Nostalgia in tourism: a bibliometric analysis and systematic review

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Abstract

The main objective of this bibliometric review is to identify and analyze the development of the field of nostalgia tourism through a comprehensive analysis of the scientific literature. To this end, this article performs a bibliometric analysis in R Core Team 2022-Bibliometrix software, complemented by VOSviewer software and a systematic review of the Scopus and Science Direct database to provide information on the most researched topics, the most influential authors and publications, as well as the areas requiring further research. The findings and conclusions of this study make a valuable contribution to the nostalgia tourism literature by providing a relevant and comprehensive analysis of the current state. This analysis allows for a better understanding of the theoretical and conceptual framework of the articles published so far, which is important to consider in order to enrich the academic debate on nostalgia tourism and for future research.

1 Introduction

Nostalgia tourism has become a unique and meaningful form of travel today, as it allows people to reconnect with past moments, memories and experiences that have marked their lives (Christou, 2020). This form of tourism not only promotes the value of personal memory, but also contributes to the development of local communities, cultural preservation and revitalization of historical sites (Shi et al., 2021). Its importance lies in offering travelers the opportunity to relive past eras, learn about the history of a place, and preserve traditions that might otherwise be lost to time (Chi & Chi, 2022a).

One of the positive axes of nostalgia tourism is its impact on the preservation of cultural heritage (Shiran et al., 2021). By traveling to relive significant moments or visit historical sites, people contribute to keeping alive the history and cultural identity of a region (Prayag & Del Chiappa, 2023). This generates a sustained interest in the preservation of ancient buildings, monuments, traditions and customs that are part of a community's legacy (Akgün et al., 2020).

Nostalgia tourism benefits economically the localities that promote it. The restoration and preservation of historical sites, as well as the offer of authentic experiences related to the past, attract tourists interested in immersing themselves in an enriching experience (Kim et al., 2019). Likewise, another relevant aspect is the positive emotional impact it has on people, by reliving memories and special moments, nostalgia tourism can generate a sense of emotional connection, well-being and gratitude (Cho et al., 2019). This connection with the past can be therapeutic for many people, giving them a sense of belonging, identity and cultural rootedness that contributes to their emotional and mental well-being (Lin et al., 2022).

To understand the current state of the field, it is essential to identify and analyze the academic results published so far. However, the importance of the characteristics lies in their ability to connect people to their past, identity, and emotions (Oh & Kim, 2020). Understanding these features enables tourism researchers and professionals to design strategies that meet the demand of tourists seeking to relive historical, cultural, or personal moments (Chen et al., 2021; Cho et al., 2021). In addition, these features can help preserve and promote cultural heritage, as well as revitalize tourism destinations that possess strong emotional and sentimental value for travelers (Kan et al., 2022). Thus, the characteristics are based on the focus of the
past, preservation of authenticity, focus on emotional and sentimental, memorable, and personal experiences (Cho et al., 2020).

The present research aims to identify and analyze the development of the field of nostalgia tourism through a comprehensive analysis of the scientific literature which is fundamental to understand the evolution, trends and contributions in this specific area. This approach allows us to trace a timeline that reveals the progression of ideas, theories and practices associated with nostalgia tourism over time. By systematically examining the existing literature, a broad and detailed perspective on the key issues addressed, emerging trends, as well as the identification of authors, journals and countries influential in the development of the field is achieved. This analysis not only provides a historical overview but can also reveal insights and areas for future research, making it an invaluable tool for academics, practitioners and policy makers interested in nostalgia tourism.

1.1 Nostalgia Tourism

Nostalgia tourism is a specialized form of tourism that focuses on the exploration and commemoration of historical events, sites and places related to significant events of the past (Cifci, 2022; Stone et al., 2021). Likewise, this type of tourism seeks to remember and reflect on events that have left a deep imprint on human history, whether positive or negative (Y. Kim et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2020). Moreover, nostalgia tourism covers a wide range of topics, from commemorating tragedies such as the Holocaust or genocides to celebrating cultural and political achievements, such as the struggle for civil rights (Lai et al., 2021; F. Mora et al., 2022; Yi et al., 2021). In this way, it can include visits to museums, monuments, battlefields, historical sites, and places of cultural significance (Grimwood & Johnson, 2022; Mora et al., 2023; Tabaeeian et al., 2022).

Nostalgia tourism was identified as a tool for sharing and repeating experiences (Kim et al., 2022; Stavrianea & Kamenidou, 2022). Therefore, memory tourism is not limited to viewing historical sites, but also seeks to foster reflection and education (Ding & Hung, 2021; Mora et al., 2023; Wen et al., 2022; Yu et al., 2021). Therefore, by exploring historical events from a personal perspective, memory tourism visitors can develop greater empathy for the people who lived through those difficult times (Hosany et al., 2021; Mora et al., 2022; Peng et al., 2021; Rasoolimanesh et al., 2021). However, it is important that this type of tourism is managed in a sustainable manner to preserve the authenticity of historical sites and to ensure adequate respect for the memory of the events (Chi & Chi, 2022b; Jang et al., 2022).

This type of tourism often contributes to the preservation and conservation of the historical and cultural heritage of a place, as it increases awareness and interest in keeping the memory of past events alive (Hosseini et al., 2021; Raimkulov et al., 2021). Indeed, tourists can experience a wide range of emotions, from sadness and awe to empathy and reflection (Tiwari et al., 2022; Ye et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2020). Also, it contributes to economic development and the preservation of historically significant sites, as it attracts visitors from around the world and encourages investment in cultural heritage conservation (Kim, 2020).

2 Results
2.1 Annual scientific production

The annual scientific production is a fundamental component in the bibliometric analysis through tools such as Bibliometrix (Agbo et al., 2021). Thus, in the following analysis it can be evidenced that in the year that began to have an impact on nostalgia tourism is from 1986, after this year it begins to have a positive growth in the years of 2002, 2005, 2008, 2013, 2017. However, in 2017 it has a negative impact, since it lowers the scientific production regarding the topic of nostalgia tourism. On the other hand, in 2018 until 2022 it grows consecutively, achieving more than 50 articles on the research topic.

2.2 Average citations per year

The analysis shows that in 1994 it begins to have a positive impact, obtaining 2.6 citations (Guleria & Kaur, 2021). Similarly, in 1996 it has an absurd growth, achieving more than 7.5 citations during the period of that year. However, in 1998, the number of citations decreased, with a percentage of less than 2.5. On the other hand, after this negative impact in that year, it gradually increased from 2002, 2004, and 2008, achieving more than 6.0 citations. Likewise, in the years 2011, 2014, 2017, 2019 and 2023 it has a constant impact, however, in 2023 the citations provided are greater than 7.5; being the year with the highest citations on nostalgia tourism.

2.3 Plot of three fields

According to the analysis of the three fields, it can be identified that the most relevant theme is nostalgia, being a fundamental factor in the research (Koo, 2021). Likewise, the next topic after the previous one is tourism, where it has less impact than the previous one, but is still an important axis in nostalgia tourism. On the other hand, heritage stands out as the third most sought-after thematic axis in the scientific community. However, topics such as motivation, authenticity, memory, dark tourism and identity are essential concepts for the search of this research.

2.4 Most relevant sources

The first source is the Journal of Heritage Tourism with 21 articles on nostalgia tourism, therefore, it is called Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change. In third place is categorized Current Issues in Tourism with 17 articles; in fourth place is Annals of Tourism Research with 16 articles; in this way, Journal of Travel and Tourism Marketing stands out in fifth place since it has 13 publications related to nostalgia tourism. However, sources such as Journal of Sport and Tourism, Tourism Geographies, Journal of Travel Research, Tourism Management and Asia Pacific Journal of Tourism Research have a total of 38 articles.

According to the above, an analysis is made in VOSviewer where the relationship of each relevant source is shown in four clusters, which are differentiated by three colors (Abdullah, 2021). The red cluster is where the greatest impact of the magazines on nostalgia tourism is evidenced. The green cluster stands out for having five important sources; likewise, the blue cluster is identified as having the fewest relevant sources.
2.5 Production of the sources over time

The production of sources over time is crucial to understand the evolution of research in various areas, which can be useful for decision-making in scientific policies, identification of priority research areas and monitoring the impact of research (Arruda et al., 2022). Likewise, it is identified that the most relevant source with the greatest impact in 2023 is the Journal of Heritage Tourism, with more than 20 cumulative occurrences. Similarly, in second place, is the Journal of Tourism and Cultural and Change with an occurrence of 18. Therefore, the source Current Issues in Tourism and Annals of Tourism Research stand out for having a cumulative occurrence between 16 and 17. On the other hand, Journal of travel and Tourism Marketing has an impact of 13, so it is stated that it is the source with the lowest scientific production during the year 2022 and 2023.

2.6 Most relevant authors

The impact of those authors who have relevance in nostalgia tourism is analyzed, in this way, 10 authors who are fundamental according to bibliometrics are named (Igwaren & Edoamodu, 2021). The author Chao H is the most relevant author obtaining 11 publications based on the research topic; Bandyopadhyay R and Ramshaw G are positioned second and third since they have 9 articles each one in the scientific databases. Similarly, Kim S is ranked fourth with 8 publications on nostalgia tourism. Therefore, authors such as Chen Y, Cornell J, Farley S, Jodd D, Wong IA and Zhang C have 4 articles based on the main topic of the research.

2.7 Authors' production over time

The relevance of an author's production over time depends on the quality, originality and durability of his or her works, as well as their ability to remain meaningful and attractive to future generations (Rodriguez-Soler et al., 2020). Based on this, author Cho H is categorized as having an impact of 3.0 articles in 2019 and 30 articles in 2020. However, author Bandyopadhyay R calls 2.0 articles in 2007, 2.0 in 2012 and 1.0 in 2018. Similarly, in the year 2014 author Ramshaw G is categorized for publishing 2.0 articles, likewise, in the year 2017 he has a publication of 1.0 articles. In addition, Kim S has publications in 4 different years which are 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2020. On the other hand, Conbell J and Fairley S publish between 1.0 and 1.5 articles during 2003, 2004, 2008 and 2018. Therefore, according to the analysis of the authors' production over time, it is evident that the author Cho H is with more publications in the last 7 years.

2.8 Most cited countries

As shown in the following figure, it is evident that the country with the highest number of citations is the USA, with 1845 citations according to nostalgia tourism. In this way, the second country with the highest citation relevance is Australia with 1579; in third place is China, with 609 publications. On the other hand, United Kingdom has 522 and Canada 489 publications on the related topic of the present research. Hong
Kong has 475, South Africa 294 and New Zealand 167; having said this and continuing with the analysis, the two countries with the lowest citation are Turkey and Cyprus.

2.9 Most cited documents worldwide

They provide a quantitative measure of the impact, quality and influence of research in a specific field, in addition to serving as key references for the academic community (Mattos et al., 2021). Consequently, 10 papers stand out, one of which stands out for having 727 global citations, being the paper with the highest citation impact; similarly, it is evident that there are 476, 432, 210, 194, 184, 165, 158, 148 and 135 global citations in eight papers on nostalgia tourism.

2.10 Most frequent words

The key words in the field of nostalgia tourism reflect a complex network of interconnected concepts that define the industry and how it operates. The theme of tourism development represents the process of planned and sustainable growth of a region to attract and cater to tourists. This term has an occurrence of 28. On the other hand, other frequent terms are heritage tourism, tourism behavior, tourism perception and tourism attraction having an occurrence of 21 to 28. Finally, tourism management, which implies the strategic planning and coordination of resources to optimize the tourist experience, promoting a balance between tourism development, conservation and the well-being of local communities, and ensuring the competitiveness of the tourism market.

2.11 Word cloud

The following analysis evidences the most frequent or relevant keywords extracted from the set of tourism and nostalgia texts, such as scientific articles, books or any other type of academic documents. As an outstanding word in this analysis is tourism, in this way, the words of tourist destinations, development tourism, tourist heritage, tourist attraction, cultural heritage, tourist management, psychology, marketing, economic tourism and memory are characterized; being key words associated with nostalgia tourism.

2.12 Frequency of the words over time

From the years 1996, 1999, 2004, 2005 and 2007 the growth of the key words of this research begins to be identified, therefore, it can be determined that the words with a positive and relevant impact are Tourism Behavior, Heritage Tourism, Perception, Tourist Destination and Tourism, being the word that in 2023 has an occurrence of more than 40%.

2.13 Trending topics
The analysis of trending topics provides valuable and updated information on the direction and landscape of scientific research, which can be fundamental for decision making, identification of opportunities and the advancement of research in different academic fields (Khan et al., 2022). That said, in the year 2022 the word with the highest impact is human, consequently, in 2021 the word tourism stands out for having a frequency of 40. Similarly, in 2020 the word tourism market is categorized with a frequency of 20; in 2019 the word with a frequency of 30 is tourism destination. Other trending topics are tourism behavior, tourism development, heritage tourism, ecotourism and culture; these topics have a frequency between 10 and 20.

### 2.14 Coupling grouping

In this way, four clusters are identified which are characterized by the color red, green, blue and purple. In the red cluster, three axes stand out, which are categorized by the tourist attraction obtaining 35.8% of reliability; likewise, the tourist destination with 22.7% and tourist heritage with a percentage of 26.3%. On the other hand, the green cluster generates 22.2% of reliability in the topic of tourism development, in addition the word Eurasia has a percentage of 66.7 and the word tourism a 15.8% of reliability. The purple cluster analyzes tourism behavior with 65%, also analyzes the tourist destination developed by 58.1% and heritage tourism with 63.2% of reliability. The last cluster (blue) highlights tourism development with 16.7%, tourism behavior with a percentage of 15% and as the last axis, the theme of tourism destination with a percentage of 13.6%.

According to the previous analysis, the authors of each of the clusters, such as red, green, purple and blue, are shown in the following figure of the coupling grouping.

### 2.15 Thematic map

This visual approach facilitates the identification of trends, interrelated research areas and the evolution of themes over time (Casadei et al., 2023). The first axis is the niche themes where forecasting, leisure, sense of place and design stand out. Also, the second axis are motor themes, in this axis is related to tourism, human, article, historical geography, urban area, nationalism, diaspora, tourist destination, tourism development and tourism heritage. In the third axis called emerging themes, identity themes are analyzed; on the other hand, as the last axis which is basic themes, none are identified, however, the axis of emerging themes and basic themes share the theme of potentiation.

### 2.16 Factor analysis

It is categorized by four clusters, the first is the green cluster where concepts such as Far East, Asia, Eurasia and globalization dominate, having a dimension 2 of 2.3 and 4. The red cluster highlights culture, sustainability, tourist destination, marketing, tourism and tourist behavior; each of these themes have dimensions from −1 to 0, from 0 to 1 and from 1 to 1.2. Likewise, the purple cluster identifies heritage
conservation and theoretical study with 1.5 dimension 1 and 2. The last cluster (blue) identifies the themes of human, human experiment, structure, equation and model with 2.5 to 3.8 dimension 2.

2.17 World map of country collaboration

It provides visual information and significant data on scientific interactions between countries, which can be fundamental for advancing research, innovation and international cooperation in the academic and scientific fields (Alkhammash, 2023). Likewise, the analysis shows that collaboration between countries was as follows: USA and Singapore, USA United Kingdom, USA and China, Australia and Hong Kong.

2.18 Co-citation of authors

This measure reveals the relationships between authors based on the frequency with which their works are cited in the same reference list, which helps to delineate scientific communities and areas of common interest (Bernatovvic et al., 2022). Therefore, four clusters are identified as follows. The red cluster highlights the authors with the greatest relevance on nostalgia tourism, authors such as Kim S, Ryan C, Cai IA, Zhang J and Wong IA are the ones with the greatest interest in researching the topic of tourism and nostalgia.

The green cluster highlights Urry J, Hall C, Boym S, Poria Y and Stone P; being the second cluster with more authors interested in the research topic. The yellow cluster relates more relevant authors such as Gammon S, Xho H, Fairley S, Higham J and Gibson H. Finally, in the blue cluster the author with the highest impact is Sedikides C, therefore, authors such as Routledge C, Merchant A, Zhou X and Yeh S are the ones with an interest towards nostalgia tourism.

2.19 Keywords co-occurrence

By analyzing certain words are related and appear together, a deeper understanding of the context and semantics of the text can be obtained. In this way, six clusters stand out which emphasize the most relevant words about the relationship of nostalgic tourism. Thus, the green cluster identifies the words nostalgia, heritage tourism, tourist destination, dark tourism, destination image, psychology, virtual reality and travel motivation. The second cluster (red) highlights words such as memory, marketing, satisfaction, human, emotion, place and landscape. The blue cluster identifies key words such as nostalgic tourism, authenticity, culture, cultural heritage, rural tourism, identity and conservation. On the other hand, the purple cluster identifies tourism development and tourist; likewise, the yellow cluster emphasizes words such as nationalism, food, natural, Japan, Asia, Europe and Eurasia. Finally, the last cluster (orange) categorizes the words sports tourism and sport.

2.20 Systematic review
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>(Hardy, 2021)</td>
<td>Memorylands: Heritage and identity in today's Europe</td>
<td>Analyze how the legacies of the past contributed to the shaping of European identity.</td>
<td>Mixed approach through interviews and surveys</td>
<td>Interconnection between collective memory, historical sites and the construction of cultural identities in a changing European context.</td>
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<td>(Gibson, 1998)</td>
<td>Nostalgic sports tourism: a critical research analysis,</td>
<td>Better understand how they interrelate and how they can be optimized to maximize the benefits of nostalgic sports tourism.</td>
<td>Quantitative approach through surveys.</td>
<td>These include the available sports infrastructure, promotion and organization of events, accessibility to destinations, quality of tourism services, as well as the perception and demand of tourists.</td>
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<td>(Frost, 2006)</td>
<td>Braveheart's Ned Kelly: historical films, heritage tourism and destination image.</td>
<td>Analyze interest in how feature films can create attractive nostalgia tourism destination images.</td>
<td>Quantitative approach through surveys.</td>
<td>The image of the tourist destination has been shaped in large part by the lingering fascination with the Ned Kelly figure on nostalgic tourism.</td>
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<td>(Peleggi, 1996)</td>
<td>National heritage and global nostalgic tourism in Thailand</td>
<td>Exploring the significance of Thai cultural heritage in terms of domestic and international nostalgic tourism.</td>
<td>Qualitative approach through active interviewing.</td>
<td>The preservation and promotion of this national heritage are essential to maintain the country’s tourist attractiveness, while guaranteeing its conservation for future generations in the field of nostalgic tourism.</td>
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<td>LEONG AMW, 2015, J BUS RES</td>
<td>Nostalgia as a travel motivation and its impact on tourist loyalty.</td>
<td>Examine the relationships between attractions and motifs in the context of Macau.</td>
<td>Qualitative approach by means of interviews.</td>
<td>People often choose destinations that evoke personal or collective memories, either through historical movies.</td>
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<td>(Creighton, 1997)</td>
<td>Consuming rural Japan: the marketing of tradition and nostalgia in the Japanese tourism industry.</td>
<td>Determining the promotion and sale of authentic experiences in villages and rural regions has become a powerful lure for tourists seeking a connection to the country’s cultural roots.</td>
<td>Mixed approach through interviews and surveys.</td>
<td>This strategy relies on the careful representation of ancestral customs, local crafts and traditional practices based on nostalgia, offering visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in a more authentic and timeless Japan.</td>
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<td>(Sellick, 2004)</td>
<td>Discovery, Connection, Nostalgia.</td>
<td>Describing the emotional connection we establish with these historical elements deepens our engagement with the story.</td>
<td>Quantitative approach through surveys.</td>
<td>Nostalgia, in turn, acts as a powerful catalyst in heritage tourism and in the construction of the image of tourist destinations, attracting travelers seeking to relive past experiences.</td>
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<td>(Yan &amp; Santos, 2009)</td>
<td>&quot;China, forever&quot;: Nostalgic tourism discourse and auto-orientalism.</td>
<td>Identify the importance of constructing a narrative that evokes an idealized and exotic past, generating a romantic and dreamy perception of destinations and cultures.</td>
<td>Qualitative approach through semi-structured interviews.</td>
<td>Nostalgia in the tourist discourse is nourished by a longing for past or imagined experiences, focusing on traditional, authentic and lost in time elements.</td>
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<td>(Ramshaw &amp; Gammon, 2005)</td>
<td>¿ More than nostalgia? Exploring the nexus between heritage and sports tourism.</td>
<td>Determine the intersection between heritage and sports tourism that goes beyond nostalgia.</td>
<td>Quantitative approach through surveys.</td>
<td>Landmarks, sporting events and deep-rooted traditions act as key determinants in attracting tourists eager to live authentic experiences and connect with the identity of a place.</td>
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<td>(Heather &amp; Gibson, 2013)</td>
<td>Something lived, something learned: the growing role of nostalgia in sports tourism.</td>
<td>Examining previous experiences, where memorable events were played or participating in tours that recall historical exploits.</td>
<td>Mixed approach through interviews and surveys.</td>
<td>This trend highlights how nostalgia influences travel decisions, as tourists seek not only to witness the present, but also to relive and learn from iconic sporting moments of the past.</td>
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<td>(Tung &amp; Ritchie, 2011)</td>
<td>Research on memorable experiences in the senior travel market: an examination of the rise of reminiscence</td>
<td>To examine how travel experiences for seniors become meaningful and memorable moments, influencing their emotional, social, and cognitive wellbeing.</td>
<td>Quantitative approach through surveys.</td>
<td>Drive preference for destinations, activities and services that promote reminiscence, thus enabling a better understanding of how tourism can enrich the lives of older people through meaningful and memorable trips.</td>
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<td>(Kruger &amp; Saayman, 2010)</td>
<td>Tourist travel motivation to Kruger and Tsitsikamma National Parks: a comparative study of nostalgia tourism.</td>
<td>Comparing travel motives of visitors to Kruger National Park and Tsitsikamma National Park as nostalgia tourism.</td>
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<td>Analyze interest in how feature films can create attractive nostalgia tourism destination images.</td>
<td>Quantitative approach through surveys.</td>
<td>The image of the tourist destination has been shaped in large part by the lingering fascination with the Ned Kelly figure on nostalgic tourism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authors</td>
<td>Document title</td>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Method</td>
<td>Determinants</td>
</tr>
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<td>--------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Peleggi, 1996)</td>
<td>National heritage and global nostalgic tourism in Thailand</td>
<td>Exploring the significance of Thai cultural heritage in terms of domestic and international nostalgic tourism.</td>
<td>Qualitative approach through active interviewing.</td>
<td>The preservation and promotion of this national heritage are essential to maintain the country's tourist attractiveness, while guaranteeing its conservation for future generations in the field of nostalgic tourism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEONG AMW, 2015, J BUS RES</td>
<td>Nostalgia as a travel motivation and its impact on tourist loyalty.</td>
<td>Examine the relationships between attractions and motifs in the context of Macau.</td>
<td>Qualitative approach by means of interviews.</td>
<td>People often choose destinations that evoke personal or collective memories, either through historical movies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Creighton, 1997)</td>
<td>Consuming rural Japan: the marketing of tradition and nostalgia in the Japanese tourism industry.</td>
<td>Determining the promotion and sale of authentic experiences in villages and rural regions has become a powerful lure for tourists seeking a connection to the country's cultural roots.</td>
<td>Mixed approach through interviews and surveys.</td>
<td>This strategy relies on the careful representation of ancestral customs, local crafts and traditional practices based on nostalgia, offering visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in a more authentic and timeless Japan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Sellick, 2004)</td>
<td>Discovery, Connection, Nostalgia.</td>
<td>Describing the emotional connection we establish with these historical elements deepens our engagement with the story.</td>
<td>Quantitative approach through surveys.</td>
<td>Nostalgia, in turn, acts as a powerful catalyst in heritage tourism and in the construction of the image of tourist destinations, attracting travelers seeking to relive past experiences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Yan &amp; Santos, 2009)</td>
<td>&quot;China, forever&quot;: Nostalgic tourism discourse and auto-orientalism.</td>
<td>Identify the importance of constructing a narrative that evokes an idealized and exotic past, generating a romantic and dreamy perception of destinations and cultures.</td>
<td>Qualitative approach through semi-structured interviews.</td>
<td>Nostalgia in the tourist discourse is nourished by a longing for past or imagined experiences, focusing on traditional, authentic and lost in time elements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Ramshaw &amp; Gammon, 2005)</td>
<td>¿ More than nostalgia? Exploring the nexus between heritage and sports tourism.</td>
<td>Determine the intersection between heritage and sports tourism that goes beyond nostalgia.</td>
<td>Quantitative approach through surveys.</td>
<td>Landmarks, sporting events and deep-rooted traditions act as key determinants in attracting tourists eager to live authentic experiences and connect with the identity of a place.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.21 Determinants

Nostalgia tourism focuses on experiences that evoke past times, generating positive emotions by remembering or reliving historical, cultural or personal moments. Within this area, several determinants of nostalgia tourism can be identified, thus, this type of tourism not only involves a physical trip to past places, but also involves deeply rooted emotions and personal experiences. Historical sites, preservation of cultural traditions, ancient architecture and activities that evoke memories are key elements that will attract travelers in search of emotional and cultural reconnection. The importance of these determinants lies in their ability to preserve collective identity, transmit cultural legacies and foster a sense of belonging, allowing people to better understand their history and find meaning in their own lives through these nostalgic experiences.

3 Methods

To consolidate the bibliometric study and the systematic review (Novanee et al., 2023), the Scopus database and Science Direct were used following the PRISMA (Page et al., 2023) guidelines of the empirical studies found in the database including a total of 2,501 studies based on the theory of nostalgia tourism. This systematic review evidenced the importance of knowing the term nostalgia tourism. Likewise, the
chronology of the analysis was carried out using the following search strategy in this database, considering
the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

3.1 Document selection

The data taken into account in the selection of documents included the author, title, abstract, keywords, year,
number of citations and language (Mora et al., 2023). As a result, there were 523 in the Scopus database
and 1,978 in Science Direct, giving a total of 2,501. In addition, 924 documents were eliminated because
they were duplicate records. Therefore, 1,577 records were examined; 410 documents were excluded because
they were not in English. Reports sought for retrieval were 1,167. Likewise, 237 documents were not retrieved,
498 are studies not related to the topic of nostalgia tourism; 351 studies are totally related to tourism. On the
other hand, 81 documents were evaluated for document eligibility; 61 full-text articles were excluded. To
conclude, 20 documents were considered for the systematic review where the authors, title, objective,
methodology and determinants of each article related to nostalgia tourism are highlighted.

4 Discussion and Conclusion

Memory tourism has emerged as a significant way to engage with historical events, and it has been argued
that it goes beyond simply visiting historical sites. However, authors Yan & Santos (2009) identify the
importance of constructing a narrative that evokes an idealized and exotic past, generating a romantic and
dreamy perception of destinations and cultures. In this way, the results indicate that the approach
determines an emotional and reflective connection with the past, promoting both education and empathy
towards those who experienced historical moments.

However, according to authors Ding & Hung (2021) Mora et al (2023); Wen et al (2022); Yu et al (2021)
emphasize that nostalgia tourism is not limited to viewing historical places, but also seeks to foster
reflection and education. That said, the results determine that this type of tourism does not only involve
physical travel to past places, but also involves deeply rooted emotions and personal experiences.

The comprehensive bibliometric analysis conducted in this study on nostalgia tourism provides a
comprehensive and detailed view of the current state of the field. Through tools such as R Core Team 2022-
Bibliometrix and VOSviewer software, trends, prevalent themes, prominent authors and influential
publications in the scientific literature on this topic have been identified. The results obtained provide a solid
basis for understanding the existing theoretical and conceptual framework in nostalgia tourism, highlighting
specific areas that require further research. This systematic review of Scopus and Science Direct provides a
valuable contribution to the academic field by consolidating current knowledge and fostering enriched and
substantiated features on this tourism phenomenon.

The relevance of this study is not only limited to its contribution to the existing literature, but also establishes
a solid platform for future research in the field of nostalgia tourism. The findings and conclusions drawn
provide valuable guidance for researchers and academics interested in delving deeper into this area, pointing
to specific areas where more information and development is needed. In addition, by providing a detailed
analysis of the most researched topics and influential publications, this article facilitates a clearer understanding of the determinants and directions that research in this field has taken.

According to the results, the determinants lie in their ability to influence the motivations, behaviors and experiences of nostalgic tourists. These determinants, which can range from emotional and psychological aspects to sociocultural and contextual factors, act as key drivers that guide the choice of destinations, activities and consumption patterns during these trips. Understanding these determinants not only allows the tourism industry to adapt strategies and offerings to the needs and desires of this segment of travelers, but also contributes to the development of more effective policies and the creation of more authentic and meaningful tourism experiences for those seeking to relive memories and connect with the past through nostalgia tourism.

The growing importance and significant impact it has on the tourism industry, as well as on the travelers' experience, has been evidenced. However, there are still areas to be further explored and understood. Future lines of research focus on the connection between nostalgia tourism and sustainability, exploring how this type of tourism can coexist with more responsible and eco-friendly practices. In addition, in-depth analysis of the psychological and emotional effects of nostalgia tourism on individuals could provide a more complete picture of its influence on the perception of cultural heritage and its potential for personal well-being. On the other hand, interdisciplinary research addressing the intersection of nostalgia tourism with emerging technology will also be valuable in understanding how new tools may shape and transform this form of travel in the future.

**Declarations**

**Ethical approval**

Not applicable

**Funding**

Not applicable

**Author Contribution**

All authors reviewed the manuscript

**Availability of data and materials**

Not applicable
References


Figure 1

Annual scientific production

Figure 2

Average citations per year
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Plot of three fields

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Most relevant sources VOSviewer
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Most relevant authors
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Authors’ production over time

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Factor analysis

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World map of country collaboration
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Co-citation of authors
Figure 21

Keywords Co-occurrence
Determinants of nostalgia tourism

- Travel to significant places
- Objects of sentimental value
- Rituals and Cultural Traditions, Manuscripts and Books
- Self-knowledge
- Historical memory tourism
- Selective memory

Significant historical events
Religion and Spirituality
Values, beliefs and spirituality
Places of historical tragedies
Remembrance or event

Figure 22
Figure 23

Inclusion and exclusion criteria
Figure 24

Data Bases

- Number of records identified through database searches:
  - Scopus (n = 523)
  - Science Direct (n = 1,978)
  - Total: 2,501

- Records eliminated before selection:
  - Duplicate records (n = 924)

- Records reviewed (n = 1,577)

- Excluded records non-English documents (n = 410)

- Reports sought for recovery (n = 1,167)

- Exclusion report:
  - Unrecovered reports (n = 237)
  - Unrelated studies (n = 498)
  - Studies related only to tourism (n = 351)

- Reports evaluated for eligibility (n = 81)

- Number of full-text articles excluded (n = 61)

- Number of studies included in the quantitative synthesis (meta-analysis) (n = 20)

Figure 25

Fig 24. Prisma