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Dark Tourism, Exhibit Brochure

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About the Library



The Universal Orlando Foundation Library is located at 9907 Universal Blvd., near International Drive and the heart of Orlando's tourism area. For more info, visit the library's website at <http://library.ucf.edu/rosen> or call 407-903-8100.

Sources

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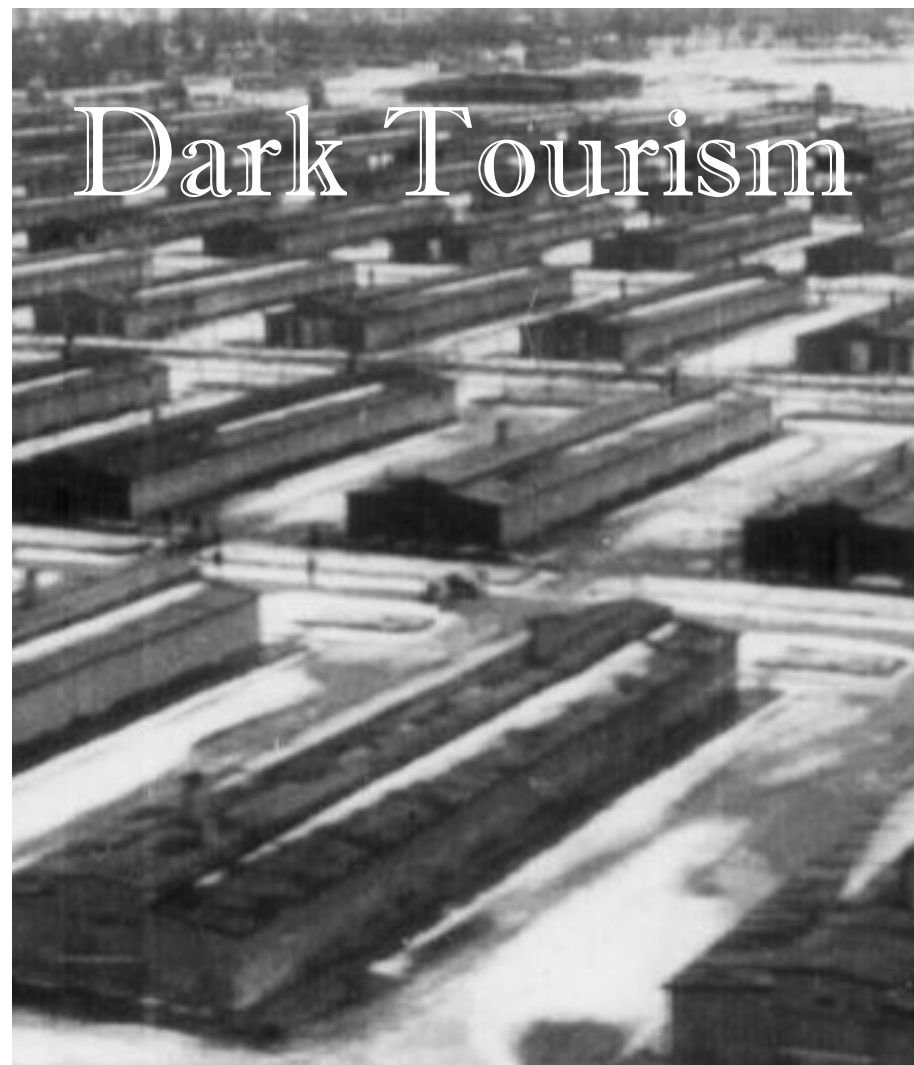
Exhibit Design

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What is Dark Tourism?

“Dark tourism is the act of travel and visitation to sites, attractions and exhibitions that have real or recreated death, suffering or the seemingly macabre as a main theme” (Stone 2014). John Lennon and Malcolm Foley elaborate the term as “the tourist and industry relating to death, disaster, and atrocity, a kind of secular pilgrimage for the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries” (Skinner 2012).

Who is the “dark tourist”?

“There’s no such thing as a dark tourist, only people interested in the world around them,” says Philip Stone of the Dark Tourism Institute. “You and I are probably dark tourists when we visit Ground Zero. We’re not dark tourists—we’re just interested in what happens in our lives” (Kamin 2014).

What makes a “dark tour”?

There are three characteristics of the dark tour. The first is the global communication technologies that help create interest in the location. The second is that the location introduces doubts or anxieties about modernity. Finally, there is an element of “education and commerce associated with the destination” (Skinner 2012).

Where does dark tourism occur?

“Examples of dark tourism include, but are not limited to, visits to World War One battlefield sites in France or Belgium, Elimina slavery fort in Ghana, Melbourne Gaol in Australia, Père Lachaise cemetery in Paris, a Body Worlds exhibition in London or Berlin, Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland, or Ground Zero in New York” (Stone 2014).

Response of the Tourism Industry

Entrepreneurs within the tourism industry have capitalized on the morbid curiosity and voyeurism that is ultimately part of the human condition. Companies with names such as *War Zone Tours*, *Wild Frontiers*, *Untamed Borders*, and *Political Tours*, exist to bring tourists into historically violent or tumultuous areas with the intent of creating culturally authentic, original, off the beaten path experiences. Tours provided by such companies, which typically cost participants around a few thousand dollars, have created a \$263 billion dollar industry. Many strive to give tourists a glimpse into the history, culture and life ways of the populations they engage with and support the local economies whenever possible.

WarZoneTours.com Location Examples

Beirut

“If your idea of a good time is driving through a Hezbollah rally, then going to get some sushi, Beirut is definitely the edgy Mediterranean destination for you. Destroyed buildings from car bomb assassinations still line the beautiful coastline, sitting adjacent to fine hotels and great restaurants. The city is divided by it’s controlling groups, yet all come together in the flourishing nightlife. Political parties labeled as terror groups by western countries are active and very visible, having regular rallies and protests in this small Mediterranean nation. Intrigue, suspense and dangerous beauty are the hallmarks of a Beirut tour”.

Iraq

“This is one of our most popular Middle Eastern destinations. A beautiful but potentially dangerous place, WZT guides have been frequenting the Iraq region since 2003. Iraq has it all. From visiting the site of one of the largest car-bomb explosions in history, to walking the streets of one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, dating to 6000 BC. After safely negotiating winding mountain roads through mined areas, stopping only at local fruit stands on the way to the Iranian border, we may stop to have dinner with a local village chief in a remote area not accustomed to outsiders. Your visit to Iraq will be a dynamic and extremely rewarding one.”