

<https://doi.org/10.36719/2706-6185/43/45-50>

Shahin Samadzada

American University of Cyprus

Ph. D. student

<https://orcid.org/0009-0005-6095-3502>

sahin.sve.semedzade@gmail.com

International Tourism From the Aspect of the Nordic Countries

Abstract

The recent widespread use of the concept of "international tourism" and its active expression by society have led people who are inclined to travel to a number of foreign countries for various tourism purposes. International tourism in itself is the process of implementing progressive tourism activities by organizing multi-purpose tourism trips to geographical locations with various types of tourism activities. In our current article, we will conduct detailed research on the current tourism situation of the countries included in the Northern European tourism region and share our subjective opinions to reach a final conclusion. As it is known, in modern times, millions of tourists prefer the north part of the European continent as one of the main recreational destinations, which is considered extremely convenient for spending their free time effectively and allows them to visually admire the mysterious elements of nature during their trip. These lands, which have been almost untouched and unexposed by anthropogenic influences for a long and ancient historical period, have an undeniable role in implementing a number of various tourism activities in the bosom of nature. Additionally, it should be noted that another factor that makes the Northern European region attractive to tourists actively participating in international tourism trips is that the region has achieved a unique cultural environment by containing numerous and unique cultural examples and complexes such as museums, theaters, etc. In short, international tourism reaches its peak in the north.

Keywords: Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, international tourism

Şahin Səmədzadə

Kipr Amerika Universiteti

doktorant

<https://orcid.org/0009-0005-6095-3502>

sahin.sve.semedzade@gmail.com

Şimal ölkələri aspektindən beynəlxalq turizm

Xülasə

“Beynəlxalq turizm” anlayışının son dövrlərdə geniş vüsət alması və cəmiyyət tərəfindən fəal tələffüz edilməsi səyahətə meyilli insanların müxtəlif turizm məqsədlərilə bir sıra xarici ölkələrə üz tutmalarına səbəbiyyət vermişdir. Beynəlxalq turizm özlüyündə müxtəlif növ turizm fəaliyyətlərinə malik coğrafi məkanlara çoxməqsədli turizm səfərləri təşkil etməklə mütərəqqi turizm fəaliyyətinin həyata keçirilməsi prosesidir. Biz cari məqaləmizdə Şimali Avropa turizm regionuna daxil olan ölkələrin mövcud turizm vəziyyətləri haqqında ətraflı araşdırmalar apararaq və öz subyektiv fikirlərimizi bölüşərək yekun qənaətə gələcəyik. Məlum olduğu kimi, müasir dövrdə milyonlarla turist öz asudə vaxtını səmərəli keçirmək üçün son dərəcə əlverişli hesab edilən və səyahət boyunca əsrarəngiz təbiət ünsürlərinə əyani tamaşa etməyə imkan verən əsas istirahət destinasiyalarından biri kimi Avropa qitəsinin şimalına üstünlük verməkdədir. Uzun və qədim tarixi dövrlər ərzində demək olar ki, heç bir antropogen təsirlərə məruz qalmayan və toxunulmamış hesab olunan bu torpaqlar bir sıra müxtəlif turizm fəaliyyətlərinin təbiət qoynunda həyata keçirilməsində danılmaz rola malikdir.

Əlavə olaraq, onu da qeyd etmək lazımdır ki, Şimali Avropa regionunu beynəlxalq turizm səfərlərində aktiv iştirak edən turistlər üçün cazibəli edən digər amillərdən biri də regionun muzey, teatr və s. kimi çoxsaylı və unikal mədəniyyət nümunələri və komplekslərini özündə ehtiva etməklə özünəməxsus mədəni mühitə nail olmasıdır. Bir sözlə, beynəlxalq turizm şimalda özünün pik səviyyəsinə çatır.

Açar sözlər: *İsveç, Norveç, Finlandiya, Danimarka, İslandiya, beynəlxalq turizm*

Introduction

By considered as a sustainable and profitable industry sphere, tourism is called as the phenomenal event in the XXI century. As it is known to all members of the society, tourism has also main sorts as national and international tourism. In their own, each of them has its specific features and benefits that enable us to make differ them. If we have to express our ideas about the international tourism which is our current topic, then we are able to declare that the international tourism activity compiles one of the most significant parts in the tourism industry due to a various of reasons such as the degree of tourist attraction, the popularity level, even if gained revenues. Hence, millions of tourists all over the world take part in a great deal of touristic visits which vary noticeably from each other because of their purposes and characteristics, every year. Thereby, the countries' economies benefit it in a considerable amount.

Generally, international tourism is called as the sort of journeys which aim to leave the permanent habitation temporarily for visiting all around the world without being busy with any type of paid activities. Thus, by taking this notion as a basis we are able to announce that international tourism is being characterized over the world regions and it is referred to a series of nations. Among these regions, we can emphasize the Northern Europe, especially. This region is mainly consisted of 5 countries such as Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Iceland which are also named as Nordic countries. The listed countries vary from a number of advantageous qualities as social life, education system and even health system comparing to the rests. And, because of these aforementioned nuances, they express the essential meaning in the European tourism region. So, in our current topic, we are going to research these nations including their marvelous and specific tourism destinations altogether.

Research

As we said before, the Nordic countries include Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Iceland. They play a significant role in the European tourism region by having unparalleled effects in the tourism market due to their luxury and safe visit opportunities. These countries, especially, take the ones of the leader positions from the winter tourism aspect. Covering by snow as a smooth blanket, gives them a spectacular occasion to attract millions of tourists there and to take part in a various sorts of amusing and amazing touristic events every year (Kantarçı, 2023). Besides them, numerous natural and environmental elements are among the reasons that insist on tourists to actively participate in tourism activities planned to these ancient lands. As examples for it, we are able to illustrate several types of parks, forests, mountainous areas, rivers, seas together with their living assets. Existence of the extreme cold air condition and severe enough climate in the most periods of the year causes snow not to melt or melt in a long term. As a result of it, tourists from all inches of the Earth can get the brilliant chance to join in outstanding winter tourism activities from skiing to snowboarding (Dinç & Arıcı, 2023).

Without classifying these countries separately, we have to note that their touristic product segments addressed to the groups of tourists are nearly the same. So, each of them is based on the winter and nature tourism activities because of their geographically settled positions. In this regard, we should take Denmark as a bit exceptional case because of its positioning in the more southern part in the region comparing to other four. But, in general, all these countries have almost the same or similar tourism traditions. We can declare with a vigorously sure this fact is closely linked to the Viking times when all these nations were under the Swedish management and they were obeying to the powerful and mighty Swedish kings. So, it is brightly clear for every member of the society that, the roots of the initial international travels are attributed to the Vikings, who in the occupation

processes organized a number of trips to the whole world as a pedestrian or by utilizing horses (Walmsley et al., 2020).

International tourism in the Kingdom of Sweden

The Kingdom of Sweden or merely Sweden is a constitutional monarchy country, which is situated in the Scandinavian Peninsula in the Northern Europe. The national language is Swedish. Having over 10 million of population, Sweden has 450.295-km² land area and it is the third biggest country for its area in the EU. Forests dominate its landscape by covering almost 70 % of the land area and rivers and lakes arrange 9 % of the area. The geographical position of Sweden is also perfectly available because of being in neighborhood with peaceful countries as itself. So, Sweden is bordered on Norway in the west, Finland in the northern-east and Denmark in the south and southern-west via the Oresund Bridge. The country has been also surrounded by the Gulf of Bothnia and Baltic Sea in the east and by the Skagerrak, Baltic and Oresund straits in the southern-west. The country's northern-west is the mountainous area and the certain parts of the Scandinavian and Kjolen mountains are in this direction. Sweden can be proud of lakes as the Vanern and the Vattern which are its most enormous and tremendous ones. In addition, we are able to note that Sweden is the member of EU since 1995 (Məmmədov, Soltanova və Rəhimov, 2002).

Sweden has also ultimately progressed from the tourism aspect till the modern times. We can observe it by millions of tourists visiting this gorgeous land. Sweden has a number of cities and regions where attract a great deal of tourists in all seasons. It has 3 biggest cities including Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmo which catch eye and differ from others from the aspect of tourism, especially. Country's main tourism destination is the capital city of Stockholm where is situated on the 14 big and small islands. Having a sustainable amount of fantastic and unparalleled nights, Stockholm is also called as "Venice of the North". By situating on the Baltic seashore, Stockholm offers visitors from all around the world perfect sea scenery, fresh and clean air, and, even ferry journeys by observing its amazing nature surrounding the travelers. "Gamla Stan" which means "Old Town" is called as the heart of the city and it is not possible to imagine here without tourists. Fascinating colorful houses that have a mixture of unique and modern designs make travelers to fix their eyes on their mysterious charms. Furthermore, Sweden, especially Stockholm has countless cultural places where visitors can nitrite morally by looking through and experiencing a number of works and examples. Among them are Nobel museum, ABBA museum, Vasa museum and etc. At the same time, ones of the main touristic places in Stockholm are the Drottningholm palace where also king and his family live and "Bergianska Botansk" where houses various, huge groups of vegetation. By being the second largest city, Gothenburg is another touristic place in Sweden. Having extremely ancient historical roots, this city also plays a very important role to make a considerable amount of tourists visit the country every year. As the main touristic destination in Gothenburg, we can declare Liseberg amusement park where is also children's lovely place to have a rest. We should inform that there are many hotels around it where you can stay safe and comfortably. Besides it, Haga street must be emphasized especially, for its cozy paths to go for a walk in and unique cafes to sit in and drink (Deitch, 2022). Eventually, the third largest city in Sweden is Malmo. This pretty city can also be proud of its tourism destinations and the tourist attracting ability. As an example of this notion, we can highlight the "Turning Torso" masterpiece which is in the guise of turning skyscraper. "Lilla Torg" and "Malmöhus castle" are some of the city's touristic places. The first one is actively chosen for its high accessibility for tourists to stroll around it while the second one was once utilizing as the prison. In Malmo city, "Kungsparken" is one of the main touristic places where a majority of visitors are eager to travel. There is a windmill, a lake, etc. inside the park that can help you to enjoy nature deeply. The last but not the least part of the Malmo tourism is Oresund Bridge. Thus, via this bridge which relates Malmo and Copenhagen cities, millions of tourists can travel long distances. The fact makes the bridge extra-ordinary is that you can run the car on the bridge till halfway, and in the other half you are able to enter the tunnel enlightened by a great deal of bright lights. Although it costs just nearly 61 euro, this bridge lows the distance between Sweden and Denmark to 16 km and approximately 41 minutes. As strange as it may sound, not only Malmo's and Sweden's, but also the whole Nordic region's the biggest and

the strongest football club “Malmo FF” also contributes its unparalleled contributions for the city tourism. Hence, “Malmo FF” regularly wins the title in the local championship and struggles in the European football competitions almost every year. As being a logical consequence of it, here the club gets the occasions to encounter a number of rival clubs from a variety of nations. As a result of it, more and more foreign tourists visit the city and they cause the country’s economy to high up by actively taking part in a variety of touristic activities in the aforementioned places (Jensen, Kwiatkowski, & Oklevik, 2024). Moreover, Sweden has also a number of touristic places as Lapland, Kiruna, Dalarna, Vasterbotten and etc. that are situated in ones of the most northern parts of the country and they are especially very suitable for the winter tourism. Characterizing basically as the same, each of these regions vary from each others due to their popularity degrees. So that, Lapland and Kiruna regions are the most tourist attractive places due to their high winter tourism potentials. Here, it is possible to gaze on Husky dogs and to be a part of the enjoyable dog sledges’ walkings implemented on the cold and bright snow blanket. In addition to our main expressions about these far away places, we are able to declare that by more actively taking part in the tourism activities organized in these regions, humans can get the unbelievable chance to observe the mesmerizing and spiriting Northern lights’ dance in the sky over their heads. All these above-mentioned facts confirm again that Sweden is not only a just fairytale land with its comprehensively glorious beauties, but also the real heaven on the Earth for ones who really appreciate the life efficiently and live it in the most decent way (Müller & Viken, 2017).

International tourism in the Kingdom of Norway

The Kingdom of Norway or just Norway is also a constitutional monarchy country. As Sweden it is also situated in the Scandinavian Peninsula in the Northern Europe. Norway has 385 km² area together with its nearly 5.5 million of population. The official language of Norway is Norwegian. Norway has 3 borders that only direct to the east. These countries are Sweden, Finland and Russia. At the same time, it is bordered on the Barents sea in the north, the North sea and the Norwegian sea in the west. Its area is mainly consisted of mountains, glaciers and deep coastal fjords (Məmmədov, Soltanova və Rəhimov, 2002).

Norway is also regarded as one of the most touristic places in the world because of maintaining its own unique and historical area. The country has a number of cities and regions that take an active role in the process of the international tourism. These are the capital city of Oslo and others such as Bergen and Lofoten. Oslo is one of the safe tourist destinations with very high standards that amazes those who admire the magnificent views of nature. Here, you can visit a great deal of touristic places such as Akershus Fortress, Karl Johans street, Oslo cathedral and others. Each of them has its specific characteristics that make tourists to visit there and to enhance their knowledge about them within their valuable elements. Besides Oslo, Norway is well known for its Bergen city. So that, Bergen is located in western Norway, on the Atlantic coast (Hall, Müller, & Saarinen, 2008). Bruggen, a picturesque and historic part of Bergen, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is an incredible place to wander around and see how people lived in the past. Furthermore, in Norway you can visit the Lofoten islands where you can join in a variety of snow tourism activities from skiing to snowboarding together with observing the dancing Northern lights (Müller & Viken, 2017).

International tourism in the Republic of Finland

The Republic of Finland or just Finland is the country that is situated in the Scandinavian Peninsula in the Northern Europe. Finland houses 5.6 million people by including nearly 338.500 km² area. The official languages are Finnish and Swedish. However, the second one is mainly used in the most northern parts of the country. Finland is bordered on Sweden, Norway, Russia and Estonia. And, it is also surrounded by the Baltic sea and the Gulf of Bothnia. Finland area also is mainly consisted of forests as well as Sweden, and Scandinavian mountains end up here. This marvelous country is called as “the land of lakes” because of having over 180.000 of lakes.

Being one of the world’s most peaceful and educated nations, Finland has thrived from the aspect of tourism for ages, too. Hence, because of having many glorious, historical buildings which have been designed in the combination of old and modern styles, Finland can attract a lot of tourists

every year. Country's main tourism destination is its capital city of Helsinki. Here you can join in various sorts of cultural activities. Thus, Helsinki has several cultural centers hosting concerts, shows, film screenings, children's events, exhibitions and art classes. They offer many free programmes and do not require prior registration (Deitch, 2022). Moreover, Finland has other cities as Rovaniemi and Turku where you can visit and learn about indigenous people's living styles and conditions by exploring these touristic places. Rovaniemi is the capital of the Finnish Lapland. It is famous for being the official home town of Santa Claus. Here, you can visit the Arktikum museum and science center exploring the Arctic region and the history of Finnish Lapland. The city of Turku is a modern European city with great opportunities for your free time, whether you are attending events, doing sports or just strolling along the riverside. On the other side, Turku hosts the Turku cathedral that is interested by a group of tourists (Hall, Müller, & Saarinen, 2008).

International tourism in the Kingdom of Denmark

The Kingdom of Denmark or just Denmark is also a constitutional monarchy country. Denmark is the last; 4th country that is situated in the Scandinavian Peninsula and Jutland Peninsula in the Northern Europe. The official language is Danish. It has nearly 6 million population live in a 43.000 km² area all together with the Peninsula of Jutland and the Danish archipelago of 407 islands. At the same time, we should note that the Greenland also belongs to Denmark. The area type of the country is mostly flat. Denmark is bordered on Sweden to the east via the Oresund bridge while it is bordered on Germany via the Zealand island to the south.

Denmark is also well known for its tourism perspectives. So that, although it doesn't have a big enough area, Denmark implements numerous essential tourism plans over the capital Copenhagen. Being the biggest city of the country, Copenhagen is also one of the most tourist attract places in the world. Copenhagen, which means "trading port" in Danish, is the capital of Denmark and is located in the east of the country. The city, which hosts many events, stands out with its music festivals such as Copenhell Metal Music Festival, Distortion and Roskilde Festival held in different times (Mercan & Üzülmöz, 2020).

Above all, we can illustrate the second largest Danish city Aarhus that is mostly visited by tourists for music events, nowadays. Other touristic city Odense, also known as the sacred temple of Odin, one of the gods in Scandinavian mythology (Dinç & Arıcı, 2023).

International tourism in the Republic of Iceland

The Republic of Iceland or just Iceland is also an island state located in the northern part of the Atlantic Ocean. It consists of the island of Iceland and several smaller islands around it, with an area of 123,000 km² and the 327.000 population. The official language is Icelandic. Iceland is bordered on Greenland to the north, Sweden and Norway to the east, and Great Britain to the south. The closest landmass to Iceland is Greenland, a Danish territory, at a distance of 350 km. The distance to other countries is 1,050 km with Norway and 800 km with Scotland. By the way, the island on which Iceland is located is of volcanic origin (Jouanne, Freyr, & Townsend, 2022).

One of the main touristic places in Iceland is the capital Reykjavik. This is an area where people can observe giant whales. The whales are there all year round. You can also join other ocean tours to watch birds. The next and the last one is Aurora Borealis which enable tourists to observe the Northern lights. There are numerous hotels and hostels to stay in here (Muller & Viken, 2017).

Conclusion

In the article, all the Nordic countries' tourism potentials are touched on and very valuable data were shared. Firstly, it can be declared that, each Nordic country has nearly the similar tourism conditions and sorts due to their geographic positions. Then, it is possible to note the "culture" nuance directly effects on these nations' tourism industries.

As a result of the research, it has been clarified that even though, generally, all listed countries thrived perfectly from the tourism aspect, the tourism potential and tourism opportunities of Sweden are better than other Nordic ones.

References

1. Deitch, L. (2022). *Scandinavia's five capital cities: Copenhagen, Stockholm Oslo, Helsinki and Reykjavik*. Independently published.
2. Hall, C. M., Dr. Müller, D.K., & Prof. Saarinen, J. (2008). *Nordic Tourism: Issues and Cases*. Channel View Publications.
3. Jensen, C. D., Kwiatkowski, G., & Oklevik, O. (2024). *Nordic Coastal Tourism*. Book.
4. Jouanne, B., Freyr, G., & Townsend, Z. R. (Translator). (2022). *Stunning Iceland: The Hedonist's Guide*. HarperCollins.
5. Muller, K., & Dr. Viken, A. (2017). *Tourism and Indigeneity in the Arctic (Tourism and Cultural Change)*. Channel View Publications.
6. Walmsley, A., Åberg, K., Blinnikka, P., & Jóhannesson, G. T. (2020). *Tourism Employment in Nordic Countries*. Book.
7. Dinç, A., Arici, E. (2023). *Skandinaviya ölkələrində ekoturizm fəaliyyətləri* (Ecotourism activities in Scandinavian countries). Komik kitab mağazası.
8. Kantarcı, K. (2023). *Turizm coğrafiyası konsepsiyası və ölkələr*. Detal nəşri.
9. Məmmədov, C. A., Soltanova, H. B., Rəhimov, S. H. (2002). *Beynəlxalq turizmin coğrafiyası (Geography of international tourism)*. Mütərcim.
10. Mərcan, S. O., Üzülməz, Ü. M. (2020). *Beynəlxalq turizm*. Detal nəşri.

Received: 23.09.2024

Revised: 18.11.2024

Accepted: 29.12.2024

Published: 30.01.2025