

Special Issue

Rural Development and Sustainable Rural Tourism

Message from the Guest Editors

In recent decades, in numerous countries, rural tourism has grown from being a secondary commercial activity to establish itself as an independent sector. It is a growing activity, particularly in areas where agriculture is not especially competitive in economic terms. Rural tourism is largely a domestic phenomenon that is disparate in nature across countries and continents. This diversity explains why the current literature on rural tourism includes a significant number of case studies on countries and rural tourism attractions in different countries. We can identify two main lines of research in rural tourism: analysis of rural tourism as sustainable economic activity and its potential as a tool of development. The issue will consider contributions based on applied studies that expand the current knowledge on the relationship between sustainable tourism and rural development. Hence, appropriate papers for this issue should deal with case studies, macroanalysis, and even theoretical studies that are able to provide an overview of the existing literature.

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I encourage you to contribute a research or comprehensive review article for consideration for publication in *Sustainability*, an international Open Access journal which provides an advanced forum for research findings in areas related to sustainability and sustainable development. *Sustainability* publishes original research articles, review articles and communications. I am confident you will find the journal contributes to enhancing understanding of sustainability and fostering initiatives and applications of sustainability-based measures and activities.

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