

Tourism and Spirituality: The Manifestation of Culture

The concept of spirituality is interpreted as the immaterial and essential nature of human existence. Accordingly, humans, as creatures of creation and due to their divine essence, are not only placed on this earth without purpose but also assigned to fulfill special goals. Therefore, to realize the objectives of creation, humans engage in movement and use travel as a source and means to achieve the goal of transcendence. Travel is the birthplace where all journeys put humans on the path of perfection, self-actualization, and gaining experience. Hence, spiritual themes manifest through the relationship of humans with themselves, their interactions with others, their connection with the surrounding environment, and ultimately their relationship with the Creator of all existence. All human relationships on this earth occur within the context of culture. Human perceptions of their internal relationship, shaped by their values, beliefs, and worldview, are reinforced by traveling. Additionally, aligned with the innate human desire for discovery and knowledge — a desire with a spiritual nature — humans connect with others and practice intercultural communication. A person from a society with a unique culture comes into contact with another person with a different culture and develops a new ground for understanding. In this process, spirituality finds another manifestation, representing another dimension of humans' relationship with their cultural and natural environment. Ultimately, the relationship with the Creator of all existence is formed to present an embodiment of spirituality. The spiritual atmosphere created by traveling is surely influenced by relationships that begin within the individual's inner self and return to the self and their Creator. Spirituality resides within human existence and is often perceived in a cultural environment via connections with other people during travel. Humans embark on journeys to make sense of their existence, their environment, and even the Creator. Sometimes they are unaware of this, yet a reason for movement has consciously or unconsciously propelled them to a destination. The spiritual existence of humans throughout the journey, and their connections with others and the natural and cultural environment, turn toward their spiritual essence and seemingly discover a lost part of themselves. Spirituality is the divine aspect of human existence, encompassing the reasons and motivations for many human activities. Travel paves the ground for knowing, searching, discovering, and finding the human lost pieces. Travel within the framework of culture and movement from one culture to another is an example of cultural manifestation and is considered one of the most important lost elements of human society, contributing to the realization of the spiritual nature of today's world.

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