



The 5th International Adventure Conference 'Wild Journeys' 19-21 October 2016 Tralee - Ireland



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Adventure Tourism Research Association is delighted to be in partnership with the Institute of Technology Tralee to host the fifth International Adventure Conference. To be held this year on Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way (<http://www.wildatlanticway.com/home/>), it promises, perhaps, to be the most 'out there' yet. The four previous events in Scotland, Norway and England have attracted a truly worldwide audience, with participants from 22 countries attending the last conference in Sheffield. We aim to bring together leading academics and industry practitioners to learn about and to debate burning issues in nature-based and adventure tourism, outdoor recreation and outdoor learning - from marketing and entrepreneurship to philosophical issues... all themed around something close to our hearts: 'The Journey to Elsewhere'.

This fifth conference heads off on a different tack, opening up the conversation about what adventure is, was, and could be, within the conceptual frame of the journey (acknowledging a conceptual debt owed here to a wonderful conference: **Whose journeys, where and why?** held some years ago, led by Barbara Humberstone).

But what do we mean – the journey from where, to where, or for what? Again, and as last year, themes such as liminality, boundary crossing and escape attempts from home are also core concepts. People change during journeys, and of course, one's life passage is often described using the journey as a metaphor. In addition, the concept of journeys can be applied in very practical ways in the marketplace. Firstly, the journey suggests rather more than Loynes' (1998) 'adventure in a bun' notion of a packaged and time-constrained moment of adrenalin-fuelled exhilaration. It can encompass preparation, effort, co-operation, change, coping, ending, reflecting and much more.

Both tourism and outdoor education research suggest that there are considerable benefits associated with such ways of thinking. Secondly, long distance footpaths, 'ways', or coastal routes, in the blue or on the green, are very marketable personal challenges and a call to explore and travel onwards (though one might argue that a way-marked route compromises exploratory inclination). Pilgrimages and highland and coastal routes generate billions of euros' worth of business for the entrepreneurs along the way.

What of the importance of getting lost? (<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-34473588>). Perhaps we should contest and consider the role of the hegemonic voices inscribing and objectifying places, from map-makers to story tellers and 'experts'. How can we contrive, allow, support and engage with journeys of our own, for others?

We look forward to a meandering, wandering, lost-and-found conference - an (at times Guinness-fuelled) festival of conversation (what the Irish might term 'the craic') on beaches, on the sea, around a fire, and maybe occasionally indoors – about journeys.

Conference Sub-Themes

We would like to invite abstracts, as well as poster presentations, from marketing, business, tourism, leisure and outdoor education academics, and any other disciplines with interest in these areas, under the following key themes:

- The journey
 - Getting lost
 - On exploring
 - Journeys inward
 - Journeys outward
 - Pilgrimages
 - Mapping, recording, inscribing, navigating
 - Journeys in peace / in conflict
 - Psychology of journeys
 - Physiology of outdoor adventurous journeying
 - Primacy of voices – inscribing place
- Adventure travel guiding
- Responsible adventure tourism
- Food and adventure
- Inclusive adventure
- Technology in the outdoors
- Adventure tourism entrepreneurship and networking

Papers are also welcome that explore issues in other related outdoor recreation and adventure themes.

The 2015 International Adventure Conference

The conference is being held at the Institute of Technology, Tralee, County Kerry in the beautiful southwest of Ireland. The Institute is ideally located for adventurers on the 'Wild Atlantic Way', just 10 minutes' drive from amazing mountains, coastline, surf, water sports, climbing, mountain biking, etc. Culture and heritage are also an important part of Kerry's attraction, encompassing ancient architecture, music, dance, food and stories. The end of the recent Star Wars movie gave a glimpse of nearby Skellig Michael, one of Ireland's world heritage sites.

Tralee is very easy to get to, with Kerry airport being just 10 minutes' drive away from the Institute and Cork and Shannon airports 1.5 hours' drive. There is a wide range of accommodation options available (www.gokerry.ie).

Conference delegates will have the opportunity to join in a range of activities including outdoor workshops in areas such as foraging and outdoor cooking, inclusive adventures and water sports. Evening activity options will include Irish culture, music, food, whiskey, a visit to our newly designated 'Dark Skies' destination in south Kerry, and perhaps a few surprises!!

Pre-conference adventures on the 17th and 18th October, including sea kayaking, mountain biking and hill walking, will be available for those planning a longer trip. More details to follow.

Conference Rates

The following conference rates will apply:

Academics full attendance (early bird rate before 30th June): €400
Academics full attendance (standard rate): €450
Students: €340 (limited to first 20 students)
Practitioners: €270
Practitioner day delegates (excludes conference dinner on 10th September): €135

Academic and student rates include a year's membership of ATRA.

Conference booking will open in February 2016.

Submission of Papers and Posters

In the first instance, abstracts of up to 600 words are invited for peer review; these will form the basis for acceptance of the paper for presentation. The abstract should therefore clearly state the objective of the presentation, the findings and their significance to the proceedings, and how they help advance our knowledge of outdoor adventure. It should include: *title, keywords, introduction, method, findings/discussion and conclusion.*

Exciting and inspiring conference posters are also requested from postgraduate students.

Please note: all abstracts should be submitted at <http://atra.global/international-adventure-conference/>, using the template provided.

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is April 30th, 2016.

Note: All accepted abstracts will be published in the conference book of abstracts, and will be available on the conference web page. There is also the possibility for some papers to be considered for post-conference publication in a suitable format.

Adventure Tourism Research Association

The conference fee includes a year's membership of the Adventure Tourism Research Association (ATRA), a membership organisation which is assembling a worldwide academic community, and helping to facilitate knowledge exchange and the creation of new relationships in the field of outdoor leisure and adventure tourism.

ATRA works with local partners to host the annual international adventure conference. The association's website, www.atra.global, is a shared portal for ATRA members' news.

Further Information

If you would like to learn more, please contact Dr Steve Taylor at: steve.taylor.whc@uhi.ac.uk or Dr Sophie Price at: Sophie.Price@staff.ittralee.ie.