

Heritage, Tourism and Interpretation: Proposing New Approaches on Malta



This research proposes a model which sets specific indicators and reviews the final heritage product to be presented to the public from an academic, educational and touristic point of view. My approach sees heritage interpretation and presentation as a chain made up of these three links – if one link weakens, the chain breaks. This research project employs a mixed-method approach to gather the necessary data and uses Malta’s late Roman and Byzantine funerary site (catacombs) as a case study to implement this review model



Tourism

Tourism is an important source of income for a sustainable heritage. This is also a good opportunity for a particular community to showcase its ancient roots. Are heritage specialists keeping an eye on the quality of information being provided? Are tourists being adequately informed? And how?

Academia

Research is the only field that allows Heritage Managers and site Curators to present and provide adequate interpretation to the general public. Are researchers feeding enough information to the heritage stakeholders? To what extent is academia contributing to the continuous update of the archaeological context?

School children are often taken to cultural visits to obtain first-hand experiences of heritage sites discussed in class as part of the curriculum. Are these visits and similar education activities being organised in a way to compliment class teaching? Can teachers work in tandem with curators to offer better understanding of heritage?

Education

Sneak peek of the results obtained

Overall information about sites is correct - TRUE
 Site Officers given adequate training - FALSE
 Synergy between teachers and Curators - FALSE
 Adequate information for school children - FALSE



Sneak peek of the results obtained

Univ. students less likely to study the subject - TRUE
 Artefacts easily accessible for study - FALSE
 Catacomb research methods improved - TRUE
 Visitors’ experience depends on modern tech. - FALSE