2002).

The first idea is to have a general knowledge of what Dark Tourism is and all its characteristics through research papers of useful authors. Once that objective is achieved, and in order to complete the DT information, a study conduction and analysis of the most recent and important elements of Girona will take place following the already applied model to Tarragona by Zaccaria, A., Romano, P. & Puertas, X., (2020). There will be a deep analysis that shows the most appealing places that the province of Girona has to offer, and they will be classified according to Stone (2006). The next step to achieve the objectives is to study if there is an opportunity to create any potential route with the information collected. And finally, the last objective is to analyze the current situation of Dark Tourism and the

knowledge that people have about it. A survey and some interviews will be done in order to check the possible movement of tourists because of this tourism, what the idea of the locals and also tourists about the concept explored is, if it is well regarded and many other different kinds of opinions.

1.5 Structure of the study

The study will be following the structure of five chapters. Each one will talk about a different part of the research. It is important to remember that the aim of this paper is to apply an already existing model so there will be explained the general ideas of some concepts and new topics that came up.

The first chapter will be a general description about the context of the research, its problem, originality and contribution to the knowledge existing and will describe the aim and objectives of the research.

Secondly, chapter two will be dedicated to completing the information of Dark Tourism since its origins until nowadays. It will provide the most popular and useful definitions, theories and authors. The '10 Attributes of a Successful Tourism Destination' according to Morrison (2012) will be explained. Some other related information will be proposed such as the Obsolescence of Tourism Product and the Optimal Experience. Then, the typologies of Dark Tourism and "Dark Tourism Spectrum" will be analyzed. It will also provide specific information as ethics and sources of knowledge and influence. The chapter will end with a literature map and a conceptual framework.

The third chapter will contain the methodology of the research, why some decisions have been taken and other proper explanations such as the overall research design, the used data collection techniques and research instruments, the research context and participants and finally, the ethical considerations.

Chapter four will contain the results of the research having an obvious relation with the used methodology. There will be the recognition of the province of Girona as a potential tourist destination, a catalogue of the most appealing Dark Tourism products in Girona, the realization of the 'Dark Tourism Spectrum Framework' regarding the previous products analyzed and with them, there will be the creation of three potential routes. The analysis of the survey and the interviews will be done at the end of the chapter.

The last chapter will include the conclusions of the research. There will be the chance to give recommendations, expose the limitations encountered during the process of realizing the thesis and give information about possible further research.

CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, an introduction to the concept of Dark Tourism and its characteristics are explained in detail. An attempt has been made to give a solid content to this part, but it must be said that the main purpose is to make Dark Tourism known from a general point of view, considering that this thesis is following the model applied by Zaccaria, Romano & Puertas (2020).

Firstly, information will be given on the most specific and popular definitions of this type of tourism, with their corresponding authors. Secondly, there will be a short chronology of the state of the DT from its beginnings up to present times. Then, Morrison's (2012) technique called "10 As of a Successful Tourism Destination" will be of great importance, as it allows to know if a destination has the necessary attributes to be a tourist destination. The Obsolescence of the Tourist Product will also be detailed since it is an especially important factor to consider (Puertas, 2007). The Optimal Experience will follow, with the pertinent explanation of the main characteristics that define the flow situation (Csikszentmihalyi, 1997). Then, a summary of 'Seven Dark Suppliers' and five categories or dark travel activities will be made according to Stone (2006). Continuing with Stone (2006), 'Dark Tourism Spectrum' will be explained, along with brief information on the ethics of this type of tourism (Sheshenina, 2019).

And finally, before the literature map and the conceptual framework, where a summary of what is seen and most important in the Literature Review is made, different forms of knowledge and influence that are emerging little by little, or even the oldest, will be seen.

2.1 Definitions, theories and authors

According to Stone (2006) and Marcel (2004), Dark Tourism is the dirty little secret of the tourism industry due to its lack of social consciousness. Moreover, Dark Tourism was defined by Foley and Lennon (1996) as "the presentation and consumption (by visitors) of real and commodified death and disaster sites". There are thousands of definitions and at the moment, they are all correct. It is true, however, that the DT idea has developed over the years and has become more nuanced, and as in contemporary tourism, people are potentiating their interest and excitement in making trips and activities with this goal. As a result, the very emotional concept of "Dark Tourism" has infiltrated academic discourse and media chat, thus generating considerable interest in research (Stone, 2006: 145). DT is a specialized form of tourism. As a term it applies to drawing visitors to death-related sites. (Korstanje, 2012). Frequently, these sites give off senses of violence, horror and pain (Ashworth, 2008;

Kidron, 2013). One of the most known examples of Dark Tourism consumption is New York's Ground Zero, established after the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and that receives thousands of visitors every day (Kendle, 2008).

2.2 The origins and current state of Dark Tourism

The notion of Dark Tourism as a concept had existed considerably before the term. According to Stone and Sharpley (2008), the term "Dark Tourism" was first introduced by Foley and Lennon in 1996. However, the idea started in ancient times in the ancient arenas, where multiple spectators enjoyed seeing the battles of gladiators as well as squares of mass executions in the Middle Ages (Bittner, 2011).

Some centuries ago, DT began even though people did not realize that they were practicing it. The Roman Colosseum can be considered one of the first Dark Tourist attractions; owing to its historic gladiatorial games and public executions with millions of people watching them, the famous battle sites and many other activities related to death and misery are all symbolic of ancient Dark Tourism (Seaton & Lennon, 2004). Many precursors to Dark Tourism can be seen in the medieval public executions up to the 19th century (Stone, 2006). Nevertheless, the last century has seen Dark Tourism grow and become more diverse. Dann (1994) and Prentice (1993), during the early 90s, exposed that many students began to find the connection between tourism and places of suffering and death. Years later, Smith (1998) indicates that war-related places or destinations are potentially 'the largest single category of tourist attractions in the world'. Dark Tourism began to be included in the general tourism some centuries ago; people paid for it and did events, tours and excursions without realizing that they were attending to this form of tourism. Continuing this path, Kazalarska (2002) explained that the curiosity of people over death and disaster has always been and will continue to be a powerful motivator for travel.

Over the years, and with the help of technology that has been significantly improving, work has paid attention to this specific sector and a lot of studies have been undertaken to get more knowledge and to be able to know more about it and encourage it. Furthermore, according to Kaya (2006); Lennon and Foley (2000), the advancement of mass media technology has helped to make the environments of Dark Tourism more appealing and noticeable to visitors.

It could be argued that we have always been fascinated by death, be it our own or other, by a combination of admiration and reverence or morbid curiosity and superstition (Sheshenina, 2019).

2.3 The 10 Attributes of a Successful Tourism Destination

According to Morrison (2012), there is a technique called “10 As of a Successful Tourism Destination” and it helps to recognize if a destination has possibility of success to be a potential tourist place. Morrison provides 10 qualities in order to test the specific area, and they are: awareness, attractiveness, availability, access, appreciation, activities, assurance, appearance, action and accountability.

Table 2. Summary of ‘The 10 As of Successful Tourism Destination’

Awareness	Indicates the level of knowledge that tourists have with the destination.
Attractiveness	The appealing of the destination.
Availability	It refers to the infrastructure (ease of booking).
Access	The facilities that the area provides to move from one side to the other one.
Appreciation	It consists of the level of hospitality that the tourists feel at the destination.
Activities	The things that can be done in the area.
Assurance	It is related with the safety and security.
Appearance	The impression and image that tourists perceive when they arrive at the destination and during their stay.
Action	Related to the Strategic Plan that the destination may have regarding the tourism.
Accountability	It is useful to understand if what is being done has positive results and impact.

Source: Self-created based on Morrison, ‘*The 10 As of Successful Tourism Destination*’ (2012)

Finally, it is important not to make assumptions about it and think that because of certain characteristics that might seem obvious or not so obvious, a destination can be tourist.

2.4 The Obsolescence of Tourism Product

According to Tribe (2004), the demand was approached assuming that consumers act maximizing their satisfaction given a range of economic choices. When customers choose between different goods and services, they will choose according to the satisfaction they derive from leisure time, regardless the price or cost of this leisure time.

John Tribe categorized leisure tourism as a 'normal service', as other common goods and services, so as income increases as much demand will have. Consumers must face a difficult decision: if they prefer to dedicate their limited free time to work or leisure. Satisfaction derived from labor is influenced by psychological and social factors, among others, so there are also consumers that could get the maximum satisfaction doing daily activities such as reading, watching television, sleeping... However, there are other individuals that obtain less satisfaction from free time (Stebbins, 2004). This data is influenced by cultural aspects and environment at work. The decision of consumers of their preference between work or leisure also depends on flexibility in the labor market; because when choosing between different goods and services, consumers could change the response depending on the change of relative prices; also salaries, working conditions, extra employment or holiday benefits can condition the customer's thoughts (Tribe, 2004).

Demand response to these incessant price changes is determined by elasticity, the author asserted. An elastic demand is more responsive to price increases, but an inelastic demand appears to change prices more. For firms, demand elasticity is useful in predicting demand sales for products or services on the market.

Similarity and following what has been studied in the work of Zaccaria, Romano & Puertas (2020) about the 'Tourism Area Life Cycle' (Butler, 1980), and in an earlier revisit of its improved TALC (2000), Butler (2004) affirms that the model continues to have relevance in the current tourism situation. However, it has been identified key element that are still relevant at the present time. These were dynamism, process, carrying capacity, management, and the spatial component and, in specific cases, exogenous forces and triggers of change.

Tourism is an innovative industry, which is based on marketing and promotions (Morrison, 2013). Individual types of recreation, such as music and entertainment, can more often undergo more regular shifts in popularity; in tourism, too, the patterns of activities change, as do the places where they occur.

New destinations have arisen in recent years and consequently the development scale has become less normal and predictable (Butler, 2004). Destinations, though, are still products, and they are subject to product cycle and marketability requirements, and there is clearly no end to demand for new goods.

2.5 The Optimal Experience

Csikszentmihalyi (2000) defines the optimal or flow experience as the "state of total involvement in an activity that requires complete concentration" or "the state in which people are so involved in the activity that nothing else seems to matter to them; the experience, by itself, is so pleasant that people will do it even if it has a great cost, for the pure reason of doing it" (Cuadra & Florenzano, 2003). This status was corroborated in a wide variety of contexts as work, school, hobbies or sports (Jackson & Marsh, 1996). The flow experience is a state of focused enjoyment, control and attention that is achieved when the opportunities for action perceived in the environment fully use the action capacities; that is, when the challenges and skills coincide, subjectively perceived.

The main characteristics that define the flow situation, according to Csikszentmihalyi (1997 and 1998, c) are:

Clear goals every step of the way: People often know what needs to be done in the flow state which makes it possible to achieve the target successfully.

Immediate feedback to own actions: it is understood how the function performs in a state of flow. Those individuals, who do creative work, even if they are insensitive to their surroundings, are people who can offer their own feedback. This happens to other personalities who have the potential to internalize the field decision requirements to the degree that they can supply themselves with information before a conclusion is obtained (Csikszentmihalyi, 1998 c, 145).

Activity and awareness are united: concentration is directed towards the job that needs to be completed. Near transition between tasks and skills requires a single mind, and this could be achieved thanks to the consistency of priorities and continuous feedback.

Distractions are excluded from consciousness: people are only paying more attention to what concerns them here and now. In the present, flow is the product of intense focus, which relieves the normal fears.

There is no fear of failure: in the optimal experience, people are too immersed to conceive a mistake. People know what needs to be done and understand that they have the right skills to meet the challenges.

Self-awareness decreases: it is about being incredibly involved in the game. People often monitor the appearance in front of other people in daily life; everybody wants to make a positive impression on them. That self-awareness is typically a burden. People are too lost in the rhythm of what they are doing to think about protecting the ego (Csikszentmihalyi, 1998 c, 141).

The sense of time will depend on what is being done: the perception of the time is hanging over the person who has the best experience and what is realizing.

Balance between challenges and skills: the person feels in the ideal experience that his abilities are enough for possibilities of practice.

In summary, Csikszentmihalyi (1998, b, 115) defines optimal experience as a feeling that one's abilities are adequate to meet the challenges posed in one's life, an activity oriented towards goals and governed by expectations that, in addition, provide clear indicators of whether people are doing well. The focus is so deep you cannot pay attention to the items that are meaningless. Self-consciousness is fading, and the perception of time is being skewed. The ideal experience is known to be a state of unparalleled motivation, since the activity creates such a satisfying state of mind that the individual performs the activity without caring for the external reward and making a great effort to achieve the objective. All people can experience the optimal experience regardless of their age, sex, culture and economic situation.

The Csikszentmihalyi's flow model might help to explain the commitment Dark Tourism participants may have. It also leads to understanding the emotions and feelings involved before, during, and after the Dark Tourism experience is understood.

2.6 Typologies of Dark Tourism

Table 3. The 'Seven Dark Suppliers'

DARK SUPPLIERS	DEFINITION
DARK FUN FACTORIES	Visitor sites, attractions and tours which predominately have an entertainment focus and commercial ethic, and which present real or fictional death and macabre events.
DARK EXHIBITIONS	Those exhibitions and sites are which essentially blend the product design to reflect education and potential learning opportunities.
DARK DUNGEONS	Mix of entertainment and education; they are sites and attractions which present bygone panel and justice codes to the present day consumer and revolve around (former) prisons and courthouses.
DARK RESTING PLACES	Focus on the cemetery or grave markers as potential products for Dark Tourism.
DARK SHRINES	The sites which essentially “trade” on the act of remembrance and respect for the recently deceased.
DARK CONFLICT SITES	The commodified remains of war and battlefields. These tourism products focus on both educational and commemorative goals, the main motivations of tourists (Leopold, 2007; Panakera, 2007).
DARK CAMPS OF GENOCIDE	Those sites and places where genocides, atrocities and catastrophes took place. The clearest example is the Auschwitz-Birkenau Genocide Camp, since it is the image of the pain cause by the Nazis (Gilbert, 1986).

Source: Own creation based on 'Seven Dark Suppliers' by Stone (2006)

Stone (2006) creates the ‘Seven Dark Suppliers’ of the Dark Tourism product to reaffirm his idea that DT possesses varying ‘degrees’ or ‘shades’ of intensity of darkness. In another work of Stone and Sharpley (2009), Dark Tourism was subdivided into the following five categories: Perilous places, houses of horror, fields of fatality, tours of torment, and themed Thanatos. This new classification was not different from “Seven Dark Suppliers” (Stone, 2006).

Furthermore, according to Stone (2006), we can differentiate five categories of dark travel activities:

Table 4. Categories of Dark Travel Activities

DARK TRAVEL ACTIVITIES	DEFINITION
TRAVEL TO WITNESS PUBLIC ENACTMENTS OF DEATH	Consisting in public executions occurring in few countries.
TRAVEL TO THE SITES OF INDIVIDUAL OR MASS DEATHS AFTER THEY HAVE OCCURRED	Consisting in battlefields, death camps and sites of genocide; and also places where celebrities died.
TRAVEL TO MEMORIALS OR INTERNMENT SITES	Refers to graveyards, cenotaphs, crypts and war memorials.
TRAVEL TO SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATIONS OF DEATH AT UNCONNECTED	Consisting in museums containing weapons of death or exhibitions that reconstruct specific events or activities.
TRAVEL FOR RE-ENACTMENTS OR SIMULATION OF DEATH	Events with a religious theme though, such as the re-enactment of famous battles by groups or societies, according to the previous study done by Seaton (2006).

Source: Own creation based on the 5 Categories of Dark Travel Activities by Stone (2006)

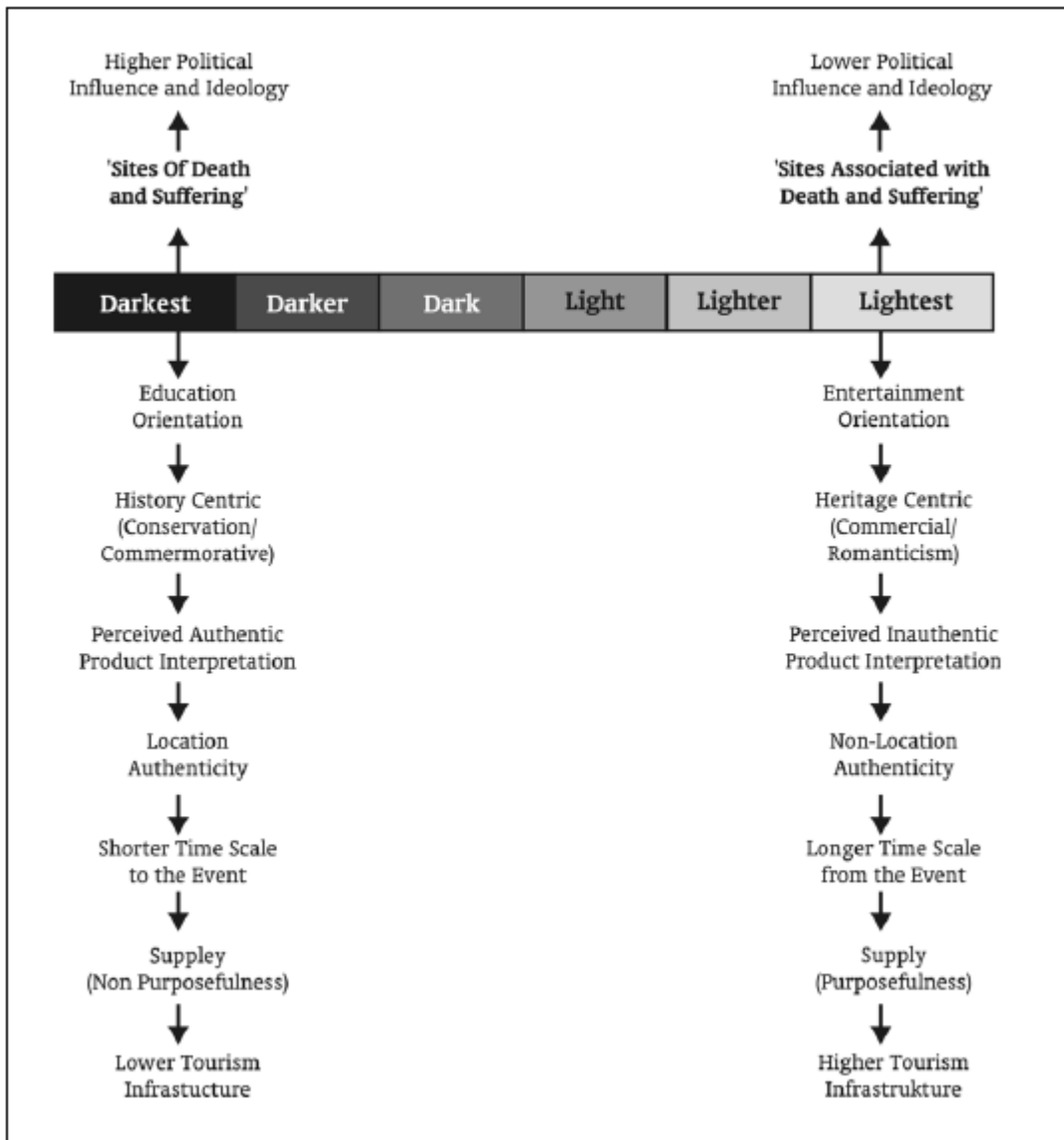
2.7 Dark Tourism Spectrum

As said before, within Dark Tourism there are a lot of aspects to consider. It is important to realize that DT is a very wide concept and there are different kinds of models into it (Stone, 2006; Biran, Hyde & Raine, 2013; Heuermann & Chhabra, 2014). It can depend on specific characteristics and traits or even in the use that people want to give to it. It is well known that the environment that surrounds the destination or experience also influences people's point of view, but also the interpretation or image that the promoters want to give to that place. Culture and political factors are also involved in these decisions.

Miles (2002) argued there is a distinction between "dark" and "darker" tourism: a greater notion of the macabre and the morose can exist between sites. After a year, this argument was extended when Strange and Kempa (2003) proposed multiple 'shades' of Dark Tourism. Based upon the temporal dimension and the affinity with a site, Miles proposes there is a crucial difference between sites associated with death and suffering, and sites that are of death and suffering. If visitation to the former is rightfully characterized as "Dark Tourism," then journey/excursion/pilgrimage to the latter constitutes a further degree of empathetic travel: "darker tourism" (2002: 1175).

According to Stone (2006), Dark Tourism products may lie along rather "fluid and dynamic spectrum of intensity", where particular sites may be conceivably "darker" than others, depending on various defining characteristics, perceptions and product traits. Stone (2006) realizes an analysis and framework with the differentiation between products to have a better understanding of where to locate and explore Dark Tourism demand.

Figure 1. Dark Tourism Spectrum



Source: Dark Tourism Spectrum by Stone (2006)

The combination of 'light' and 'dark' Dark Tourism products possess difficulties in categorizing and standardizing the urban tourism bid, but this is a potential area for the production of new products for DMOs (Destination Management Organization) across Girona.

It is also important to note that there are items that provide more credibility than the others because there might be some myths or rumors that look so dark but then they are just myths, not facts. Or maybe they are inauthentic, as they do for commercial purposes. There are people who oppose this form of tourism simply because it is not acceptable to make money out of the people's misery.

Some authors concentrate on the principles that should or cannot be attached to this kind of tourism. Hewison (1987), MacCannell (1992), Urry (1995) and Walsh (1992) suggest that the heritage sector in general is inappropriate and even immoral for the presentation of death and human suffering.

Consequently, Miles (2002) suggests that dark tourist sites must engender a degree of empathy between the sightseer and the past victim (or product). It is also important to understand how the product is viewed, created and eventually consumed because Dark Tourism is closely linked to the ethical senses due to its existence and meaning, (Martini et al, 2018), and visitors also are being criticized (Sheshenina, 2019). As visitors only receive the final product, they may often act in a rude and inappropriate way or they do not want to understand what is behind the spot. That is why a high degree of entertainment emphasis and marketing has undermined Dark Tourism's educational obligation to "dark edutainment" (Sharpley & Stone, 2009) or "dartaainment" (Dale & Robinson, 2011).

2.8 Sources of knowledge and influence

There are different ways of promoting Dark Tourism and getting to know this kind of tourism. People usually say that the best way to be aware of a concept is through research, articles and theories provided by different authors during the years and, in fact, they are so important to let people acknowledge the concept of DT, when it started, and all the chronology, its characteristics,... however, as technology is advancing and trends changing, people realize that there are other methods and sources of knowledge and influence.

One of the most highlighted source of knowledge would be the new TV series, which provides moral meanings to the different dark sites that are shown (Rojek & Urry, 1997). Dark Tourist is a Netflix documentary series about the phenomenon of Dark Tourism. It is presented by the journalist David Farrier, who travels to different places around the world showing and experiencing dark places, trying to understand why people practice this kind of tourism. He visits places like Indonesia, South America and New Orleans, among others. He says, in one episode, that "Dark Tourism is increasingly popular because people want to challenge their fears and prejudices by going to extraordinary places". There are many comments from viewers who disagree with the way the presenter treats the people who are practicing Dark Tourism. He makes inappropriate comments and laughs at things he cannot understand. In this example, the fact of Dark Tourism ethics could be highlighted again. In some cases, he is not being respectful with the environment or people that surrounds him, and this does not please the audience as it represents a lack of empathy with the events related to death.

On the other side, there is another TV series called Chernobyl, which is an epic five-part miniseries produced by HBO that dramatizes the events surrounding the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident. This is totally different from Dark Tourist because the story is explained in a serious way without inappropriate comments about the success and bearing in mind that what happened in Chernobyl was a catastrophe that killed thousands of people. So, all in all, there are different ways to explain a Dark Tourism occurrence, with an ethical perspective or not considering that it is not a joke.

With an idea of entertainment, Escape Rooms are a new activity that may help increase people's awareness. It can make people feel fear, nerves, anxiety and anguish, and their representations can range from a scary house to a large-scale murder.

There is an old source of knowledge but still present, the legends, which explain stories that happened in a place, even though there is no real evidence of its existence. For example, the city of Girona, like all the cities of the Roman Empire, suffered the persecution of Christianity. That is why the first Christians in Girona had to meet in secret in the catacombs. As just said, there is no physical record of that.

Media is a big source of influence known by everyone. While Yuill (2003) considered media as a mediator rather than a direct motivator, Heisel et al. (2013) had a different opinion; they studied the push and pull impacts of the media in Dark Tourism. They explained the push factor through the example of John F. Kennedy assassination incident that was intensively covered by the media. This created a push effect and motivated people to visit the site where the incident took place. Regarding the pull factor, they chose "The sixth floor" Museum in Dallas, Texas, one of the spots related to JF Kennedy memorial sites, that displayed a wide collection of related photos, newspapers articles, and documentaries. This attraction played a role in pulling tourists to the place, especially the new generation (Heisel et al., 2013). Those two-direction-impacts of the media created motivation among tourists to visit such places. Importantly, Seaton (reflecting Lennon and Foley's (2000) position) also suggests that the role of the media has been completely relevant to this growth in tourism to sites, attractions and exhibitions associated with death, principally through increasing the geographical specificity of murder and violent death and, more recently, through global communication technology that televises events around the world (also, Seaton and Lennon 2004).

Sharpley and Stone (2009) stated the sources of information that affect the tourist behavior. Besides media, preconceived ideas were mentioned as main sources. The information provided by these

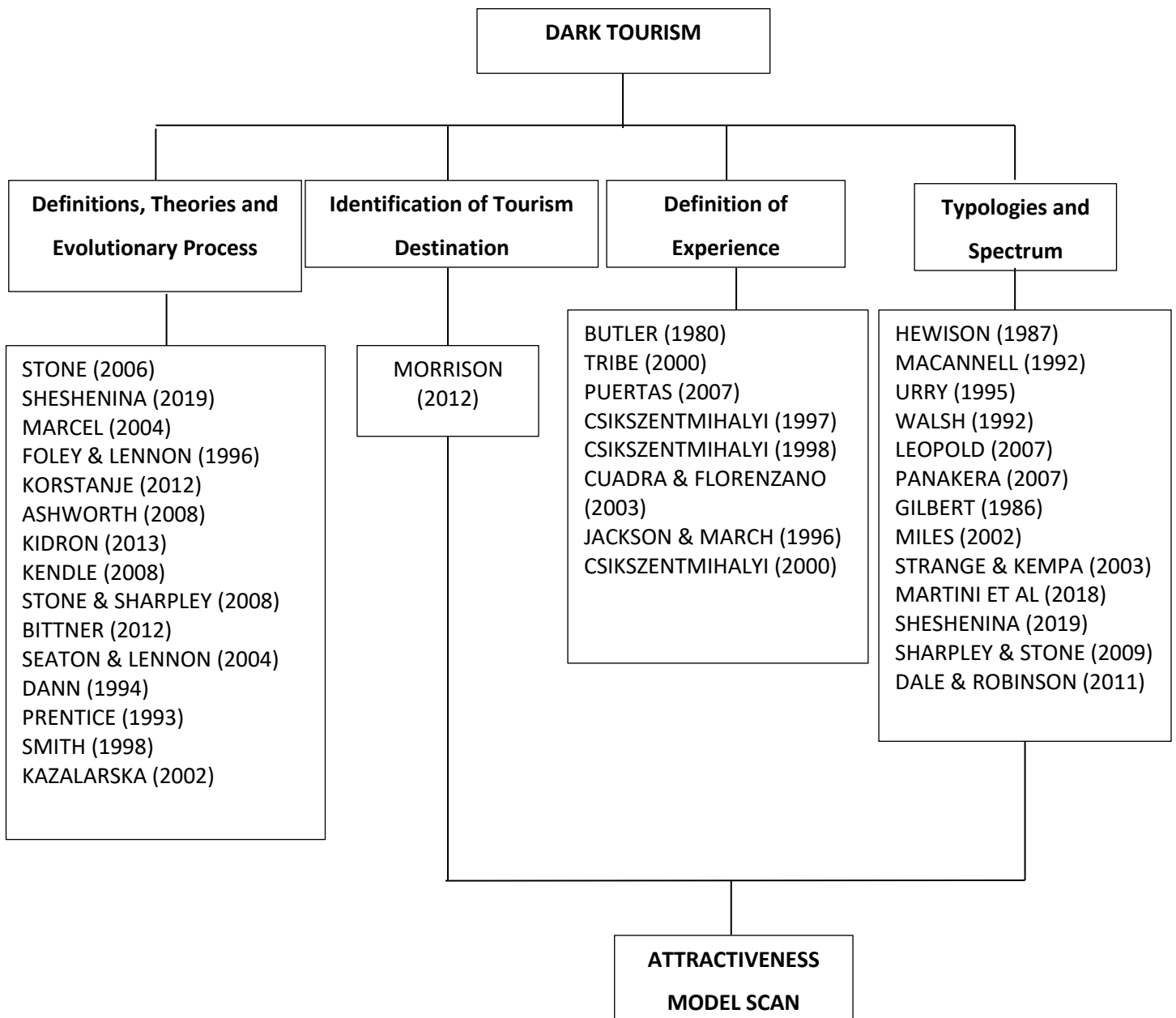
sources motivates the tourist to visit a site with some prior expectations. The visit itself leads them to build their perception that will be compared to the expectations in the evaluation phase. This evaluation has its consequences that will affect the tourists' future behavior and their decisions to repeat the visit or not.

Whilst death and disaster have always had a universal appeal, the circumstances of modern media, accessibility and technology mean that interest in dark sites is at an unprecedented level, and the tourism industry should be capable of making every effort to provide a product which meets the demand for such dark experiences.

2.9 Literature map

According to the study done last year by Zaccaria, A, Romano, P. & Puertas, X., (2020) about Dark Tourism in Tarragona, the literature map introduces a frame of the crucial authors and respective theories to complete the DT knowledge and the creation of an Attractiveness Scan Model to identify potential Dark Tourism products and routes.

Figure 2. Literature map

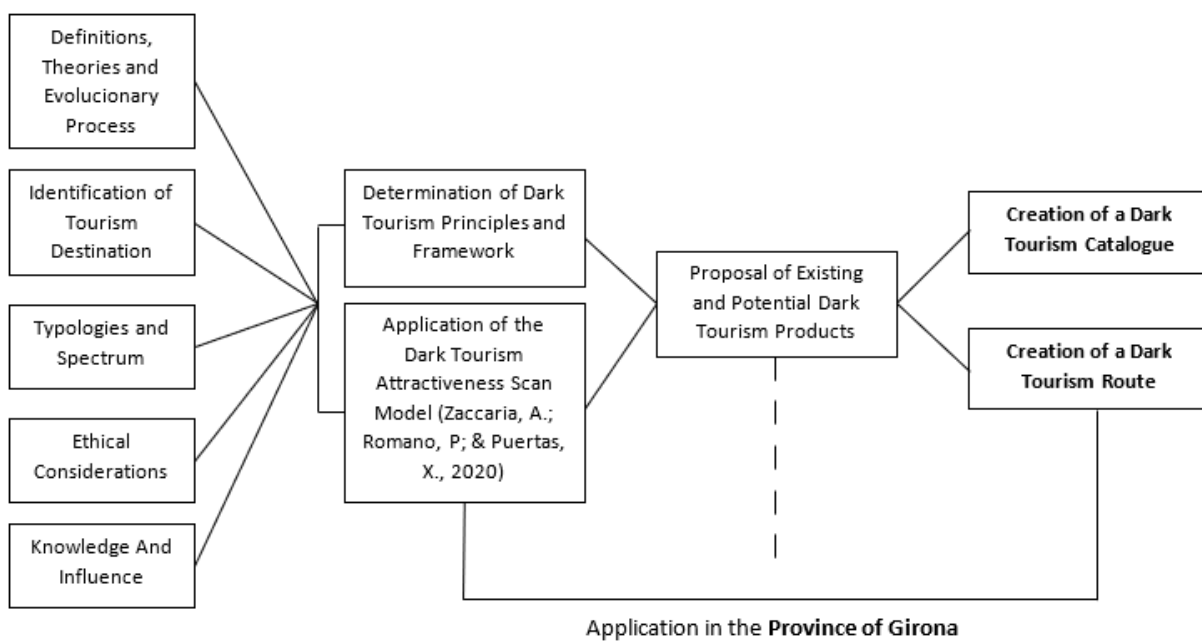


Source: Own creation

2.10 Conceptual framework

The purpose of the conceptual framework is to identify the main concepts used to develop this research from the literature review. It also works to give an idea about the applied model: Dark Tourism attractiveness scan model created by Zaccaria, Romano & Puertas (2020) and finally, it helps to visualize the last main points consisting of the creation of the Dark Tourism Catalogue and Route.

Figure 3. Conceptual framework



Source: Own creation

Once the theories of Dark Tourism and their corresponding authors have been obtained with the aim of continuing to improve the information already existed on this concept, the next step is to determine the methodology to be applied to the analysis of this work. To figure it out, it will be analyzed methodologies previously applied by different authors (Eco, 1991; Jurado, 2002; Olabuénaga, 2012).

CHAPTER 3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Overall research design

The choice of the methodology has been done after analyzing different investigation methods to select the best one that fits the main objectives of this thesis. Several studies have been taken into account. Firstly, an important theory that helped to decide was the one included in the book “Cómo hacer una tesis” (1991) of Umberto Eco, an Italian author. It was considered a good theory to use in this study due to the great importance that Umberto Eco gives to the work method to have success, regardless of what the thesis is about and also his unquestioned experience in different research methodologies.

Secondly, the method proposed in “Técnicas de Investigación Documental” (2002) by Yolanda Jurado, was also a good basis to apply this methodology due to her great knowledge about research in a more international aspect and for the great variety of methods studied and analysed in her researches. Finally, and following the analysis done last year by Zaccaria, A., Romano, P. & Puertas, X. (2020) about Dark Tourism in Tarragona, researches have proved the method provided by Olabuénaga (2012) is the best one to form the methodology of this thesis.

According to the HTSI University normative concerning the Degree Thesis Norms and Regulations (2019), this thesis has characteristics of empirical and conceptual research. It can be considered ‘*conceptual*’ because it adds new knowledge in Dark Tourism as a main topic and provides new data to confirm and improve information about what Zaccaria, Romano & Puertas (2020) had already studied in their work about Dark Tourism in Tarragona. Furthermore, this thesis is based also on empirical research because it discovers new aims in the research field of ‘Dark Tourism’ by analyzing another province of Catalonia and developing new Dark Tourism routes through the province of Girona. At last, it cannot be considered an ‘*applied*’ research because it is not targeted at a particular research community; it is a research community thesis in general, since it uses a common vocabulary and avoids unique words.

According to Olabuénaga (2012) the research methods can be divided into quantitative and qualitative methods, which are based on primary or direct data and secondary or indirect data, successively. Quantitative methods are the result of experimental strategies, which are obtained from non-participant observation from the ethical points of individual’s points of view. However, qualitative methods try to preserve their globality by researching direct applicability in the context of ecological

validity, regarding the individuals' point of view and interacting with them through participant observation.

In this thesis, qualitative and quantitative methods have been implemented as methodological aspects, so this thesis consists in a mix method. On one hand, the qualitative method is obtained from a research of primary and secondary data. The primary data consists of the results of the interviews carried out, so it is a method that requires more resources and time; and the secondary data is the result of an analysis of the general content. On the other hand, the quantitative method consists of secondary data content analysis and the analysis of the survey done.

The choice to include interviews in this thesis relies on the idea that combining it with data may give better results. Furthermore, interviews are flexible, adaptable and according to Owen, G.T. (2013), can contain many ideas and different themes, often including aspects that had not been anticipated previously. In this thesis, interviews will be open questions, due to, in this way, participants feel free to describe a specific circumstance or event. A survey also has been included in this thesis with the aim of obtaining more information and exploring attitudes, behaviors and perceptions about the knowledge that different individuals possess about Dark Tourism as a concept and about DT attractions in the province of Girona. Furthermore, a survey is perfect for gathering vast volumes of data from different sources easily. Finally, the qualitative secondary data from academic articles related to the phenomenon of Dark Tourism.

3.2 Data collection techniques and research instruments

With the main objective of organize and have a clear idea of the information proposed, data collection techniques and research instruments as the "relational lines of objectives with content and methodology" developed by Puertas (2013) has been used for establishing the exact methodology for each specific objective of the degree thesis.

Table 5. Relational Lines of Objectives with Content and Methodology

GENERAL AIM	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	CONTENT	METHODOLOGY
	<p>1. Describe the most important aspects of Dark Tourism and explore the knowledge required for its subsequent use in a Tourism Destination.</p>	<p>Explanation of different aspects and characteristics about DT, its history and development until the current moment. Past and actual theories and definitions. Influences that the new technologies on it and to the people who watch / follow it.</p>	<p>Data collection.</p>
<p>Follow the model applied by Zaccaria, A., Romano, P. & Puertas, X., (2020) to the city of Girona.</p>	<p>2. Application of the model to a real geographic area, Girona, identifying its most important examples.</p>	<p>Apply the model mentioned before to the province of Girona, exposing examples, theories and data of different researches.</p>	<p>Data collection analysis, interviews and data content application.</p>
	<p>3. Propose undeveloped tourist products and route at the domestic level.</p>	<p>Application of the recent methodology to Girona to identify the best products and routes.</p>	<p>Application of the model applied by Zaccaria, Romano, & Puertas (2020)</p>
	<p>4. Gain knowledge about how the situation regarding DT in Girona is.</p>	<p>Identify how the current situation of Dark Tourism is being developed.</p>	<p>Data collection from interviews and survey.</p>

Source: Own creation based on Puertas '*Relational Lines of Objectives with Content and Methodology*' (2013)

The main tool used in this research has been the model applied by Zaccaria, Romano & Puertas, (2020); however, though applied to the province of Girona (Catalonia). First of all, the idea has been to gain knowledge about the Dark Tourism subject and all of its characteristics and possible varieties through a lot of theories and research papers.

A selection of the most important typologies of Dark Tourism in Girona has been made after analyzing the “Seven Dark Suppliers” by Stone (2006). Consequently, that choice has been made regarding the potential of the selected categories in terms of being more accessible, frequented, popular and with more tourism appeal. This application will allow to determine the DT attractions in the province of Girona for each type and apply the ‘Dark Tourist Spectrum’ from Stone (2006), in order to determine the degree of authenticity of the tourist attraction and its motivation. The advantage of this model is that it will provide detailed information on each DT attraction to differentiate the most significant ones and create the catalogue and the routes. The clearest disadvantage may be the lack of information about the place, which leads to a difficulty in finding the different dark tourist attractions for each typology. The different DT typologies are presented below:

Dark Conflict Sites

This typology is synonymous with sites where conflict and battlefields have happened, and a commemorative focus may also be on them. Dark Conflict Areas are becoming more commercialized today, and their systems are growing. Some of them have become so strong that even though they already participate in itineraries, tours or events promoted by tour operators or professionals in tourism. And finally, it is important to point out that the more recent the subject conflict, the darker the site is. They occupy the lighter end of the “Dark Tourism spectrum”.

Dark Exhibitions

It refers to those places and exhibitions which want to reflect education and potential learning opportunities about different important events that had happened in the past. Consequently, it usually has an instructional and reflection message. This kind of Dark Tourism is not often located at the place where the death or tragedy had occurred, it has a consistent infrastructure and it has commercial influence. It is intended to capture history details and give access to people with improving acknowledged intentions. They are usually perceived to be more authentic occupying a darker degree of the “Dark Tourism Spectrum”.

Dark Resting Places

It focuses on the grave markers or cemeteries. Cemeteries are primarily used for promoting the region among other items to tourists with romantic or macabre histories. The infrastructure of these places is also growing and being accessible via the Internet or other forms of promoters to all kinds of people. It is associated with both dark and light elements within the centre of the “Dark Tourism Spectrum” with both dark and light elements.

Dark Shrines

It applies to all places that have deep regard for the late deceased in nature. They are typically installed in the vicinity of the location where the disaster took place, and no longer in a time after that happened. As a result of those things, they attract greater attention and they occupy the darker periphery of the “Dark Tourism Spectrum”.

Dark Fun Factories

Dark Fun Factories represents the sites where a theme related to the dead or a macabre site is reproduced in a real or fictitious way. What sets this typology apart from others is that its purpose is to entertain the public, and when people decide to go to these places, it is because they want to have a good time. They are perceived as less authentic and consequently, they occupy the lightest degree of the Dark Tourism Spectrum since their essence is predominantly “fun-centric”.

Dark Camps of Genocide

It refers to 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 even though they can only provide a limited site interpretation. Despite this, as they offer information and representation of a macabre event, they occupy the darkest edge of the ‘Dark Tourism spectrum’.

3.3 Research context and participants

The main idea from the first moment of this thesis was to apply the analysis model made by Zaccaria, A., Romano, P. & Puertas, X. (2020) about the Dark Tourism Attractiveness Scan Model in the province of Tarragona to the province of Girona. Furthermore, the clear objective was also to improve the information given about Dark Tourism and analyze DT tourist attractions in the province of Girona, to create a potential catalogue and potential routes through different locations.

On one hand, quantitative data is gathered from the answers of an own creation survey, that is focused to find out the knowledge of the population about Dark Tourism as a concept and, also more specifically, in the province of Girona. Regarding the sampling, the first idea was to do two separate surveys, one to the Girona's residents and the other one to people from outside of the province just mentioned. For external reasons, that method has not been possible to carry out so in the end, there is only one survey existing, which has been sent to all possible people, of various ages and different locations. The survey includes questions regarding demographic data in order to have different variables to analyze, and then, questions related with Dark Tourism. The objective of this survey is to check what people know or think about DT and specifically, of Girona's province and find if there are differences in the answers between variables as age, gender and location.

On the other hand, qualitative primary data is determined from interviews, which complete the methodology process. They include the same questions for all the participants in order to compare and analyze the answers. The proposed questions are focused on obtaining data about the idea that tourism professionals from different locations within the province of Girona may have. The objective is getting information of their opinion about aspects such as promoting this kind of tourism and its evolution to the future, among others.

The first interviewee is AA, who works for Sant Domènec Cultural Tourism Center of the village of Peralada and did his Final Degree Project on Dark Tourism, so he showed great interest in the entire subject. Moreover, he has colleagues working in this type of tourism. The second interviewee is BB, from the Tourist Office of Banyoles; the third, CC, from the Tourist Office of Port de la Selva. Following her, there is DD, from the Economic Promotion and Tourism of the Ribes de Freser Council; the fifth is EE, from the City Council of Set Cases; FF, technique of tourism and promotion of the city of Santa Coloma de Farners; the seventh is GG from the Tourist Office of Empuriabrava and, finally, HH, from Costa Brava Tourism Board. A great collaboration was seen from their side to work on this study on Dark Tourism in their province.

3.4 Ethical considerations

The purpose of this section is to point out the importance of ethics, which is something that does not work out of the research; it is an integral aspect of it. The research must address specific questions in order to be able to obtain the necessary answers and conclusions. In addition to the importance of selecting an appropriate research methodology and methods, there is a big importance of the ethical considerations around conducting the research.

According to Bryman and Bell (2007) there are ten points which represents the most important principles related to ethical considerations in dissertations: research participants should not be subjected to harm in any ways whatsoever, respect for the dignity of research participants should be prioritized, full consent should be obtained from the participants prior to the study, the protection of the privacy of research participants has to be ensured, adequate level of confidentiality of the research data should be ensured, anonymity of individuals and organizations participating in the research has to be ensured, any deception or exaggeration about the aims and objectives of the research must be avoided, affiliations in any forms, sources of funding, as well as any possible conflicts of interests have to be declared, any type of communication in relation to the research should be done with honesty and transparency, and finally, any type of misleading information, as well as representation of primary data findings in a biased way must be avoided.

As said before, a part of the methodology consists in a survey and e-mail interviews. Regarding the survey, there is no need of asking about a consent form because it is anonymous participation and they do not feel any coercion to participate as there is any option to add personal or confidential data.

In terms of the interviews, they have been done through email and therefore, there is no possibility of recording or exceed the participants' privacy. A consent form has been sent to all the tourism professionals to have their permission to participate in the study but due to the conditions that the world is facing, not all of them have been able to fill it and send it back.

Please, find the ethics forms attached in Appendix 7.3.

CHAPTER 4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The main objective of this chapter is to collect and analyze all the techniques, methods and information previously presented and also, contribute to knowledge with new data. The importance, meaning and relevance of the results are carefully exposed.

The first section consists of analyzing the tourist attraction of Girona's province according to the attributes provided by Morrison (2012). Below is a catalogue of the most important Dark Tourism products and sites in the province, along with three potential self-created routes with their accompanying notes. This analysis has been possible following Seven Dark Suppliers (Stone, 2006) and Dark Tourism Spectrum Framework (Stone, 2006). Finally, a detailed analysis of the results of a self-created survey and some interviews with tourism professionals located in Girona are presented.

4.1 Recognize a Tourism Destination

Girona is one of the four provinces of Catalonia (Spain) together with Tarragona, Barcelona and Lleida. Regarding tourism, Girona's province can be divided into 3 areas: the Costa Brava (the coast), the interior and the Girona Pyrenees. It has a population of 761 947 inhabitants (INE, 2018) and its capital is Girona, where 13.16% of the total population lives.

According to Morrison (2012), there are 10 attributes that can determine if a destination has potential to be a tourist destination. The attributes will be analyzed according to "Pla Estratègic de Turisme de Girona".

Awareness

The demarcation of Girona is a territory with a long tradition as a tourist destination, with the Costa Brava and the Pyrenees as the most outstanding areas, destinations to which in recent years the city of Girona has been strongly added with a highly regarded city brand and a growing projection. The international projection and the brand of the whole province is so recognized that now it is no longer necessary to appeal to a possible argument, the number of tourists who arrive every year (even in the most coastal parts), justifies that it is a destination totally recognized

Attractiveness

As there are several tourist attractions, they will be classified according to the main types of tourism present in the province, such as cultural tourism, active and nature tourism, sports tourism, gastronomic tourism, shopping, events and business.

The main motivation of the tourists who visit the city of Girona is to discover its historical heritage. The Old Town, Cathedral and Treasure of the Cathedral, Basilica of Sant Feliu, the Walls, Museum of Jewish History and Jewish Quarter, Cinema Museum, Modernist and Noucentista architecture of Rafael Masó (Casa Masó) and the Arab baths are the most important cultural tourist attractions of the city of Girona.

Regarding the natural heritage of the city of Girona, it is necessary to refer to the location and the immediate surroundings of the city. The most notable resources are San Daniel Valley, Ribes del Ter, La Devesa Park, Germans' Garden and French Gardens.

Since 2015, Girona has been certified as a Sports Tourism Destination (DTE) by the Catalan Tourism Agency in the multi-sports mode, covering the following sports specialties: running, cycling (road and mountain biking), swimming, athletics and tennis.

Gastronomy is one of the sectors that is gaining most strength in the city of Girona. First, and at the provincial level, thanks to the innovation and recognition of Chef Ferran Adrià, and then with the appointment of Celler de Can Roca as the best restaurant in the world in 2013 and 2015, with three Michelin stars, the city has positioned itself as a gastronomic reference in the international arena. Other important elements related to the gastronomic offer of the destination are the wineries and agricultural holdings, recognized by the DO Empordà that offer visits and tastings.

The city of Girona is also committed to business tourism. The city holds facilities such as the Congress Palace, Girona fair and hotels with the capacity to host events. The Girona City Convention Bureau (GCCB), the specialized section for business and meeting tourism in the city of Girona, managed by the City Council, has been created to manage the congress activities in the city.

And finally, the city of Girona has a wide commercial offer. Traders are grouped into associations in different neighborhoods or areas of the city. The city's main commercial hubs are in the city center.

In addition, there are some commercial areas outside the city center, such as the GiroCentre where we find the Hipercor, the Mas Gri shopping park where we find large stores such as Decathlon, MediaMarkt and Bauhaus, and the Espai Gironès shopping center located in the municipality of Salt.

Availability

Online communication and promotion have seen a lot of growth in recent years is social media. The tourism unit within the Area of Economic Promotion, Local Development and Tourism of the City Council of Girona, has opened and active profiles on the social networks of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. In the following table, you can see the number of followers that the profiles of Girona Tourism in the different social networks have.

Figure 4. Number of followers in social media

	Nom d'usuari	Número de seguidors
Facebook	Girona Turisme (fanpage)	12.610
Twitter	@turisme_gi	15.598
Instagram	@turisme_gi	15.015
YouTube	GironaTurismeTV	446

Source: Estratègia Turística de Girona i el seu territori (2018)

The aim of these profiles is to promote the tourism of the destination, share photos, inform on events and activities, share the news of the day and report the actions that are carried out. Today, social networks are one of the main channels used by the area to carry out tourism promotion campaigns. The strategy used to increase the reach of different profiles on social media is through organic positioning (SEO), so it is not economically invested in promotion through these channels.

Regarding the supply offer, during the first quarter of 2017, the total number of overnight stays was the following one: hotel establishments (76.91%), tourist housing (13.48%), other tourist accommodation (6.63%), youth hostels (2.22%) and tourist apartments (0.76%). A total of 99.313 overnight stays.

Access

As stated in the Urban Master Plan of the Urban System of Girona (2010), the city has a strategic situation, in the gorge of the river Ter, between the Gavarres and Guilleries massifs, which makes it a mandatory crossing point for the Catalan pre-coastal corridor.

So much of the mobility between the peninsula and the rest of the continent is channeled through Girona, especially through the two major trans-European road infrastructures such as the AP-7 motorway and the A-2 motorway, but also it has other roads through the region such as the C-25 axis that connects the area with central Catalonia and Lleida, the C-65 and the C-35 that connects to the southern sector and the south Costa Brava, and the C-66 access to Banyoles and Costa Brava center.

Other infrastructures that favor mobility are the rail network (it has been one of the great opportunities for tourism development, especially at national and European level), the road network and the urban public transport that connects the different neighborhoods and sectors of the city of Girona (this infrastructure is used basically by the local population).

Appearance

The respondents were also asked how much they would recommend the destination on a scale of 1 to 10, the average grade obtained from this question was 8.77, so that the destination rating is incredibly positive.

A statistically significant relationship can be observed between the recommendation of the destination to relatives and / or friends and their nationality. That is, the level of recommendation of the city varies depending on the nationality of the visitor. In this sense, who would most recommend Girona to their relatives and / or friends are from South America (with an average grade of 9.11), followed by visitors from Catalonia (an average of 9), the rest of Europe (8.81 on average) and North America (8.75). However, the recommendation level is high, as the average nationality rating is between 8.26 and 9.11 points.

Figure 5. Level of recommendation according to the place of origin of the visitors

Procedència	Mitjana
Amèrica del Sud	9,11
Catalunya	9,00
Resta d'Europa	8,81
Total	8,77
Amèrica del Nord	8,75
Àsia	8,69
Regne Unit	8,67
Itàlia	8,65
Alemanya	8,64
Espanya	8,48
Rússia	8,46
França	8,26

Source: Estratègia Turística de Girona i el seu territori (2018)

The level of recommendation of the destination to family and / or friends is also influenced by whether the visitors are in Girona for the first time or are repeaters. Repeaters have a higher recommendation level (8.94) compared to first-time visitors (8.63). On the other hand, the recommendation level of the destination is not influenced by the type of tourist accommodation.

Regarding the intention of repeating the visit to the city, 96.3% say they would like to visit Girona again, and 52% say they will in the next 12 months.

Activities

There are a lot of tourist activities promoted by Girona, they are also going to be separated by tourism typology.

With regard to the cultural tourism products existing in Girona, the following may be highlighted: Girona Walks Tours (guided tours of the city), Girona City Culture Club Card (a card that offers discounts and benefits on tickets to shows), Girona Museums (card with discounts on the entrance to the 5 museums in the city) and Girona City Tour (tourist train that visits the Old Town of Girona).

Within the tourism products of the city related to nature, there are different itineraries such as the orientation circuits. Greenway and Pirinexus route, Ter Route, nature guides and environmental education.

In the sport tourism, there are a number of receptive agencies that offer cycling products in Girona.

In May, in the city of Girona, the Wine Fair is held. In line with this, initiatives have been created to boost livestock farms, making visits to the facilities and purchasing products directly from the producer. One of these initiatives was promoted by the Government of Catalonia in 2016 and was called 'Benvinguts al Pagès', over a weekend more than 30 farms located in a relatively close environment to the city opened their doors to visitors. Also noteworthy are the gastronomic events that take place in the city, from small-scale events such as fairs and markets, thematic days such as the Truffle Days or the Rice Days, to larger events such as the Gastronomic Forum.

Assurance

Of the items proposed to rate on the destination of Girona, the highest rated was the cleanliness of the city with an average score of 4.72 out of 5. Followed by the security level, with a 4.69 and the overall rating with an average of 4.45 also out of 5. On the contrary, the item with the lowest rating was the accessibility with 2.35 out of 5.

Figure 6. Destination item ratings (1-5)

	N	Mínim	Màxim	Mitjana	Desviació
Neteja	400	2	5	4,72	,526
Seguretat	400	3	5	4,69	,504
Freqüentació	400	1	5	4,48	,762
Valoració global	400	2	5	4,45	,560
Oferta d'allotjament	135	2	5	4,29	,742
Oferta comercial	273	1	5	4,21	,717
Professionalització del sector	331	1	5	4,09	,824
Relació qualitat-preu	339	2	5	4,04	,567
Accessibilitat	374	1	5	2,35	,992

Source: Estratègia Turística de Girona i el seu territori (2018)

Appreciation

Tourism is an economic, territorial and socio-cultural activity that has very different effects on the whole population. It can cause discomfort, certain conflicts of coexistence and loss of references and symbols of identity, among other effects of the daily life of a society.

Tourism is beginning to be perceived as an unwanted, uncontrolled phenomenon, which causes more harm than benefits to the whole neighborhood. Critical discourse, which is timely at the beginning, is gaining visibility and has intensified in recent times. This critique of the unsustainable tourism model appears at the core of the neighborhood entities and tends to expand beyond the old part of Girona. Critical discourses have been gaining strength and have been reproduced through the media and social media; neighborhood criticism has also gained visibility in the public space, as the presence of banners with messages defending the neighborhood and against tourist flats are displayed on balconies and windows in some parts of the Old Town that shows the society tension.

In Girona there have been no hostile reactions to tourism and neither the sectors nor the institutions that promote it. But the relative increase and intensification of disapproval and discomfort in relation to the tourism phenomenon can be seen. It is important to emphasize that criticism of tourism, in the case of Girona, is in the discursive plane and develops within the framework of organized, civic thought and action, and which therefore seems far from hostility or any kind of aggressive or vandalism confrontation.

Action

The Strategic Plan from Girona is formed by the collaboration of two consultants (JM Ribera and ALS) and a university research center (INSETUR-Campus Turisme UdG), which has carried out a comprehensive collection of information through multiple mechanisms. This action is subsidized by the Catalan Employment Service within the framework of the Local Development Support Programs and co-financed by the following entities.

Figure 7. Entities supporting the Strategic Plan of Girona



Source: Own creation

Accountability

The aim of the Strategic Plan of Girona is to define and activate the tourism strategy of the city and its environment for the next 6 years starting since 2017, presenting the tourism model to be achieved in order to promote the various economic activities related to tourism and to structure a sustainable, quality and income-generating tourist offer that allows seasonality to be deseasonalised and the offer to be diversified by products and segments. The achievement of all the actions taken will be seen in the following years.

4.2 Catalogue of Dark Tourism Products in Girona

In the previously studied methodology, different Dark Tourism typologies are defined. However, when applying the model to Girona, it has been observed that it does not have all the attractions belonging to each of the categories exposed by Stone (2006). Therefore, the catalogue has focused on analyzing DT attractions of categories present in Girona's province: *'Dark Camps of Genocide'*, *'Dark Shrines'*, *'Dark Exhibitions'*, *'Dark Resting Places'*, *'Dark Conflict Sites'* and *'Dark Fun Factories'*.

Dark Camps of Genocide

There are many evidences of the existence of past genocide camps in the province of Girona during the Franco regime. Figueres is one of the centers of the Francoist repression. During the postwar period, it hosted a concentration camp for those defeated by the Civil War, which was installed first in an old coal warehouse and then in a military castle. This old coal warehouse was called "La Carbonera", where the exiles returning from the French concentration camps gathered before sorting and transferring them either home, prisons or to the Francoist concentration camps in Cervera, Reus or Miranda de Ebro. From May 1940, this function was transferred to the Castle of Sant Ferran with its fortress in Figueres; the largest monument in Catalonia and the largest modern stronghold in Europe, where there was also a military garrison.

In Roses there is also the "Camp dels Presoners de la Pelosa", an old prisoner's camp near 'La Pelosa' beach. It came into operation during the Spanish Civil War, when a camp of insurrectionist fascist prisoners was established. It was reused to house Republicans and Democrats during the Postwar period.

Dark Shrines

A potential Dark Shrine attraction around Girona is 'Coll de Manrella', a set of mountains of the Pyrenees that join the regions of Alt Empordà and Vallespir. It is a place known and visited for the Lluís

Companys Memorial, built in 1979 right on the border line between Spain and France, in commemoration of the place where President Companys went to exile in February 1939 with a part of the government of the republican 'Generalitat'. This location was one of the key places in the Republican retirement of 1939. This act is also a tribute to all the Catalans who were forced into exile by the Francoist repression.

Another clear example of Dark Shrine is represented by 'Passatges', a monument erected in honor of Walter Benjamin, a Berlin writer who committed suicide in Portbou in 1940 after failing to flee from the Nazis. Walter fled from Paris just a few weeks before Hitler entered the city. While trying to cross the Spanish border, he was detained in Portbou, and asked to spend the last night in a hostel before being deported back to France the following morning. That night he ingested a fatal dose of morphine to kill himself; so, the memorial represents a site that remembers the figure of the writer and invites reflection and memory.

Dark Exhibitions

A clear example of Dark Exhibition is represented by the 'Exile Memorial Museum' (MUME) in La Jonquera. It is an interpretation centre that remembers the exiles caused by the Civil War in Catalonia and in Spain. Many of the men and women exiled in 1939 continued fighting for freedom from the ranks of the French Resistance and also from other war fronts in Europe occupied by fascism. However, a few thousand were sent to the Nazi concentration camps on a journey that, for most, was only one way. Others returned to Spain, where they suffered persecution, prison and death. Many of them had to seek asylum thousands of kilometres away, in European, American or African lands.

Another evidence of a Dark Exhibition site is the '*Museum of the History of the Jews*', in the city of Girona, that explains the history of the medieval Jewish communities in Catalonia, with special attention to the one of Girona. It holds the unique collection of Medieval Hebrew tombstones from the Montjuïc Jewish cemetery.

Dark Resting Places

The best example of this kind of DT typology in Girona is 'L'Escala Sailor Cemetery', which was built in 1837, and it was declared a cultural asset of national interest in 1974, unique in its category on the Costa Brava. Since 1970 it is no longer in operation, although it is possible to visit it. This cemetery is so known and visited because it houses the remains of two Catalan personalities: Caterina Albert, who under the pseudonym 'Víctor Català' wrote great works of Catalan literature, and Josep Esquirol, photographer who made the first photographs of the Empúries archaeological site.

Dark Conflict Sites

One of the most beautiful attractions in Girona is the Jewish quarter of the city, one of the most important in the world and its interest reflects the relevance that Jewish culture had in the history of the city. The original street of the Jewish quarter is 'el Carrer de la Força', a road located around the cathedral where many families who professed this religion settled back in the 12th century. It was estimated that closer to 800 Jews lived together around 'El Call' (the term by which the Catalan Jewish quarters are designated). Between the years 1487 and 1505, the Inquisition carried out 84 trials in Girona against converts accused of continuing to practice Judaism.

Another entirely different historical case, which was central in Girona's history was The Spanish Civil War, which is still very present in the province due to the big influence it had during that period. The area along the Costa Brava to the France border is full of bunkers, such as those in Llançà, La Jonquera, L'Escala, Portbou and Vidreres. They were built during Franco's regime and were part of the "Línia P", a series of bunkers also built along the Pyrenes to protect themselves from possible attacks. However, most of these bunkers were never used and remained a useless work. In L'Escala you can also see Montgó Tower, on the top of Montgó Hill, which was built in 1598 and was a perfect vantage point offering beautiful views of l'Escala, Sant Martí d'Empúries and the Bay of the Roses to protect L'Escala fishermen of pirates.

One of the most affected areas by Francoism was the town of Cassà, victim of Italian fascist airforce bombings in January 1939. Five Savoia Marchetti SM-79 bombers led by Captain Egidio Coast dropped 50 bombs from an altitude of 4,000m leaving 8 dead people and the destruction of more than 50 houses.

"El Jardí de la Infància" can be found in Girona, an air raid shelter built during the Civil War in 1938, in response to the aerial bombardments that, for the first time in history, were carried out systematically on civilians. It was prepared to withstand the direct impact of a bomb weighing up around one hundred kilos. Its surface is 548,67 square meters built, of which 357,86 were useful to protect around seven hundred people. It was the only refuge in the city that had electric light.

Dark Fun Factories

Following the recent success of the Escape Rooms, it has been opened in Girona one called 'Time SKP' with two dreadful stories. On one hand, there is "*The Skin Collector*", consisting of a special agent who discovers a series of murders in the city of Girona and, specifically, in the old town. The found bodies have very similar patterns such as several perfectly sectioned face parts and organs removed with

impeccable surgical perfection. On the other hand, “The Mansion”, which consists of being lost in the Handter Mansion during the investigation of two murders in the city of Girona.

For a better understanding of the products mentioned above, see the figure below:

Figure 8. Catalogue of DT products in the province of Girona

CATALOGUE PROPOSAL OF DARK TOURISM PRODUCTS IN THE PROVINCE OF GIRONA

Escape room (Time SKP)
Sant Ferran’s Castle & Empordà Fortress
“Can Vall-Ilosera” Bunker
Montgó Tower
“Bateria de Costa L-6 la Clota” Bunker
“Argilera” & “Cap de Ras” Bunkers
Jewish Quarter
L’Escala Sailor Cemetery
Jews’ History Museum
Exile Memorial Museum
Walter Benjamin Memorial “Passatges”
“Jardí de la infància” anti-aircraftshelter
Lluís Companys Memorial
La Carbonera
La Pelosa’s Camp of Prisoners
Italian fascist aviation bombing in Cassà

Source: Own creation based on the atalogue done by Zaccaria, Romano & Puertas (2020).

4.3 Dark Tourism Spectrum Framework

Once Dark Tourism products in the province of Girona have been carefully selected and explained, they will be analyzed according to the "Dark Spectrum Framework" method by Stone (2006). Specific characteristics have been chosen in order to have a technical sheet for each product.


Name	<u>Jewish Quarter</u>						
Place	Girona City						
Year	Between the 13th and 14th century						
DT Typology	Dark Conflict Sides						
DT Spectrum Framework	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; background-color: #cccccc;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: black; color: white;">Darkest</td> <td style="background-color: #999999;">Darker</td> <td style="background-color: #666666;">Dark</td> <td style="background-color: #333333; color: white;">Light</td> <td style="background-color: #999999;">Lighter</td> <td style="background-color: #cccccc;">Lightest</td> </tr> </table>	Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest
Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest		
Description	Place where the Jews lived before their expulsion in 1492.						

Image 1. Jewish Quarter in Girona



Source: <https://www.earthtrekkers.com/>


Name	<u>Jews' History Museum</u>						
Place	Girona City						
Year	2000						
DT Typology	Dark Exhibitions						
DT Spectrum							
Framework	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Darkest</td> <td>Darker</td> <td>Dark</td> <td>Light</td> <td>Lighter</td> <td>Lightest</td> </tr> </table>	Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest
Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest		
Description	The main objective of the Museum is to preserve and spread the history of the Jewish communities of Catalonia, with special attention to Girona.						

Image 2. Museum of the Jews' History in Girona



Source: <https://www.spain-holiday.com/>


Name	<u>"Argilera" and "Cap de Ras" Bunkers</u>						
Place	Llançà						
Year	1937-1945						
DT Typology	Dark Conflict Sides						
DT Spectrum							
Framework	<table border="1" style="background-color: #333; color: white; text-align: center; width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #000; color: white;">Darkest</td> <td style="background-color: #111; color: white;">Darker</td> <td style="background-color: #222; color: white;">Dark</td> <td style="background-color: #333; color: white;">Light</td> <td style="background-color: #444; color: white;">Lighter</td> <td style="background-color: #555; color: white;">Lightest</td> </tr> </table>	Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest
Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest		
Description	<p>The construction of bunkers in this area was carried out during the Franco era. They were part of the well-known "Line P", a line of defense that during Franco's regime was ordered to be built throughout the Pyrenees.</p>						

Image 3. Argilera Bunker in Llançà



Source: <https://es.wikiloc.com/>

Image 4. Cap de Ras Bunker in Llançà



Source: <https://www.visitllanca.cat/>


Name	<u>"Bateria de costa L-6 la Clota" Bunker</u>						
Place	L'Escala						
Year	1939-1945						
DT Typology	Dark Conflict Sides						
DT Spectrum							
Framework	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; background-color: #333; color: white;"> <tr> <td style="width: 16.6%;">Darkest</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">Darker</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">Dark</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">Light</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">Lighter</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">Lightest</td> </tr> </table>	Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest
Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest		
Description	The place was chosen by the Francoist government to build a bunker battery known as L-6.						

Image 5. "Bateria de Costa L-6 La Clota" Bunker in l'Escala



Source: <http://redcostabrava.com/>


Name	<u>Montgó Tower</u>						
Place	L'Escala						
Year	1598						
DT Typology	Dark Conflict Sides						
DT Spectrum							
Framework	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Darkest</td> <td>Darker</td> <td>Dark</td> <td>Light</td> <td>Lighter</td> <td>Lightest</td> </tr> </table>	Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest
Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest		
Description	<p>This tower was financed by popular funds and by order of Felipe I, to protect the fishermen of l'Escala and Estartit from Berber pirate attacks.</p>						

Image 6. Montgó Tower in L'Escala



Source: Ricard Ballo (2009)

Name	<u>Exile Memorial Museum</u>						
Place	La Jonquera						
Year	1598						
DT Typology	Dark Exhibitions						
DT Spectrum							
Framework	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Darkest</td> <td>Darker</td> <td>Dark</td> <td>Light</td> <td>Lighter</td> <td>Lightest</td> </tr> </table>	Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest
Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest		
Description	The Exile Memorial Museum (MUME) is an interpretation center that recalls the exiles caused by the Civil War in Spain and in Catalonia.						

Image 7. MUME in La Jonquera



Source: www.museuexili.cat


Name	<u>L'Escala Sailor Cemetery</u>						
Place	L'Escala						
Year	1835						
DT Typology	Dark Resting Places						
DT Spectrum							
Framework	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Darkest</td> <td>Darker</td> <td>Dark</td> <td>Light</td> <td>Lighter</td> <td>Lightest</td> </tr> </table>	Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest
Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest		
Description	<p>This cemetery possesses the remains of two Catalan personalities: Caterina Albert, who under the pseudonym Víctor Català wrote great works of Catalan literature, and Josep Esquirol, photographer who made the first photographs of the Empúries archaeological site.</p>						

Image 8. L'Escala Sailor Cemetery



Source: Jordi Cruells (2019)


Name	<u>Walter Benjamin Memorial “Passatges”</u>						
Place	Portbou						
Year	1994						
DT Typology	Dark Shrines						
DT Spectrum							
Framework	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Darkest</td> <td>Darker</td> <td>Dark</td> <td>Light</td> <td>Lighter</td> <td>Lightest</td> </tr> </table>	Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest
Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest		
Description	Haunting memorial to the German Jewish philosopher who died while fleeing fascism in Portbou on the 50th anniversary of his death.						

Image 9. Walter Benjamin Memorial “Passatges” by Karavan



Source: M. Lladó


Name	<u>"Can Batllosera" Bunker</u>						
Place	Vidreres (La Selva)						
Year	1937						
DT Typology	Dark Conflict Sides						
DT Spectrum							
Framework	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Darkest</td> <td>Darker</td> <td>Dark</td> <td>Light</td> <td>Lighter</td> <td>Lightest</td> </tr> </table>	Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest
Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest		
Description	<p>During the Spanish Civil War, from the spring of 1938, Can Valllosera was the residence of military authorities working in the airfield of the Pla de Vidreres, located in the neighboring fields. The existing shelter was destined for the command post.</p>						

Image 10. 'Can Vall-llosera' Bunker in Vidreres



Source: Joan Dalma Juscafresa (2018)

Name	<u>Italian fascist airforce bombing in Cassà</u>						
Place	Cassà de la Selva						
Year	January 29th, 1939						
DT Typology	Dark Conflict Sides						
DT Spectrum							
Framework	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Darkest</td> <td>Darker</td> <td>Dark</td> <td>Light</td> <td>Lighter</td> <td>Lightest</td> </tr> </table>	Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest
Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest		
Description	<p>On Sunday, January 29, 1939, at 13.30, Cassà de la Selva suffered a bomb attack caused from Italian fascist airforce, led by Captain Costa Egidio.</p>						

Image 11. Aerial View of the Bombing of the Town Center from Cassà de la Selva in 1939



Source: Archivio Ufficio Storico Maggiore del l'Areonautica militare-USAM


Name	<u>Sant Ferran’s Castle & Fortress of the Empordà</u>						
Place	Figueres						
Year	18 th Century						
DT Typology	Dark Conflict Sites						
DT Spectrum							
Framework	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Darkest</td> <td>Darker</td> <td>Dark</td> <td>Light</td> <td>Lighter</td> <td>Lightest</td> </tr> </table>	Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest
Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest		
Description	<p>Sant Ferran’s Castle is located on a hill in Figueres. It is a massive 18th century military castle constructed under the orders of several military engineers. It belongs to Fortress of the Empordà, the largest monument in Catalonia and the largest fortress of modern times in Europe.</p>						

Image 12. Empordà’s Fortress



Source: <http://es.visitfigueres.cat/>


Name	<u>Lluís Companys Memorial</u>						
Place	El Puerto de la Manrella, Agullana						
Year	1981						
DT Typology	Dark Shrines						
DT Spectrum							
Framework	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Darkest</td> <td>Darker</td> <td>Dark</td> <td>Light</td> <td>Lighter</td> <td>Lightest</td> </tr> </table>	Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest
Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest		
Description	Monument built by the commission of Acts in Memory of the ex-president Companys, to remember the passage of the president in January 1939 towards exile.						

Image 13. Lluís Companys Memorial



Source: <http://ca.salines-bassegoda.org/>


Name	<u>La Carbonera</u>						
Place	Figueres						
Year	1939						
DT Typology	Dark Camp of Genocides						
DT Spectrum							
Framework	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="background-color: black; color: white;">Darkest</td> <td>Darker</td> <td>Dark</td> <td>Light</td> <td>Lighter</td> <td>Lightest</td> </tr> </table>	Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest
Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest		
Description	It is an old coal warehouse situated between Progreso and El Far, for those exiles who had returned from the death camps in France.						

Image 14. La Carbonera



Source: <https://www.elpuntavui.cat/>


Name	<u>"Jardí de la Infancia" anti-aircraft shelter</u>						
Place	Girona						
Year	1938						
DT Typology	Dark Conflict Sides						
DT Spectrum							
Framework	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Darkest</td> <td>Darker</td> <td>Dark</td> <td>Light</td> <td>Lighter</td> <td>Lightest</td> </tr> </table>	Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest
Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest		
Description	It was built to protect around 700 people during the Spanish Civil War.						

Image 15. "Jardí de la Infància" Anti-Aircraftshelter (Cellular Shelter built in 1938 for 700 people)



Source: <https://visitmuseum.gencat.cat/>


Name	<u>La Pelosa's Camp of prisoners</u>						
Place	Roses						
Year	1940-1945						
DT Typology	Dark Camp of Genocides						
DT Spectrum							
Framework	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Darkest</td> <td>Darker</td> <td>Dark</td> <td>Light</td> <td>Lighter</td> <td>Lightest</td> </tr> </table>	Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest
Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest		
Description	<p>Workers were political prisoners sentenced to forced labor who were confined in the prison camps of La Pelosa and probably Joncols. It is also said that the prison camp of La Pelosa, during the war, served to confine national prisoners.</p>						

Image 16. The Checkpoint of the Prison Pelosa's Camp



Source: Santi Coll (2014)

Name	<u>Escape Room (Time SKP)</u>						
Place	Girona City						
Year	Unknown						
DT Typology	Dark Fun Factories						
DT Spectrum	↓						
Framework	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Darkest</td> <td>Darker</td> <td>Dark</td> <td>Light</td> <td>Lighter</td> <td>Lightest</td> </tr> </table>	Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest
Darkest	Darker	Dark	Light	Lighter	Lightest		
Description	It consists of solving each of the mysteries and challenges related to death to achieve the objective of the game: escape alive. It is set in Girona.						

Image 17. Time SKP Girona



Source: <https://www.timeskp.com/es>

4.4 Proposition of a Dark Tourism Route in Girona

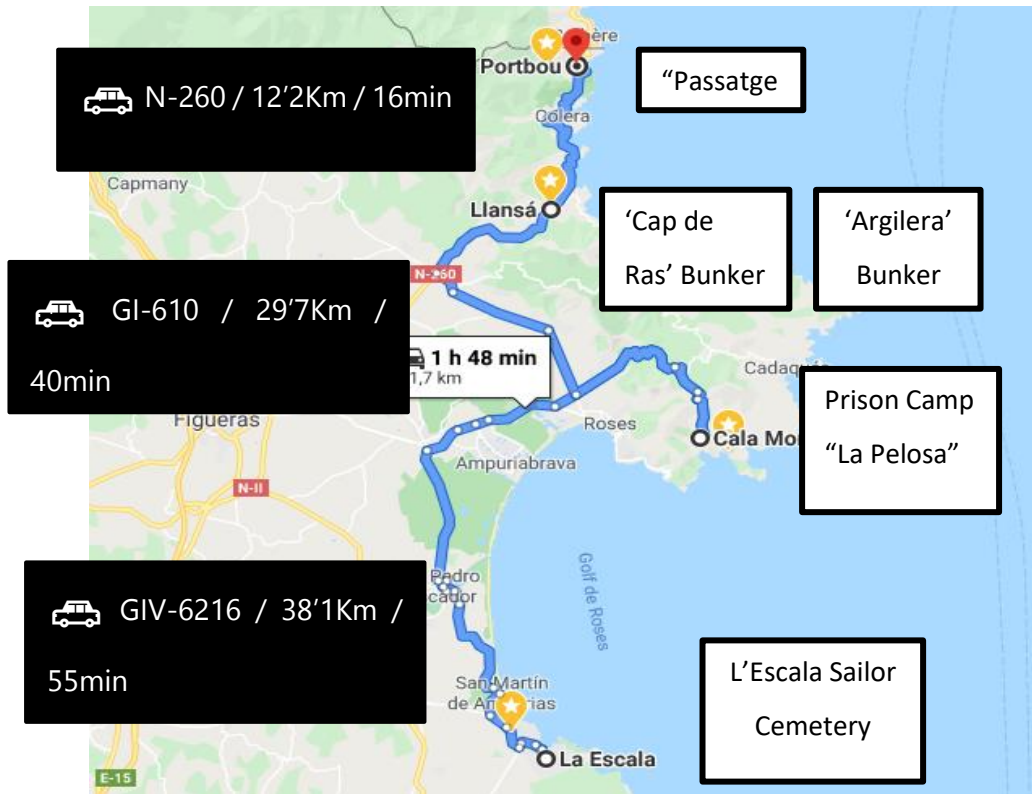
Once the different types of Dark Tourism products and attractions throughout the province of Girona have been determined, the creation of Dark Tourism Routes have been done. All the destinations and attractions included in these routes have been carefully explained above, so they will not be mentioned again.

Route 1

The Route 1 will start from L'Escala, where 'L'Escala Sailor Cemetery' is located. The next destination is Roses, to visit the Prison Camp "La Pelosa", near "La Pelosa" Beach, and continues towards Llançà to visit 'Cap de Ras' Bunker and 'Argilera Bunker'. The fourth destination is Portbou, where it is possible to see "Passatges", a monument erected in honor of Walter Benjamin.

This route reaches the Costa Brava, in the northeastern part of Girona's province. It will be possible to experience different levels of the 'Dark Spectrum' throughout the trip. Tourist attractions such as Llançà Bunkers or 'L'Escala Sailor Cemetery' will be found in a more 'light' darkness level. The Benjamin Walter Memorial and the Prisoners Camp in la Pelosa can be found on a darker stage.

Figure 9. Dark Tourism Route 1



Source: Own creation by using Google Maps

Route 2

The Route 2 is a midday route. It will start from Figueres, where “La Carbonera”, the concentration camp, is located. It continues to La Jonquera to visit the ‘Exile Memorial Museum’ as it is the place where thousands of people from Catalonia went into exile. The last destination in the route leads to ‘Coll de Manrella’, to see the Monument to Lluís Companys. The route ends returning to Figueres.

Route 2 was made by proximity in the province’s northernmost area, almost at the border with France. This choice will allow them to experience a more ‘dark’ path, particularly with visits to the concentration camp of ‘La Carbonera’ and the Lluís Companys Memorial.

Figure 10. Dark Tourism Route 2



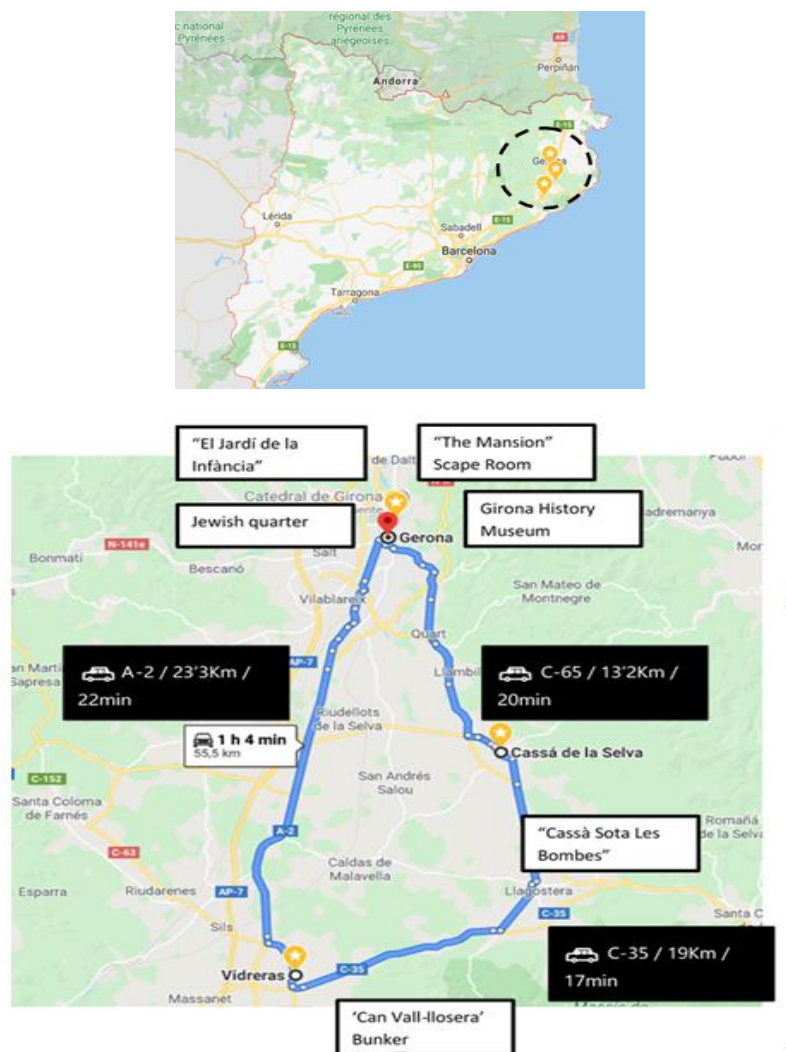
Source: Own creation by using Google Maps

Route 3

The third route has its beginning in the city of Girona. From there, the first destination will be Cassà de la Selva, to walk around the village that was bombed by the Italian fascist air force. The route continues to Vidreres, to visit the 'Can Vall-Ilosera' Bunker. Finally, the route ends returning to Girona, where it is possible to visit "El Jardí de la Infància", the Girona History Museum, with a section dedicated to the Jews, and also walk through the Jewish quarter of the city. In Girona it is possible also doing "The Mansion" Escape Room.

Route 3 is rendered by proximity across the province's interior, including the capital. This route is the one with most 'light' range, as it includes Dark Fun Factories and Dark Exhibitions. However, the trip also includes a 'darkest' moment in Cassà, due to the visitors being able to experience different emotions.

Figure 11. Dark Tourism Route 3



Source: Own creation by using Google Maps

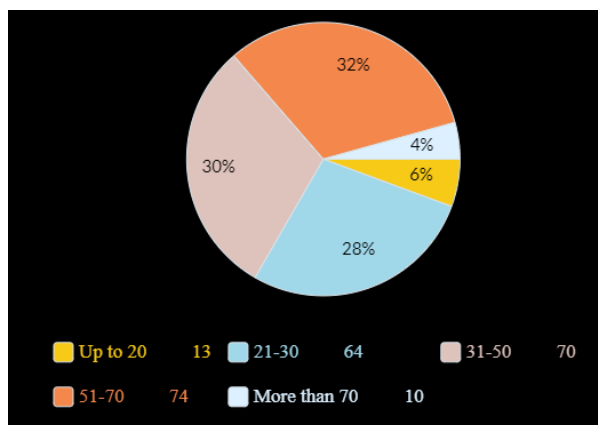
4.5 Survey and interviews' analysis

4.5.1. Survey analysis

To the moment of the survey closure, it accounted for 231 participants in total. One general survey was done in order to arrive at all kinds of people, both locals and visitors and then be able to analyze the best possible way to obtain the most competitive results.

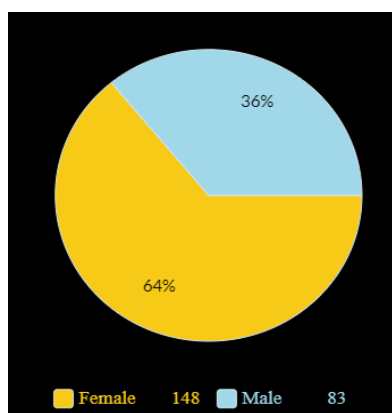
The obtained demographic data gives an idea of who the audience is and on the other side, psychographic data answers questions involving attitudes, values, and opinions rather than factual information. Using both demographic and psychographic data helped to cover all the aspects required.

Graphic 1. Age



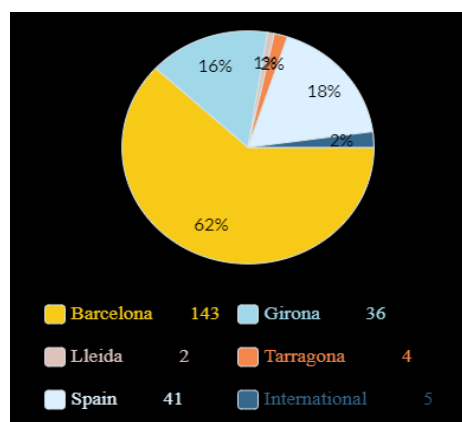
Source: Own creation

Graphic 2: Gender



Source: Own creation

Graphic 3: Location



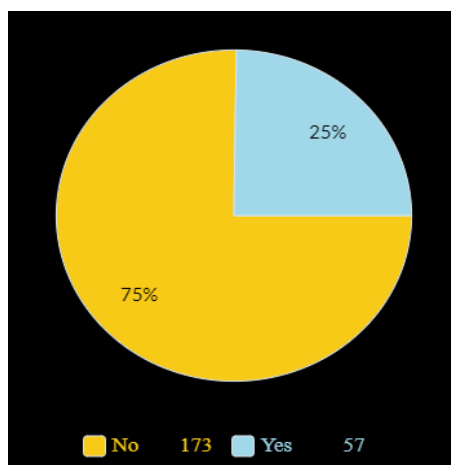
Source: Own creation

The first set of questions aimed to have an idea about the age, gender, and location of the participants. Age can alter the answer of the questions depending on the year they were born. As seen in Graphic 1, the audience that participated in the survey belongs to very different ages, and this can mean a large range in the answers. It will also help to analyze further results.

Regarding gender, the results found are quite distinctive; there is a slightly difference between the acknowledgement or interest of women and men. All the results have been analyzed and filtered according to this characteristic and some examples are the following: when asking if they know what DT is, 57 people said yes, 57% of them are women and 43% are men. In terms of the people who have already practiced it (77), 67% are women and 33% are men. There are few answers received as a “yes” in terms of doing a trip with DT as a first motivation, and the results were not balanced: 68% of women and 32% man. It can be seen that women have more knowledge, interest and curiosity to discover DT. It looks like men do not have a specific intrigue to get more information about this concept and also, most of them would not realize a trip with DT as their first destination. This fact is important to know because there is a difference between gender’ preferences.

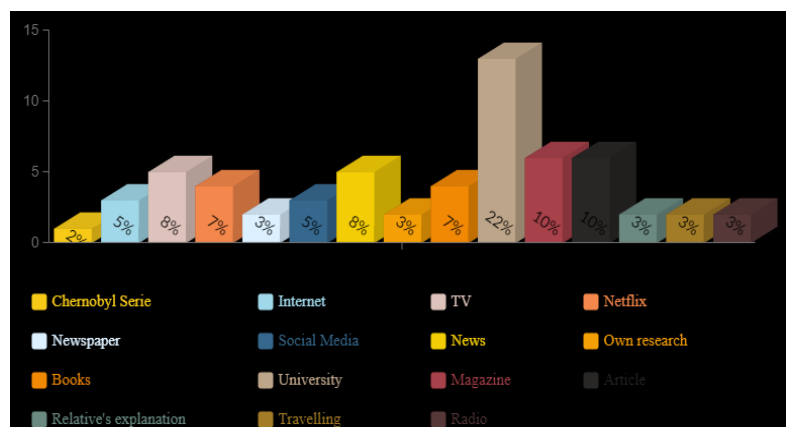
As previously commented, the idea was to achieve responses from residents from Girona and outsiders, so as Graphic 3 shows; the opportunity to receive answers from all the places was achieved. Even though there are more responses from Barcelona than the others, a better specific analysis is possible.

Graphic 4. Do you know what Dark Tourism is?



Source: Own creation

Graphic 5. If so, how did you know it?



Source: Own creation

The next question of the survey was focused on the knowledge that the participants had from Dark Tourism. Graphic 4 shows that most of the people do not have awareness about what DT is; the results were fragmented in order to know if the people who do know it, are related somehow.

Screening the results, provided the information according to the people who know what the concept is, none of them is less than twenty years old and neither more than seventy years old so, surprisingly, it is seen that very different kinds of generations do not have any idea about it.

It looks curious because maybe elder people did not have access to information or what we currently consider a Dark Tourism place was happening when they were younger but teenagers have plenty of access to information about everything and they do not know either. It also could show that either teenagers do not feel the interest about it or maybe elder people feel scared or ashamed about what they lived so they do not explain to their relatives what happened and as a consequence, the history and the details are getting lost.

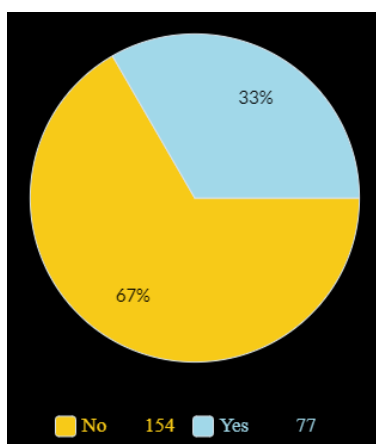
It is a part of tourism almost invisible, as there is not much researched about. It would be so interesting to make people aware that discovering DT also means discovering the history of our ancestors and our own.

There was a second question shown in Graphic 5 for the people who answer positively the question about knowing the meaning of Dark Tourism. There was an interest to check how they get to know about this concept and consequently, collect information about which the best promotion channels are and which ones are almost nonexistent or not useful. The respondents honestly stated how they had heard, learn or get to know it as it was an open answer.

What stands out in this answer is the big difference regarding the results, most people know about it thanks to University, which is awesome as it means that when new generations arrive at University, they will be able to hear about it, but at the same time it is a slightly worrying as teachers should not be the ones with the responsibility of promoting DT. Then, all of the other channels have similarities regarding percentage, and it will continue with magazines, articles, TV...

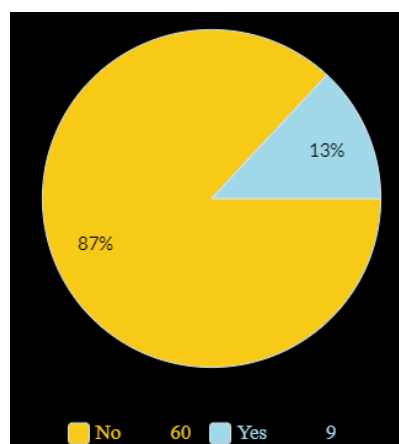
What is more shocking is the fact that none of the participants named anything related to tourism advertising campaigns as could be through the council, or indirect ads during internet research. That would derive to a business opportunity for the tourism and hospitality industry as in any case, universities should be the first promotion channel for any kind of tourism.

Graphic 6. Have you ever practiced it?



Source: Own creation

Graphic 7. Did you know you were practicing it?



Source: Own creation

The next question gave to the participants a small description of Dark Tourism and an example in order to inform people that did not know and asked if they had ever practiced it. It is needed to point out the information about the ones that already had experienced this kind of tourism.

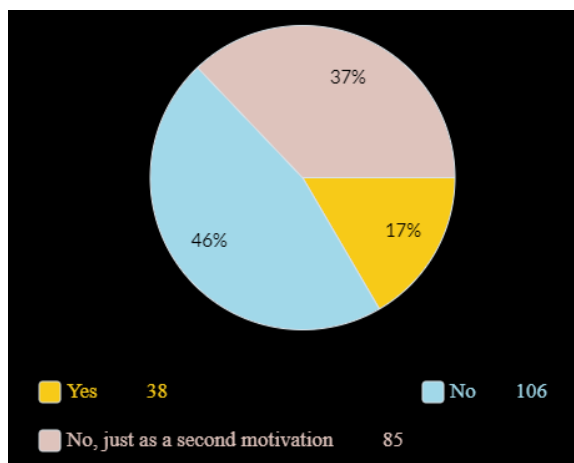
The answers provided in the Graphic 7 are intimidating as most of the people who practiced DT did not know that they were experiencing this kind of tourism. This graphic contains the second question that was asked only for people who had ever practiced DT. Comparing the numerical result of the “yes” answer in the Graphic 6 with the final answer of the Graphic 7, it can be seen that there are fewer answers in the second one, as they were not stating ‘yes’ or ‘no’.

It is important to point out that most of the people who answered “no”, have said yes when we asked if they knew what DT was. This answer can be controversial but it also has an important meaning: either they learned the concept after they experienced it, or they did not consider it Dark Tourism. It could sound strange but it is not, because as seen before, according to Stone (2006), the products can be considered from darkest to lightest, and maybe the ones that are considered as lightest cannot be even noticed as DT for some people. The other possible option is that people did not even know before this survey, that this kind of tourism or places related to death had a specific name.

Some of the not classifiable answers explained that they thought this type of tourism was called “Historical memory tourism”, not DT. This statement could be related to the fact that some authors such as Seaton (1996) and Foley M. and Lennon J. (1996) consider that DT could be also called “Thanatourism” but there are no authors confirming that it could be named “Historical Memory Tourism”. Another participant said that he practiced DT before it has this name, so that could be a

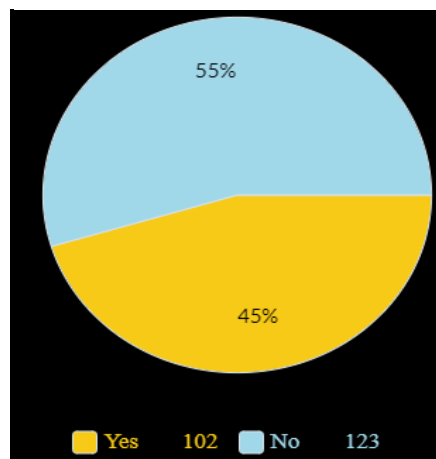
good fact if thinking that people are getting more awareness. All in all, it can be seen that there is a big confusion and controversy about the concept of Dark Tourism.

Graphic 8. Would you travel with Dark Tourism as your first motivation?



Source: Own creation

Graphic 9. Do you think it is a well-regarded kind of tourism?



Source: Own creation

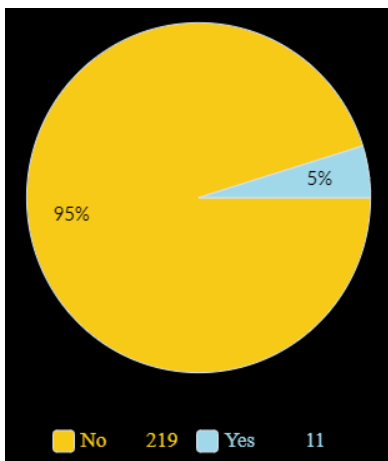
The next question proposed was related to the fact of traveling with DT as a first motivation and it is shocking to see that this kind of tourism does not catch people' attention, most of the respondents would not go on a holiday trip with DT as their first motivation (see in Graphic 8).

People are not ready to relive the misfortunes that have occurred in our history. Society is afraid to face human reality and the issue of death has always been taboo because the offered education, did not prepare people to face it. Sometimes it looks easier to close the eyes to historical events of these dimensions.

Even though maybe they would be ready to exercise DT as a second motivation, here also comes the fact that people during their holidays do not want to live this experience, they look for other kinds of adventures or occurrences.

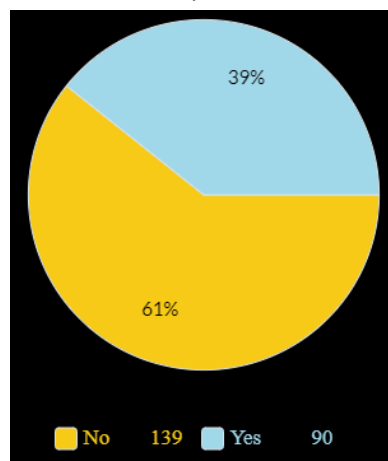
As seen in the Graphic 9, there is a balance with the answers. As going through this survey, there has been the realization that is not the fact of being well regarded or not, the answers sum up with the fact that people are confused and they do not know if Dark Tourism it is a good thing or not because or they do not know what is it, or they have briefly heard about it. Dark Tourism is a wide and interesting aspect but very invisible for most of the people.

Graphic 10. Do you know any Dark Tourism place in Girona?



Source: Own creation

Graphic 11. Would you go to Girona to practice DT?

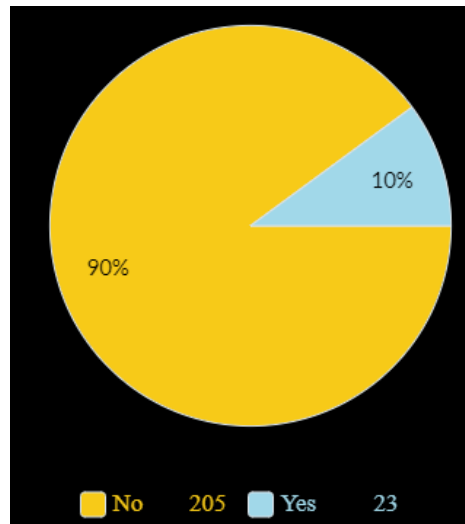


Source: Own creation

With the next question, shown in Graphic 10, the objective was to know if people could recognize a DT place in Girona. As seen, this province does not promote Dark Tourism adequately. Less than 15 people know a place where this kind of tourism takes place. And there is a need to point out that from those who do know, just less than five people from Girona said yes. So at the beginning, the thought was that maybe were the visitors who as not having interest for this kind of tourism, they did not know, but even though the locals are not aware about the places involving DT that they have. Most of the people who already know are between 31-50 years old and all the other people who said yes are from Barcelona, not Lleida, Tarragona or International.

Regarding the question proposed in Graphic 10 it is so noticeable that people do not have an interest in this kind of tourism but hopefully, it could be created with awareness. If some good promotion was made about what it is like and what you are going to find and experience when you get to the specific site, perhaps people would be more open-minded and would accept getting to know it. If there was some good marketing campaign reporting that DT shows historical facts, culture and education, maybe people would be more interested.

Graphic 12. Do you think this kind of tourism is well promoted?



Source: Own creation

In the final part of the survey, respondents were asked about the promotion of Dark Tourism. The results shown in Graphic 12 helped to understand many of the previous survey answers. The important fact is that there is not good promotion at all about DT, anywhere. Neither local people are aware about the places related to Dark Tourism they have. People do not even know that it has a proper name and that can be worrying because being a kind of tourism like any other one, should meant being promoted the same way. Even though there is not a lot of information and neither researches about it, tourism professionals should do something to promote, from councils to travel agencies. A new niche of tourism could become fascinating and it could attract a lot of people around the world.

4.5.2. Interviews analysis

After doing some interviews to tourism sector professionals of the province of Girona, a specific analysis has been done and the results are noticeably clear and confirm what has been discussed in this thesis. It is important to emphasize that some questions and even some interviews have not been answered due to the lack of knowledge about the concept of DT or the lack of facilities and attractions related to this type of tourism in their locality.

All the interviewees acknowledge the concept of Dark Tourism and what it consists of. While not everybody considers it fascinating or may not like it, all of them accept that because of the curiosity and morbidity it creates towards something related to death and misery. It is a very enticing topic for the visitors. Most of them assure that in their areas, Dark Tourism is not an important aspect to consider.

JJ, from La Selva de Mar, in a general context, states that the importance of Dark Tourism locations is due not only to the associations with death and suffering, but above all to their historical value. Furthermore, she relies on several travel agencies to have 'exaggerated' the morbid or catastrophic aspect of some locations just with commercial objective. As a result, there has been a recent increase regarding the number of people visiting for example, the ghost town of Chernobyl due to the popularity of TV series, HBO's latest hit. The improvement of that sort of promotion is also helping the growth of tourists visiting different areas as NY Ground Zero. She also notices that the visitors' motivations, as well as the destinations and activities performed, can be quite different. This type of tourism can also have a moral or spiritual motivation when seeking to visit the scene of a tragedy or genocide to show empathy, remember and honor the victims.

Many of the tourism professionals in Girona province answer they have no Dark Tourism attractions in their respective locations so the next question about the kind of tourist profile that they receive has not been answered. However, JJ states that in the region of La Selva there are many 'dark' places where there have been tragedies, catastrophes, wars... but no tourism action for those areas has been suggested up until now because it is a destination meant for other forms of tourism, such as cultural, sun and beach...

AA, from Peralada, and FF, from Santa Coloma de Farners, claim to have other elements that could be called Dark Tourism, such as the Battle of Pere el Gran and Felip l'Ardit, or the Serrallonga road, respectively. Even so, they are listed as another type of common tourism and do not attract many visitors, mostly people from the local areas.

Most of the interviewees accept that this is not a well-known form of tourism for society; partly because of the few historical events that have occurred in Catalonia and, more precisely, in Girona, and that is why many locations are not promoting any of the DT attractions they may have, because they do not think they are important enough to draw good tourist traffic. The interviewees affirm that if there had been events of a greater magnitude in history, there probably would have been a stronger

impact in the province. Everyone recognizes the Spanish Civil War as the only significant historical event in the region. However, in a general context, most of them affirm that maybe the Dark Tourism idea is poorly marketed, as every year millions of tourists visit either concentration camps such as Auschwitz or terrorist areas such as Barcelona, London or Paris, but they do not really realize they are practicing this type of tourism.

The interviewees acknowledge that they are not sure whether the Dark Tourism idea will become more known in the future; but they state that this form of tourism will probably become more popular as sadly, destinations related to death and tragedy will be always part of our world and history, and it is a way of living totally different experiences. According to AA, “the historical memory that Spain possesses is far behind any other countries like France or Germany”. Nevertheless, the Democratic Memorial does a lot of research and Catalonia has taken steps forward regarding other communities. AA states that it is a matter of promoting some actions and waiting to see whether the Spanish Government is seeking to revive Dark Tourism through new marketing campaigns.

Regarding Girona, FF considers that this province has incredibly beautiful DT attractions, but not enough recognized to reflect a potential Dark Tourism destination. Most of the interviewees do not consider either that Girona can be established as a tourist destination thanks to this type of tourism. However, AA also argues that Girona’s province has remarkable interesting tourist sites related to exile caused by the Civil War that could be promoted, particularly on France’s border.

When interviewees are asked to suggest a DT attraction in the province, less than half say that they have no subject information and are not able to recognize any attraction related to death or disaster. All the others can recommend concentration camps, bunkers, memorial sites... all of them related to the Spanish Civil War, the great historic event on which all Dark Tourism activity is centered in Girona’s province.

CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSIONS

This is the last chapter of the thesis and the intention is to give a final impression on all the information collected. There are broad statements that sum up the most important insights of the research. It is not intended to add new information, but rather tries to reflect on the research. Thanks to all the data collection, interviews and survey, some recommendations are offered and, at the same time, the limitations found when conducting the search are exposed, which give the possibility of continuing to explore Dark Tourism through further researches in the future.

5.1 Conclusions

This research thesis has analyzed the concept of Dark Tourism and its characteristics. There are few studies about this kind of tourism but the model of Zaccaria, A., Romano, P. & Puertas, X., (2020) has been applied to Girona's province. The main objective of this thesis has been to describe the general aspects of DT and its theories from authors such as Stone (2006), Foley & Lennon (1996), Sharpley (2008) or Smith (1998), among others. There has also been the chance to study different traits that complement DT and help to understand it as the obsolescence of tourism product and the optimal experience (Tribe, 2000; Puertas, 2007). The authenticity and the ethics of this kind of tourism is also a big trait to take into account and thanks to some commentators (Sheshenina, 2019; MacCannell, 1992; Hewison, 1987) that are focused on this more "humanity" part, it has allowed to go deeper and acknowledge that both suppliers and visitors should have in mind that most of the times, even though it consists of a tourist place, Dark Tourism places are created regarding an event that happened in the past which is related to death and suffering, so respect should be the first attribute at the time of experiencing or promoting DT.

It is important to point out that even though there are few researches and theories about DT, new ways of promoting are showing out according to the worldwide trends as would be through recent platforms as Netflix & HBO or through more entertainment games as Escape Rooms or maybe older ways but still existent as obscure legends. The development of this research has allowed to study the current situation of DT and also its past, being aware that it is a kind of tourism that has been practiced during centuries but people did not recognize it as DT. There has been also the opportunity of studying Girona as a possible tourist destination according to Morrisson (2012) and his technique "10 As of a Successful Tourism Destination". It shows up that Girona really has potential to be a tourist destination

with all the elements that Morrisson (2012) points out such as strong infrastructure, activities and availability.

Stone (2006) created the “Seven Dark Suppliers” which has been used to analyze the specific elements that Girona has to offer and classify them according to “Dark Tourism Spectrum” by Stone (2006). With the model commented before, an analysis of the specific geographical area has been done, and consequently, three different potential Dark Tourism routes in Girona have been created prioritizing the most appealing and strong dark places in the province. The contribution of more than two hundred people in a survey has helped to learn about the perspective that both locals and visitors have about Girona and Dark Tourism. The survey replies come from people who make up different segments: ages from adolescents to over 70, men and women, and from different backgrounds. Consequently, it has helped to see the perspective from different people and the big conclusion that the survey showed up has been the fact that promotion of Dark Tourism is almost nonexistent and even more in Girona. This province of Catalonia has big DT potential and people are not aware of it. People do not show any interest in knowing or experiencing this kind of tourism because they almost do not know that it exists or that it has this name. It was surprising at first sight when all the answers were “negative” but the contribution of many tourism professionals in Girona helped to understand that promoting DT is not a priority for them.

Concluding, this thesis has contribute to knowledge as even though the model of Zaccaria, A., Romano, P. & Puertas, X., (2020) has been followed, new information has been included regarding concepts, theories and characteristics of Dark Tourism. The objectives of this research have been accomplished.

5.2 Recommendations

The research revealed that there is a serious lack of knowledge about Dark Tourism in society and even in the Tourism sector itself. Although there are every time more authors, theories and researches about it, the process for this type of tourism to reach the level of the others, such as sun and beach tourism, is going at a very slow level. It is a niche in tourism that is almost hidden and that is still somehow considered a taboo subject by many people.

Thanks to the information collected during this research, the main recommendation would be to raise awareness to tourism professionals who can promote this tourism, if they are not aware of the potential they have in their provinces, cities or areas, there is no possibility that this tourism can be

promoted. Once tourism professionals and tourism entities were ready with a catalogue of DT products, it would be advisable to make an intensive marketing plan only for this concept since, as has been seen, there are different ways of promoting it, especially taking profit out of the new tv series platforms (Netflix or HBO). To introduce it in an easier way, the objective should always be related to ethics and respect for these sites and what happened. If DT products were presented in the right way, it would generate a possible ‘boom’ since it works as a mirror to the culture and history of our ancestors and it is a type of tourism that, after all, if explained correctly, can generate a lot of interest and thrill because of its characteristics.

In the specific case of Girona, it has been essential to know the opinion of many tourism professionals in the province to confirm that the promotion of Dark Tourism is practically non-existent. The specific answers about Girona in the survey that has been carried out, have helped to verify this fact, in which many of the people did not know the concept of Dark Tourism nor had they seen promotional or marketing campaigns about it. The best way to revert this situation would be to obtain the cooperation from different entities in the local and city tourism sector and governments with the DMOs, to together guarantee the improvement of Dark Tourism and basically, create knowledge and generate awareness.

The point in the research in which a detailed analysis of Girona as a tourist destination and a catalogue of Dark Tourism products in the province is made, has confirmed that there are many places that can be cataloged as a type of this tourism, so the problem there will never be a lack of existence of these spaces. However, to promote and improve Dark Tourism and its tourist attractions it is essential to maintain and preserve all of them, as they are an important part of the culture and heritage. Therefore, it is totally recommended that the public entities of each town ensure a good preservation of their DT attractions, if not they will lose the possibility of offering a new and “trendy” complement to the list of existing attractiveness of their destination.

5.3 Limitations and further research

5.3.1 Limitations

As with most studies, the design of the current study is subject to limitations. Undoubtedly, the main limitation of this research has been the lack of knowledge of Dark Tourism in the society and in the entities in the sector, especially when looking for information about this phenomenon. Although there may be several researches on Dark Tourism in general, and even on specific localities, there is no previous study on DT in the province of Girona. Consequently, it has been difficult to search for author

references to be able to deny or not evidence that could be seen in the results of the interviews and survey. In fact, the lack of more specific data on tourist visits to the different DT attractions in the province of Girona has hampered the election and analysis process of each of them to make the DT catalogue and the different routes.

Data collection process has been another remarkable limitation throughout the development of this research. Due to the current situation caused by the Covid-19 virus, all the interviews have had to be done by email, which means that there is no possibility of conversation and of finding out more aspects outside the marked questions. It has also been a problem since in some cases, the person who knew about the subject was not available due to confinement or even many messages have not been answered. So all in all, it has not been possible collect sufficient and quality information from the interviews, due to it has been very difficult to obtain the necessary resources to access to professionals in the sector with a true knowledge of this type of tourism.

As for the survey, the sample size has not been a problem since the total result has been 231 responses, but the main intention was to be able to obtain many more responses from residents of Girona, and it has not been possible due to the previous mentioned virus. As previously stated, since there were no previous Dark Tourism studies in the province of Girona, when analyzing the survey and interviews, the results were hypothesized taking into account the general and referenced aspects of the DT concept.

It is also important to mention that a limitation has been the time given to carry out this thesis. The fact of doing research already takes a long time, and a topic like this, in which there is a lack of information and studies requires even more. At the same time, it has also affected the fact of not being able to obtain all the necessary resources since there are studies or books that can only be obtained if you pay for them. The virus discussed above has also helped hinder obtaining resources.

5.3.2 Further research

Regarding all the aforementioned, a further research would be needed where each specific locality carry out a study like the one that has been carried out in this research, applying the Zaccaria, Romano & Puertas (2020) model, in order to be able to catalog the different Dark Tourism products that are in the area, later, to be able to classify them according to "Dark Tourism Spectrum" by Stone (2006) and

from there, to start a marketing project for a promotion with ethical values and to fight for the preservation and sustainability of these spaces.

As previously stated, this thesis is following the model of a scanning methodology of potential Dark Tourism attractive done of the province of Tarragona (Zaccaria, Romano & Puertas, 2020), so it is a positive sign that it has spread to another province in Catalonia; and it would be interesting that during the following years it could be implemented in different destinations around the world. Furthermore, some of the tourism professionals interviewed agree that with the resources and the necessary help, Dark Tourism could become a trend in the future and some participants of the survey declared that they would travel with Dark Tourism as their first motivation.

In addition, the fact of creating a good promotion and marketing of the DT destinations would be very important to attract tourists' attention for future visits. Furthermore, it would be necessary that different public and private entities, with the help of the Government, to offer Dark Tourism knowledge to all professionals working in this field, in order to promote a correct information to all tourists. Finally, it is very important that the information of Dark Tourism and is updated when it is necessary; as well as the different methods and study data of the DT attractions in every destination to promote them correctly and efficiently to guarantee a constant success in this new typology of tourism and, consequently, in the tourism sector.

Finally, the examination of the conceptual framework proposed on this thesis could be examined in further researches as well as the methodology, in order to have the capability to adapt this model to other variables within the same context. If the new researches would be done in the correct way, the 'appearance' of Dark Tourism in society would be beneficial for everyone.

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CHAPTER 7. APPENDICES

7.1. Survey

The template of the survey conducted and which are part of the methodology used is shown below:

Q1. How old are you?

- Until 20
- 21-30
- 31-50
- 51-70
- More than 70

Q2. Gender

- Female
- Male

Q3. Location

- Barcelona
- Girona
- Lleida
- Tarragona
- Spain
- International

Q4. Do you know what Dark Tourism is?

- No
- Yes, indicate how you knew it (books, magazines, newspapers, articles,...): _____

Q5. Dark Tourism is tourism to sites associated with tragedy, disaster and death. (Ex: Sachsenhausen concentration camp). Have you ever practiced it?

- No
- If the answer is yes, ¿did you know you were practising Dark Tourism?: _____

Q6. Would you take a trip with Dark Tourism as the first motivation?

- Yes
- No
- No, only as secondary motivation

Q7. Do you think it is a well seen type of tourism?

- Yes
- No

Q8. Do you know any Dark Tourism place in Girona?

- No
- Yes, give an example: _____

Q9. Would you like to go to Girona to practise this type of tourism?

- Yes
- No

Q10. Do you think this type of tourism is well promoted?

- Yes
- No

7.2 Interviews

The template of the questions from the interviews carried out and which are part of the methodology used are presented below:

1. From the point of view of a professional related to Dark Tourism, what is your opinion about the current state of this type of tourism?
2. Do you have any Dark Tourism attraction in your town? If yes, which one/s?
3. If the previous question is yes, do the Dark Tourism attractions receive many tourists? What type of tourist is (local, international, couples, families, friends...)? What is the visitor's profile?
4. Do you think that visitors possess enough information about this new type of tourism?
5. Do you think that Dark Tourism can have a future in a few years?
6. How do you promote this type of tourism?
7. Have you considered promoting your DT attractions? If yes, in which way?
8. Do you think Girona could represent a potential Dark Tourism destination? Would you recommend any location?

Once the questions have been shown, the transcripts are presented. The last three are samples of tourism professionals who, due to their lack of knowledge, have not been able to answer the questions.

7.3. Consent Forms

Ethics form

It is important that you are sufficiently prepared to collect data doing fieldwork with ‘human participants.’ Your supervisor will support you in completing the Ethics Form.

The Ethics Form **MUST BE COMPLETED BY YOURSELF AND SIGNED OFF BY YOUR SUPERVISOR BEFORE UNDERTAKING RESEARCH.**

THE SIGNED ETHICS FORM **MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL DEGREE THESIS.**

Risk checklist – Please answer ALL the questions in each of the sections below.

Risk category 1	Yes	No
Use any information OTHER than that which is freely available in the public domain?	X	
Involve analysis of pre-existing data which contains sensitive or personal information?		X
Involve direct and/or indirect contact with human participants?	X	
Require consent to conduct?	X	
Require consent to publish?	X	
Have a risk of compromising confidentiality?		X
Have a risk of compromising anonymity?		X
Involve risk to any party, including the researcher?		X
Contain elements which you OR your supervisor are NOT trained to conduct?		X
Risk Category 2		

Require informed consent OTHER than that which is straightforward to obtain to conduct the research?		X
Require informed consent OTHER than that which is straightforward to obtain to publish the research?		X
Require information to be collected and/or provided OTHER than that which is straightforward to obtain?		X
Risk category 3		
Involve participants who are particularly vulnerable?		X
Involve participants who are unable to give informed consent?		X
Involve data collection taking place BEFORE consent form is given?		X
Involve any deliberate cover data collection?		X
Involve risk to the researcher or participants beyond that experienced in everyday life?		X
Cause (or could cause) physical or psychological negative consequences?		X
Use intrusive or invasive procedures?		X
Include a financial incentive to participate in the research?		X

IF APPLICABLE:

List agreed actions with your tutor to be taken to address issues raised in questions

Risk Category 2:

.....

Student Declaration: I confirm that I will undertake the Degree Thesis as detailed above. I understand that I must abide by the terms of this approval and that I may not make any substantial amendments to the Degree Thesis without further approval.

Name: Laia Hernández López

Signed:

Date: 17/04/2020

Name: Júlia López Guillén

Signed:

Date: 17/04/2020

Agreement from the supervisor of the student:

Name: F. Xavier Puertas Montoro **.Signed:**

Date: 17/04/2020

Risk Category 1: If you answered NO to all the questions, your study is classified as Risk Category 1. In this case:

- The supervisor can give immediate approval for undertaking the field work for the Degree Thesis.
- A copy of this signed Form MUST be included in the Degree Thesis.

Risk Category 2: If you answered YES only to questions in Risk Category 1 and/or 2, your study is classified as Risk Category 2. In this case:

- You must meet with your supervisor and clarify how the issues encountered are going to be dealt with before taking off with the field work.
- Once clarified, the actions taken must be stated in the Form. Then the supervisor can guarantee approval for the field work for the Degree Thesis.
- A copy of this signed Form MUST be included in the Degree Thesis.

Risk Category 3: If you answered YES to questions included in Risk Category 3, your study is classified as Risk Category 3. In this case:

- You must discuss with your supervisor how to re-direct the research and data collection thesis to avoid risks mentioned in Category 3.
- You must complete the Ethical Form again until Risk Category 1 or 2 is obtained.
- A copy of this signed Form **MUST** be included in the Degree Thesis.

A copy of this signed form **MUST** be included in the Degree Thesis