

Special Issue

Sustainable Geotourism: Economic and Environmental Benefits for Rural Development

Message from the Guest Editor

Key trends are reshaping tourism: experiential travel, sustainability, wellness, bleisure, digital nomadism, and tech integration. Geotourism, particularly in rural areas, offers economic and environmental benefits by promoting geological heritage, attracting tourists, creating jobs, and supporting local businesses. However, it also faces criticism for contributing to overtourism, environmental degradation, and commercialization. Sustainable geotourism fosters conservation, public awareness, and cultural understanding. Community involvement, as seen in UNESCO Global Geoparks, enhances visitor experiences and preserves heritage. When combined with regenerative tourism—focused on restoration and stewardship—it amplifies benefits through rewilding, eco-technologies, and resilience building. This Special Issue explores how geotourism can support rural economies, cultural diversity, and climate adaptation, while addressing challenges like environmental impact, AI applications, circular economy, and digital transformation.

Guest Editor

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