



## Newsletter of the International Association for Tourism Economics

Vol. 2, No 2, 4 February 2019

### Welcome to 2019!

The year 2019 is an exciting year for IATE, since it sees the hosting of our Association's biannual conference. This year would mark the 7<sup>th</sup> IATE Conference and for those who have attended all the previous conferences, this one promises to be just as great! Meeting old friends and new ones, exchanging ideas and starting collaborations are just some of the advantages of attending the IATE Conference. It is also the first time that the conference will be held on South American soil, and therefore it promises to be quite special.

We therefore start this newsletter with a reminder of the upcoming IATE Conference as well as the deadlines. We look forward to seeing all of you in Argentina in September!

### The Editors

### 2019 IATE Conference

The call for papers for the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Association for Tourism Economics, which will be held in La Plata, Argentina, from 3-6 September 2019, was distributed.

The key dates to remember are:

- **Abstract submission: 15 February 2019**
- Acceptance notification: 15 March 2019
- Full paper submission: 10 May 2019
- Conference dates: 3-6 September 2019

A PhD workshop will be organised for Tuesday 3 September 2019.

Outstanding papers will be considered for publication in a Special Focus in Tourism Economics, published by SAGE.

For more information, visit the IATE website:

<http://www.tourism-economics.net/>

as well as the conference website:

<https://iateconferencelaplata.wordpress.com/>.

### News from the Journal, Tourism Economics

**Special issues** – We are happy to announce the launch of two new special issues:

***"The Economics of Cultural Tourism: New Topics and Methods"***, edited by Enrico Bertacchini and Chiara Dalle Nogare. Deadline for abstract submission is 15 April 2019. The call for papers can be found at:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/pb-assets/THE%20ECONOMICS%20OF%20CULTURAL%20TOURISM%20NEW%20TOPICS%20AND%20METHODS%20%28002%29.pdf>

***"The Economics of Revenue Management in Hospitality and Tourism"***, edited by Stanislav Ivanov. Deadline for abstract submission is 15 April 2019. The call for papers can be found at:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/pb-assets/Specialissue-Revenue%20Management.pdf>.

**Thea Sinclair Award for Journal Excellence** – We are pleased to announce that the winner of the Thea Sinclair Award for Journal Article Excellence 2018, for papers published in 2017 is: ‘Tourism’s Potential to Benefit the Poor: A Social Accounting Matrix Model Applied to Ecuador’, written by Robertico Croes and Manuel A. Rivera (Volume 23, No 1, February 2017, pp. 29-48).

### **December 2018 and January 2019 issues**

The December 2018 and January 2019 issues of Tourism Economics discuss very timely and interesting research topics. In particular, the December 2018 issue includes the Special Issue on “Advances in tourism economics: The sixth IATE (International Association for Tourism Economics) Conference”.

Some of these topics include:

- International tourism and cultural proximity
- Tourism specialization and structural change
- Offshoring as a competitive strategy
- Job satisfaction among tourism workers
- Drivers of innovation in tourism
- Income elasticity of overnight stays
- Variable pricing and change in alpine skiing attendance
- Convergence hypothesis in tourism markets
- Endogeneity and temporal dependence between tourism variables and macroeconomic variables
- International tourism, trade and output
- The economic impact of political conflict on tourism
- Uncertainty and stock returns of travel and leisure companies
- A web-based regional TSA
- The economic growth impact of tourism in small islands

- A bibliometric literature review on tourism and its economic impact
- Demand, airline seats and trade triangle

As usual, we would like to thank all contributors, in particular the IATE members, and we look forward to receiving your future submissions!

**Albert Assaf and Raffaele Scuderi**

## **Global hospitality industry overview**

The hotel performance reports for 2018 are currently available from STR. In this newsletter, interesting developments during 2018 in four regions of the world are shared with the IATE community.

### **Asia-Pacific**

The following regional statistics summarise this region’s hotel activity during 2018:

- Occupancy growth: +0.2% to 70.6%
- Average daily rate (ADR) growth: +1.0% to US\$106.99
- Revenue per available room (RevPAR) growth: +1.2% to US\$75.53

The big winners in the region include: Singapore, which saw its highest occupancy levels since 2012; Thailand, which saw strong growth in Bangkok, but also other regions, although uncertainties towards the end of the year hampered growth, especially from Mainland China; Vietnam, with Ho Chi Minh City experiencing good growth in hotel room supply together with increased ADR and RevPAR.

### **Central/South America**

For the continent in total, the following performance indicators for 2018 indicate a strong growing trend:

- Occupancy: +1.9% to 57.4%

- Average daily rate (ADR): +21.8% to US\$118.89
- Revenue per available room (RevPAR): +24.1% to US\$68.25

Buenos Aires experienced significant growth that may be attributed to a large number of events that the city hosted, including the WTTC Global Summit and the Youth Olympics. Contrary to Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro saw almost no growth in real terms due to the economic crisis and security concerns in the country.

## Europe

European hotel performance shows moderate growth over 2018:

- Occupancy: +1.2% to 72.4%
- Average daily rate (ADR): +3.9% to EUR112.49
- Revenue per available room (RevPAR): +5.2% to EUR81.43

Two of the biggest ‘winners’ in Europe are Dublin (Ireland) and Brussels (Belgium). Dublin boasted the highest occupancy rates that STR has recorded for the city and this is not surprising after eight years of constant growth. Similar to Buenos Aires, Dublin’s strong performance in 2018 was driven by a large number of events hosted by the city, including the Six Nations Rugby Championship and a number of large concerts. Brussels also recorded its highest occupancy levels in the STR database due to an increase in inbound tourism (9 million tourists to Belgium).

## Middle East and Africa

For 2018, hotels in the Middle East experienced a decline in performance, while Africa is continuing its growing trend, as the following numbers indicate:

### Middle East

- Occupancy: -0.5% to 64.6%
- Average daily rate (ADR): -5.2% to US\$155.45

- Revenue per available room (RevPAR): -5.7% to US\$100.45

### Africa

- Occupancy: +4.7% to 60.6%
- Average daily rate (ADR): +7.1% to US\$118.31
- Revenue per available room (RevPAR): +12.1% to US\$71.74

Northern Africa posted the largest 2018 increases in each of the three key performance metrics. Within Northern Africa, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia each recorded double-digit RevPAR growth for the year. It is also noteworthy that Cairo and Giza posted their respective highest occupancy rates since 2008 amid tourist recovery.

For more information, contact the STR SHARE Center, [sharecenter@str.com](mailto:sharecenter@str.com).

**Steve Hood (STR)**

## Upcoming events and special editions

### Europe:

#### **10<sup>th</sup> Workshop “Tourism: Economics and Management. Tourists as Consumers, Visitors and Travelers”**

In honour of Lionello F Punzo

Siena (Italia), 30 May to 1 June 2019

The workshop aims to provide a platform for experienced scholars in tourism and allied fields. This year, the four main topics (but without excluding topics related to), and their corresponding workshop sessions, will be:

- i) Tourism Modelling
- ii) Tourism Macroeconomics
- iii) Tourism Policy on Transportation

- iv) Tourism Consumer Behaviour
- v) Host-Guest Interaction & Relationship in Tourism

The purpose of the workshop is to build a network between young scholars and experts contributing to the research agenda from tourism and transport economics' points of view. Most welcome are contributions from scholars in social sciences – particularly Economics, as well as practitioners concerned with spatial modelling, tourism economic behaviour (transportation and travelling in tourism) and perspectives into tools and frameworks for tourism.

**Deadline for abstract submission: 15 April**

Please send:

- an abstract of max 350 words as a Word document
- a short bio followed by a brief statement of current research interests (max 250 words) as a Word document

to Juan Gabriel Brida (elbrida@gmail.com) by 15 April 2019.

**Late applications will not be considered.**

For accepted papers: All applicants will be notified about the selection (by no later than **25 April**). Authors are required to

send the full paper or an extended abstract of approx. 2 000 words to Gabriel Brida (elbrida@gmail.com) by 15 May.

**Publication opportunities:** A Special Focus of the journal Tourism Economics on five selected papers from the workshop will be organised.

For more information, visit:

<https://tourismeconomicsandmanagement.wordpress.com/>

**South America:**

The same research group is also organising another Workshop – the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Workshop will take place at the city of Colonia del Sacramento (Uruguay) during the period 9-10 September 2019.

The workshop will be hosted by the University of the Republic (Uruguay) immediately after the 2019 IATE Conference.

More information will be provided at the website:

<https://tourismeconomicsandmanagement.wordpress.com/>

---

## A note from the editors

Thank you to all our contributors! We call on all of you to keep sending news, updates, research projects, conference and other calls to include in the newsletter. These can be sent to Andrea Saayman ([andrea.saayman@nwu.ac.za](mailto:andrea.saayman@nwu.ac.za)) and/or Mondher Sahli ([Mondher.Sahli@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Mondher.Sahli@vuw.ac.nz)).