

**Міністерство освіти і науки України**

**Національний університет харчових технологій**

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КОНФЕРЕНЦІЯ  
МОЛОДИХ УЧЕНИХ,  
АСПІРАНТІВ І СТУДЕНТІВ**

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## 23. Literary tourism

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**Introduction.** Literary tourism is a type of cultural tourism that deals with places and events from fictional texts as well as the lives of their authors. This could include following the route taken by a fictional character, visiting particular place associated with a novel or a novelist, or visiting a poet's grave. Some scholars regard literary tourism as a contemporary type of secular pilgrimage. There are also long-distance walking routes associated with writers.

Literary tourists are specifically interested in how places have influenced writing and at the same time how writing has created place. In order to become a literary tourist you need only book-love and an inquisitive mindset; however, there are literary guides, literary maps, and literary tours to help you on your way. There are also many museums associated with writers, and these are usually housed in buildings associated with a writer's birth or literary career.

The idea of literary pilgrims has existed for some time. It engenders the image of the dedicated scholar prepared to travel long distances to experience places linked with writers of prose, drama, or poetry. The growth of heritage tourism has required the re-appraisal of this representation of the literary pilgrim. There are now many more literary places attracting a greater diversity of tourist types. Literary places are no longer accidents of history, sites of a writer's birth or death; they are also social constructions, created, and promoted to attract visitors (tourists hereafter). There are still literary pilgrims but those who visit such places out of curiosity and general interest rather than a single-minded sense of dedication outnumber them. That these latter types may gain pleasure, enjoyment, and perhaps enrichment is not contested, but the experience will be different in kind from that of the literary pilgrim.

People visit literary places for a variety of reasons. First, they are drawn to places that have connections with the lives of writers. Former homes, in which a writer lived and worked, may create a sense of nostalgia and inspire awe.

Second, tourists may be drawn to literary places that form the settings for novels. Fiction may be set in locations that writers knew and there is a merging of the real and the imagined that gives such places a special meaning. Fictional characters and events often generate the strongest imagination.

Third, tourists may be drawn to literary places for some broader and deeper emotion than the specific writer or the story. Many tourists were evoking memories and emotions from their childhood: their recall was of the telling of the stories and their bonds with home and family.

The fourth reason may be less concerned with the literature than with some dramatic event in the writer's life.

An interest in traveling to places associated with poets and novelists grew in the 19th century, when according to historical accounts, curious travelers began visiting the homes, graves and favorite haunts of famous writers. Travelers also visited the sites and cities described in famous poems and novels. During this time, Stratford, England was memorialized for Shakespeare, while Abbotsford, England, was venerated for Sir Walter Scott. The Bronte sisters were remembered for their home at Haworth, England.

Also to cater to the tastes of this specialized group of travelers, many cities have taken advantage of this phenomenon by creating walking and cycling tours of famous writers' homes, the places where they wrote, and taverns they may have visited.

For example, London, England, has tours that honor Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Homes. One tour includes a house dedicated to fictional characters from the novel. In Ireland, a Dublin Literary Pub Crawl invites tourists to walk in the shoes of writers like

James Joyce, Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw and W.B. Yeats. The walking tour is guided by actors, and guests are invited to participate in a literary quiz with prizes.

There is a list of some new directions and unusual literary tours. For example “Dickens World” for fans of Charles Dickens, bleakness, poverty, strategically placed stench, rickets; “Hunger Games Adventure Weekend” for fans of The Hunger Games, zip-lining, archery, dystopia, bloodsport; “Hobbit-Themed Flight and Hotel” for fans of Lord Of The Rings, J.R.R. Tolkien, New Zealand, midget fetishism, uncomfortably tiny surroundings; “Sleep No More At The McKittrick Hotel” for fans of Macbeth, Shakespeare, theater, bathtubs full of blood, waking dreams, taxidermy, voyeurism, witch orgies and other.

**Conclusions.** Crossing the boundaries between literature and cultural studies, literary tourism invites readers to make fictional experiences come alive. Literary tourism enables travelers to immerse themselves in the local culture, while increasing their knowledge about authors and literature.

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