

Visiting Chignik

Opportunities, lessons learned, potential impacts
Chignik Science Symposium 2025

Marty Anderies, Andrey Petrov, Victoria Sharakhmatova,
Tobias Schwoerer, Tatiana Degai



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Thoughts on tourism from around the world

Marty Anderies, University of Arizona

June 26, 2025

Chignik Watershed Symposium



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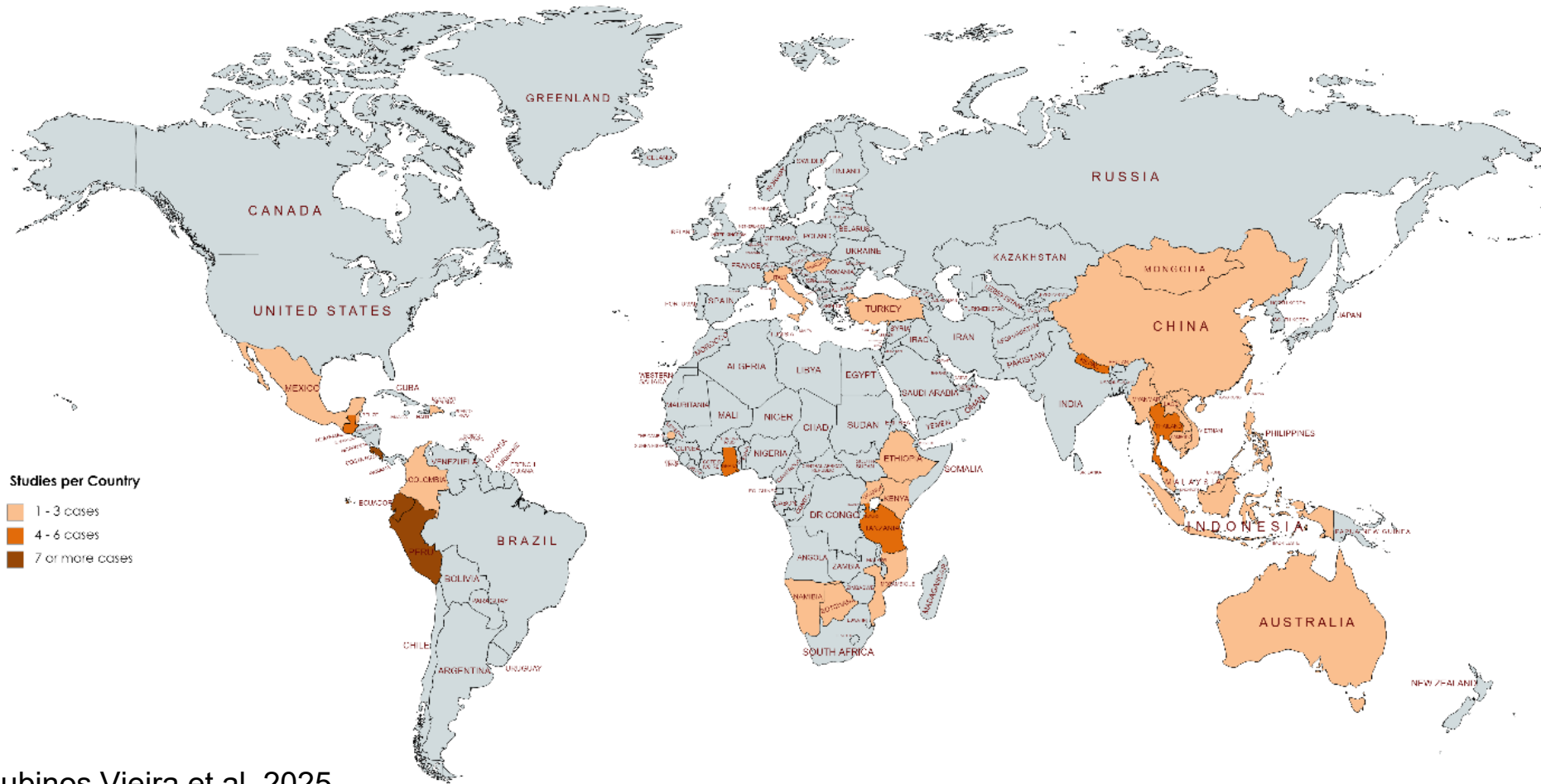
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Community and governance aspects of tourism; Lessons learned from 90 studies



Rubinos Vieira et al. 2025

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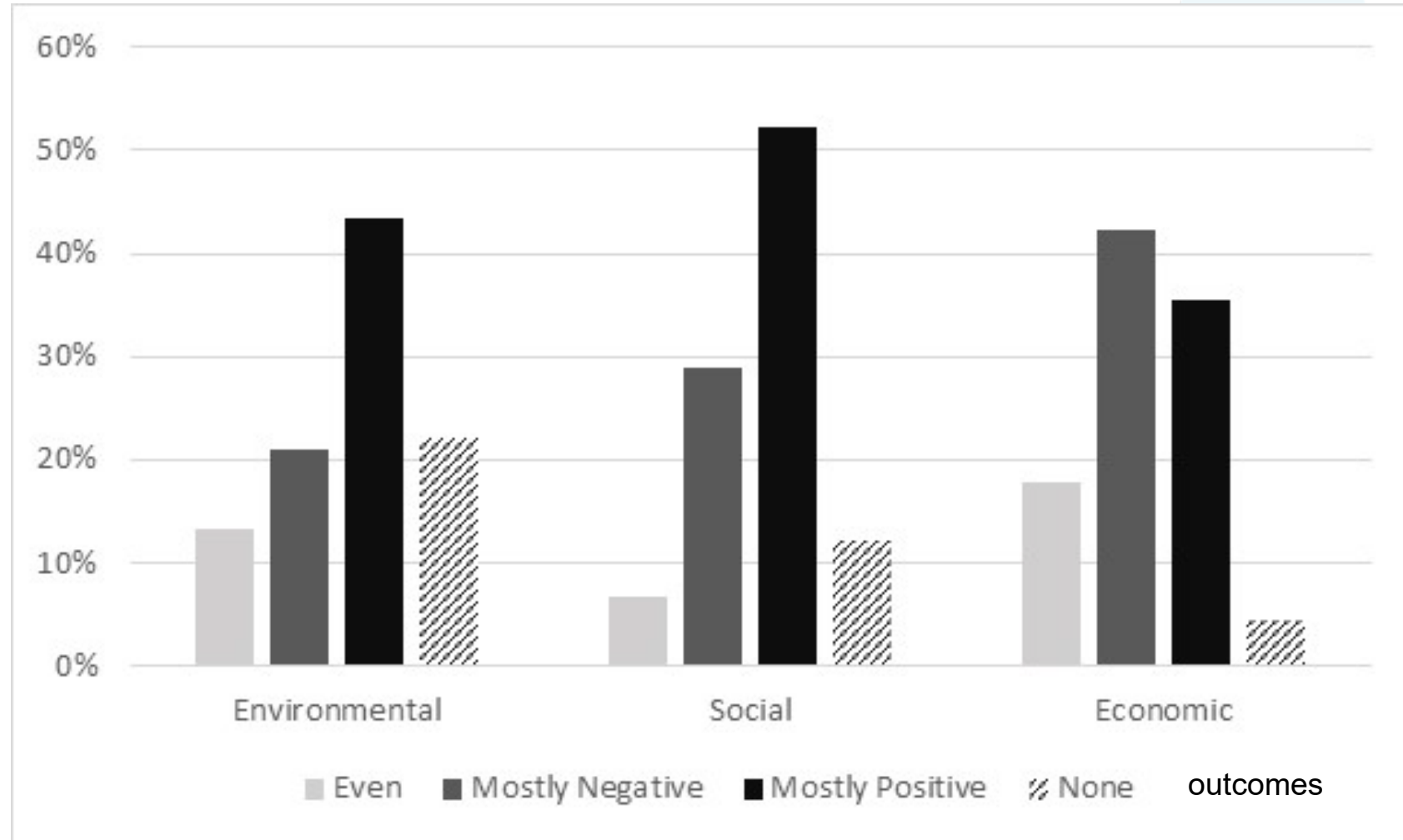
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Governance: Outcomes across indicators



Rubinos Vieira et al. 2025



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Governance: Outcomes change over time

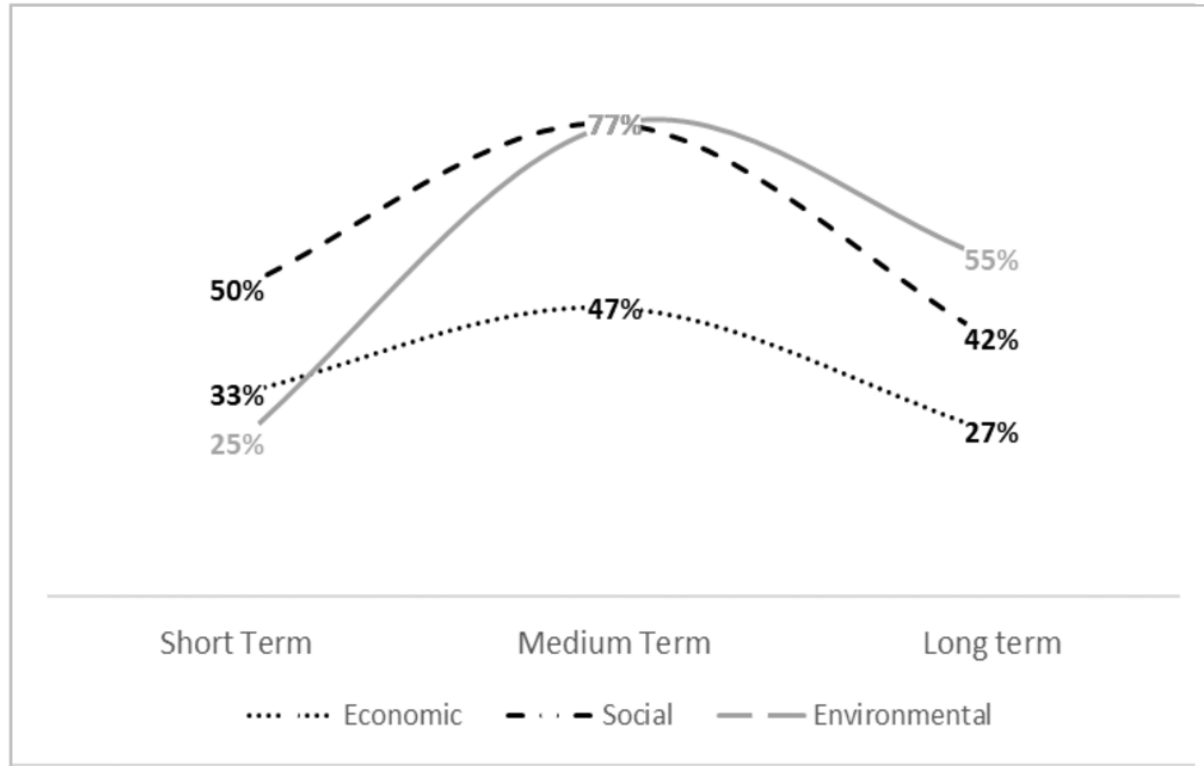


Figure 8.a Development Stages. Mostly Positive Cases

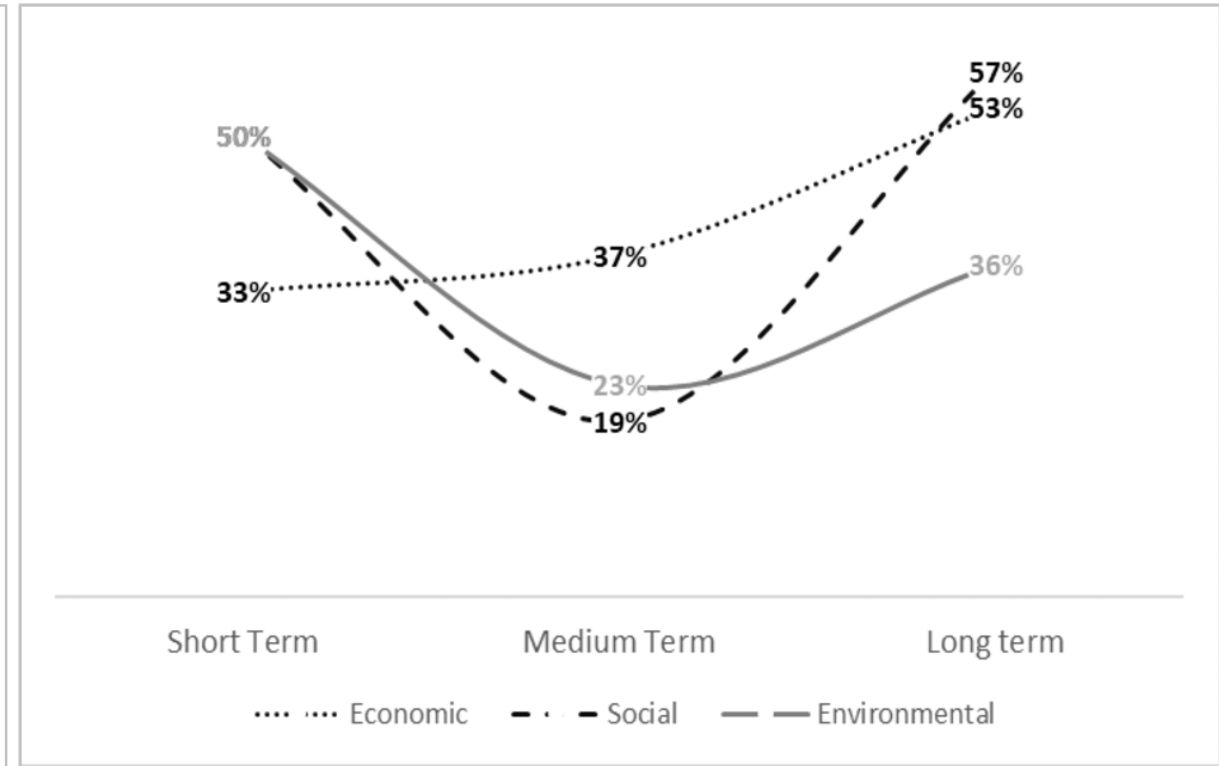
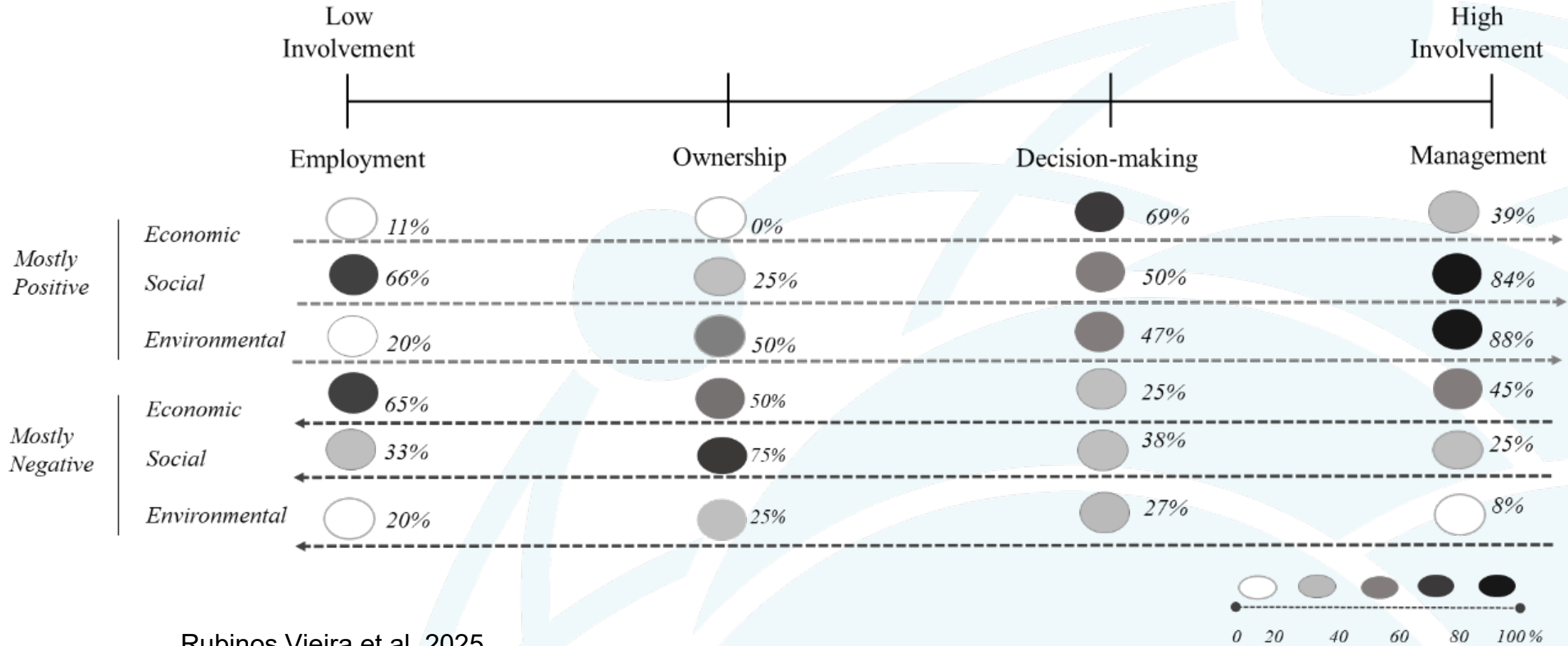


Figure 8.b Development Stages. Mostly Negative Cases

Rubinos Vieira et al. 2025



Governance: Community involvement impacts outcomes



FROM TOURISM TO HOSTING: BUILDING NEW VISITING ECONOMIES IN THE ARCTIC

Andrey Petrov, University of Northern Iowa

June 26, 2025

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ARCTIC TOURISM

Figure 9.1. Number of guest nights and change in the Arctic. 2018-2023¹

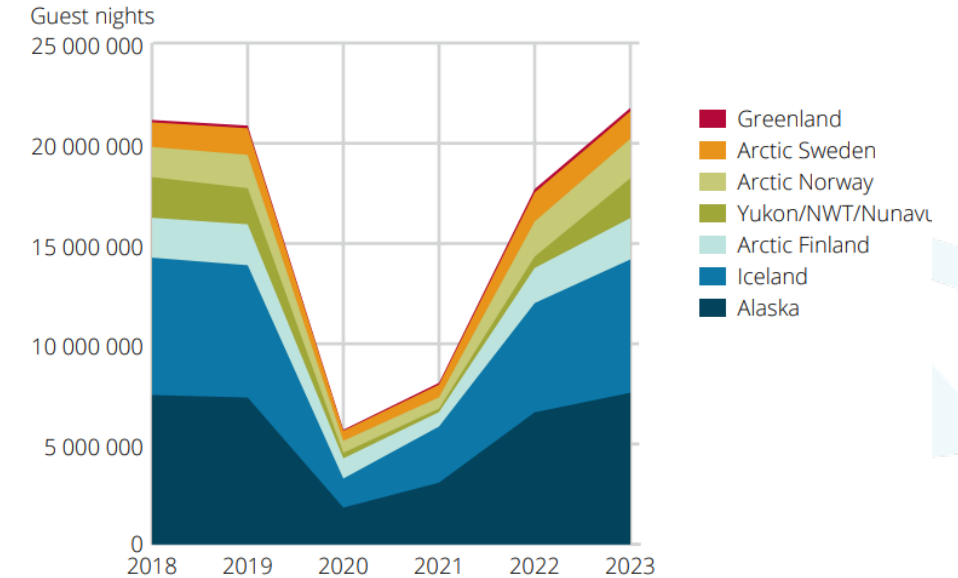


Figure 1. Most photographed locations in the Arctic, 2019-2023



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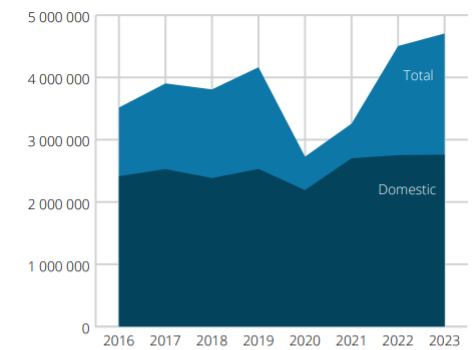
ECONOR 2025

Arctic Tourism

- High seasonality
- Dependency on air and ships
- Foreign tourism
- Near-recovery post-COVID

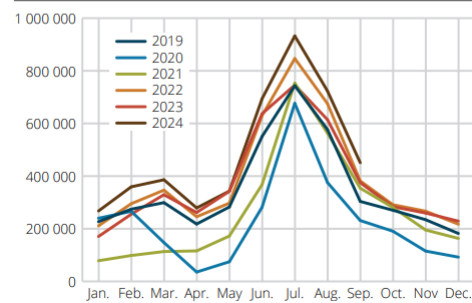
NORWAY

Figure 9.3. Domestic and foreign overnight stays in Arctic Norway. 2016-2023



Source: Statistics Norway, Table 14162

Figure 9.4. Seasonality in overnight stays in Arctic Norway, 2019-2024



Source: Statistics Norway, Table 14162

ICELAND

Figure 9.15. Number of passengers by air and cruise ship to Greenland. 2016-2023

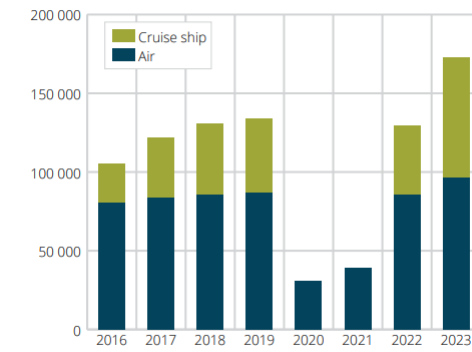
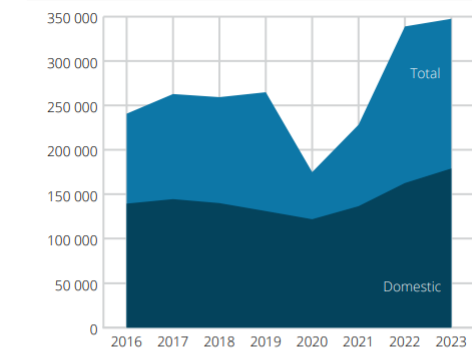
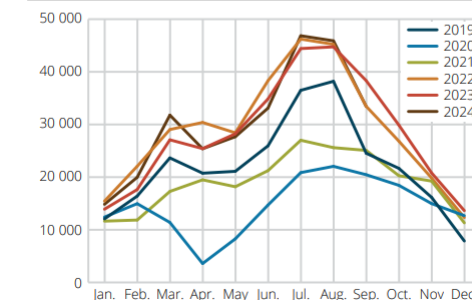


Figure 9.17. Domestic and foreign overnight stays in Greenland. 2016-2023



Source: Statistics Greenland, Table TUXHOT

Figure 9.18. Seasonality in overnight stays in Greenland, 2019-2024



Source: Statistics Greenland, Table TUXHOT

GREENLAND

Figure 9.11. Number of passengers by air and cruise ship to Iceland. 2016-2023

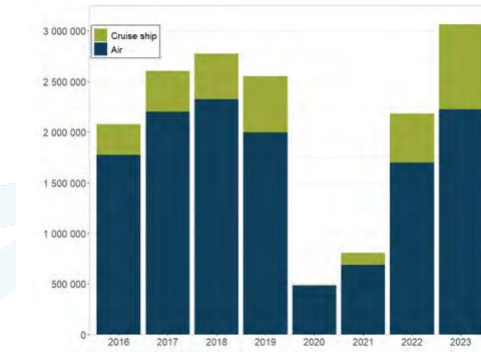
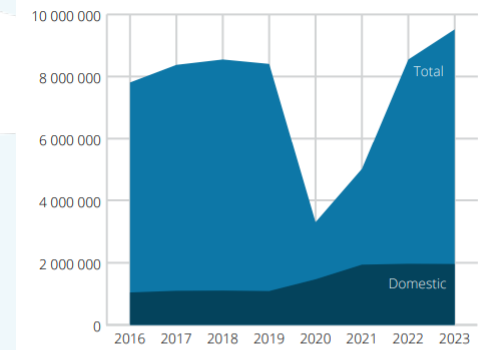
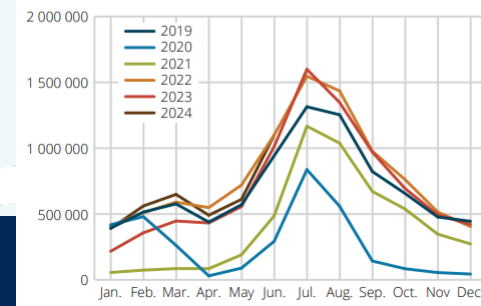


Figure 9.13. Domestic and foreign overnight stays in Iceland. 2016-2023



Source: Statistics Iceland, Table SAM01601

Figure 9.14. Seasonality in overnight stays in Iceland, 2019-2024



Source: Statistics Iceland, Table SAM01601

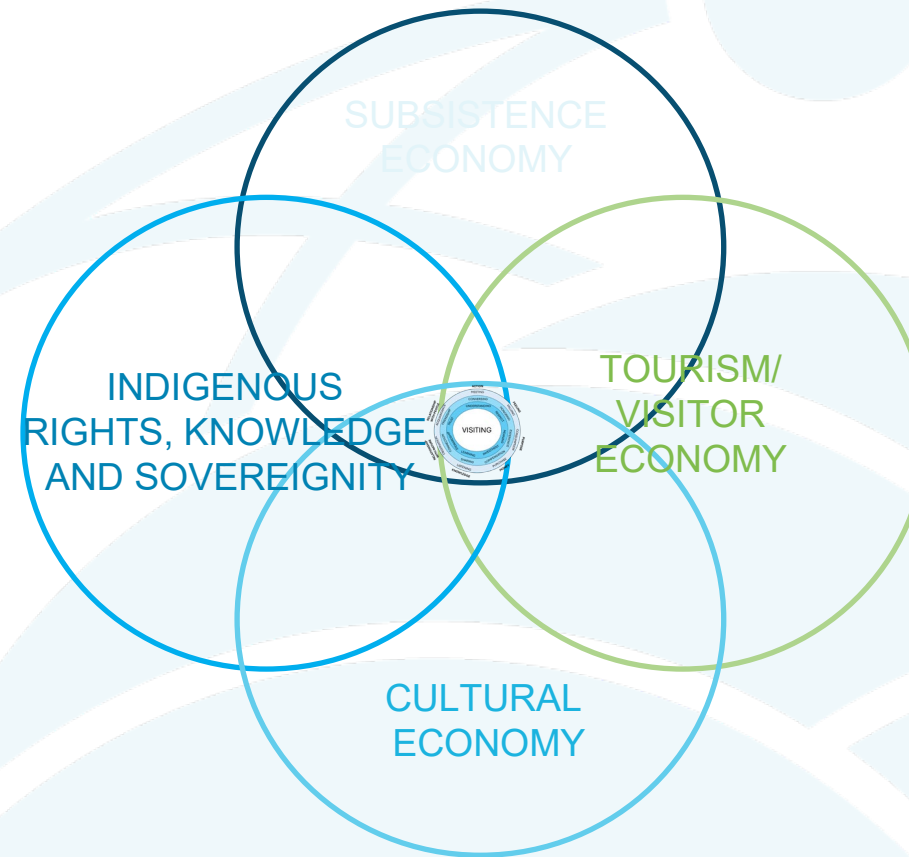
Tourism issues in Sápmi

- 100K Saami
- 500K tourists per year
- 500 million NOK
- **ISSUES:**
 - Dominance of national and international companies, revenue leakage and loss of local authority
 - No good data on tourism operators
 - Policies are not tailored to Sápmi, no Saami tourism authority
 - Tourism is a modernizing and culturally standardizing force, may lead to 'cultural adaptation', commodification
 - Tourism may reinforce cultural stereotypes, conceal historical truth, impede decolonization



FROM TOURISM TO VISITING

- Indigenous community-led, owned and operated
- Concept of “visiting” – purposeful and informed engagement when personal connections are formed with humans and nature, stories exchanged and reciprocal care for well-being is exercised
- Based on 4 Rs: Reciprocity, Responsibility, Relationality, and Respect
- Mutually beneficial
- Require visitors’ preparation
- May include immersive experiences



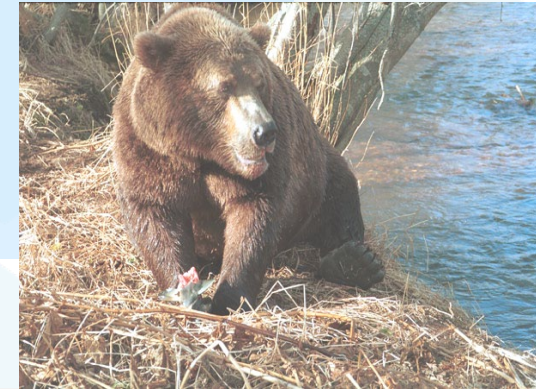
FROM TOURISM TO VISITING





Experience Kamchatka's ethno-eco tourism

Victoria N. Sharakhmatova
ARCTICenter
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA



Development Opportunity

Exploring the traditional Indigenous outdoor/nature adventure:

- Traditional canoe
- Kayaking
- Hiking
- Walking on ancient indigenous trail
- Seeing and watching wildlife
- Fishing
- Hunting

Experience local culture through:

- Visiting historical sites
- Interacting with local people
- Participating in indoor activities such as cultural experience, souvenirs, celebration, festivals, attractions
- Observing Indigenous Art Galleries and craft making



Nature observation with Indigenous guides to enjoy:

- the natural scenery – rivers, lakes, waterfalls, glaciers, trees, beaches, mountains
- to visit protected areas, including nature reserves, regional and national parks
- explore new places

Receiving an educational experience:

- learn about traditional use of land by Indigenous people
- hear Indigenous legends and become acquainted with the local folklore

Experiencing Indigenous food services:

- traditional and modern cuisine prepared by Indigenous people
- Indigenous deli with traditional smoked fish, meats, preserves and traditional teas
- Smoke houses
- Feast houses

Understanding the spiritual beliefs :

- watching and participating in ceremonial dances
- hearing Indigenous songs and storytelling
- learning of the traditional medicine practices

Intangible Cultural Heritage of Indigenous Peoples

Itelmen holiday “Alkhalalalai”



Credit:
https://www.kamcnt.ru/heritage/elektronnyy_katalog_obektov_nematchanogo_kuramogo_nasl ediya_kamchatskogo_kraya/761/

Intangible Cultural Heritage of Indigenous Peoples

Ritual Even Festival “*Evidek*” (Meeting the New Sun and the New Year)



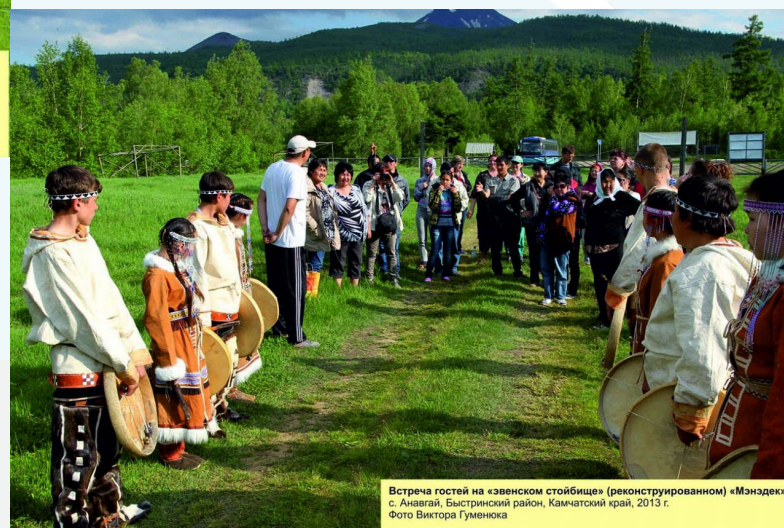
Обряд «Очищения» на эвенском традиционном празднике «Встреча Нового Солнца и Нового Года» - «Эвидек». с. Анавай, Быстринский район, Камчатский край, 2013 г. Фото Виктора Гуменюка



«Кын'гылн'ы» эвенский круговой танец на эвенском традиционном празднике «Встреча Нового Солнца и Нового Года» - «Эвидек». с. Анавай, Быстринский район, Камчатский край 2013 г. Фото Натальи Голевой



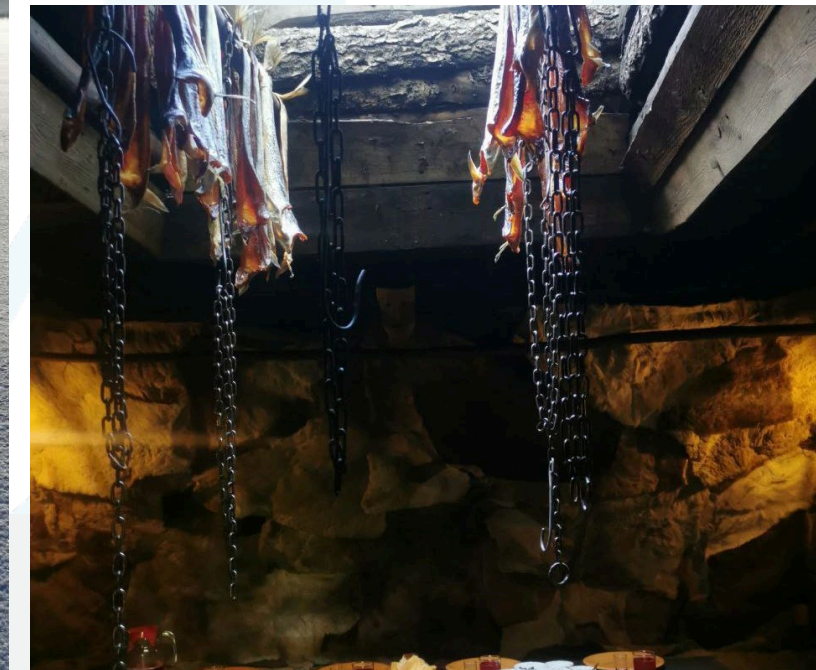
Обряд «Очищения» на эвенском традиционном празднике «Встреча Нового Солнца и Нового Года» - «Эвидек». с. Анавай, Быстринский район, Камчатский край, 2013 г. Фото Виктора Гуменюка



Встреча гостей на эвенском стойбище (реконструированном) «Изнадек». с. Анавай, Быстринский район, Камчатский край, 2013 г. Фото Виктора Гуменюка

https://www.kamcnt.ru/heritage/elektronnyy_katalog_obektov_nematerialnogo_kulturnogo_naslediya_kamchatskogo_kraya/764/

Eivet Koryak Nomad Camp





Alaska Visitation Trends

Tobias Schwoerer, University of Alaska Fairbanks

June 26, 2025

Chignik Watershed Symposium



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Alaska Visitation: long term trends

Figure 1. Visitor Volume to Alaska, Summers 2006-2024

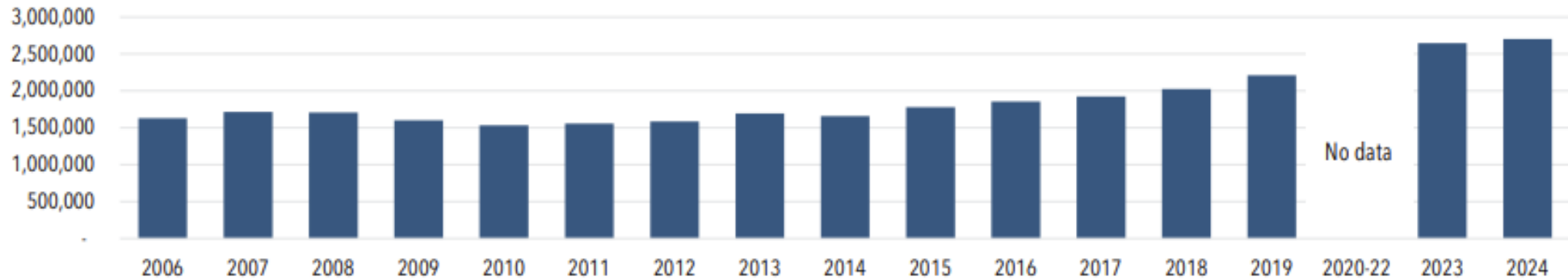
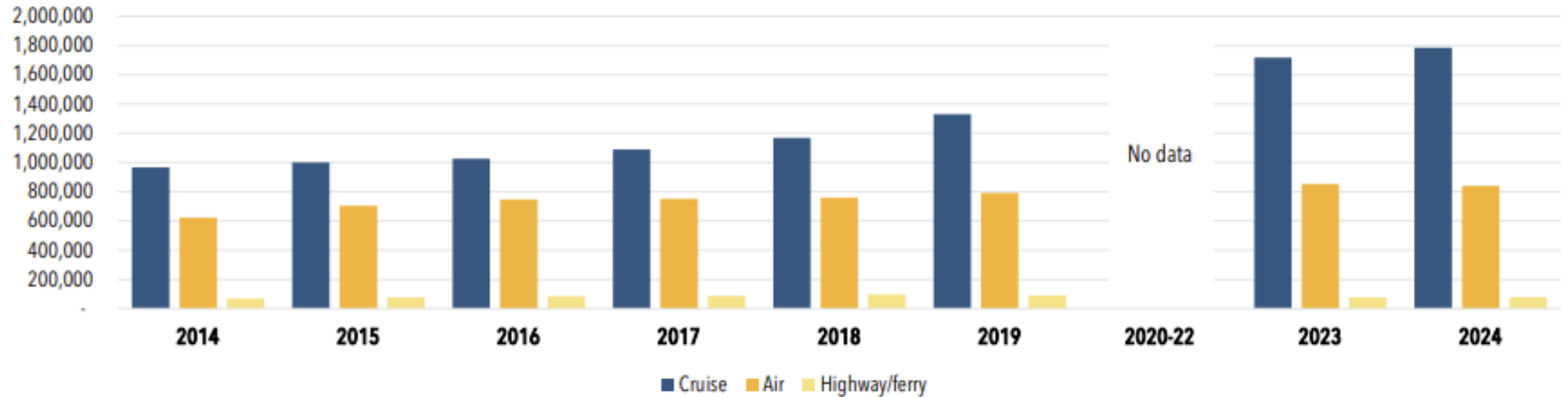


Figure 2. Visitor Volume to Alaska by Transportation Market, Summers 2014-2024



Source: McKinley Research Group



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Cruise: largest growth

Table 8. Visitor Volume to Alaska by Transportation Market, Summers 2014-2024

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020-22	2023	2024	% change 2014-24
Cruise	967,500	999,600	1,025,900	1,089,700	1,169,000	1,331,600		1,719,000	1,785,000	+84%
Air	623,600	703,400	747,100	750,500	760,100	790,900	No data	852,500	839,600	+35%
Highway/ferry	68,500	77,000	84,500	86,100	97,200	90,500		77,100	78,300	+14%
Total	1,659,600	1,780,000	1,857,500	1,926,300	2,026,300	2,213,000		2,648,600	2,702,900	+63%
% change YOY	-	+7.3%	+4.4%	+3.7%	+5.2%	+9.2%	n/a	+19.7%*	+2.1%	

*Change from 2019.

Source: McKinley Research Group



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Largest growth: Western Alaska

Table 4. Alaska Cruise Passenger
Volume, 2023 and 2024, by Port (>10,000 pax)

Port	2023	2024	% change
Juneau	1,669,500	1,732,000	+3.7%
Ketchikan	1,497,200	1,497,700	0.0%
Skagway	1,195,100	1,257,000	+5.2%
Glacier Bay	677,100	702,200	+3.7%
Sitka	588,400	602,600	+2.4%
Icy Strait Point	484,200	541,200	+11.8%
Whittier	223,500	240,800	+7.7%
Seward	191,500	220,200	+15.0%
Haines	73,200	87,700	+19.8%
Valdez	44,900	27,500	-38.8%
Wrangell	23,000	16,900	-26.5%
Kodiak	12,600	20,300	+61.1%
Dutch Harbor	7,600	13,600	+78.9%

Sources: Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska and non-CLAA lines.

Source: McKinley Research Group



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Community Perceptions: Survey results from Juneau residents

Top positive

- Alaska Native Culture
- Tax opportunity
- Small business opportunities
- Restaurants
- Infrastructure
- Tourism Best Management

Top negative

- Overcrowding
- Traffic
- Development
- Noise
- Air pollution
- Wastewater discharge
- Lack of local control
- Boat wakes, wildlife impact



Visiting with Indigenous People, Land, and Water

Tatiana Degai, University of Victoria

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Visiting Approaches

TOURISTS

CONSUMERS

VISITORS

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

OBJECTS, “EXOTIC OTHER”

HOSTS

NATURE

WILDERNESS, PRISTINE COMMODITY

PLACE OF DEEP CARE, HOME, AND RELATIVE

APPROACH TO CULTURE

“ZOOFICATION” OF CULTURE

CELEBRATION OF PEOPLE, LAND, AND WATER

BENEFICIARIES

BENEFIT TO THE COMPANY

BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY, ADDRESSING
COMMUNITY GOALS, ASPIRATIONS,

STEWARDSHIP PRACTICES



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Indigenous tourism – community owned (With or without cultural component)

Experiential (adventure)

Multisensory (interaction, active engagement)

Educational (new knowledge)

Authentic, unique, genuine (storytelling, relationship to place)



Strength-based model

- Goal – support community aspirations
- Relies on creating safe spaces for both visitors and hosts to learn and share;
- Encourages cultural & environmental awareness and sense of responsibility
- Encourages development of the sense to place



Table 1. “This sacred land is our home. Respectful visitors welcome”. A code of conduct for visitors to the ancestral territory of the Lutsel K’e Dene First Nation.

Welcome to the territory of the Lutsel K’e Dene First Nation! Our land is beautiful and our water is clean — and we are committed to keeping it that way. This set of guidelines has been developed to educate visitors about our expectations for respectful travel within our ancestral homeland. Please — come visit and enjoy, and do so in a way that honours our land, water, animals, and community. Here’s how:	
When travelling in our territory, come visit us in Lutsel K’e!	Many Elders and land users live in our community and have rich stories to share about Denesoline traditions and how to travel safely within our vast territory. We want to share this knowledge with visitors. It’s an excellent cross-cultural learning opportunity for us and for you. We would like to benefit in some capacity from people visiting our territory. Having visitors come to our community will help us sustainably grow our economy through the provision of visitor goods and services that have the potential to complement our cultural practices and way of life. Visitors are asked to respect our privacy by requesting the permission of community members before taking their photograph.
Remember that our land is our home. Please ‘knock’ before entering, and we will welcome you.	Our ancestral territory — our home — is like other homes that people love, grow up in, and feel connected to. Wherever visitors go within our traditional territory, they will be within our home. Please ‘knock’ before entering. Contact our Band Office or Wildlife Department in advance of visiting, and please ask permission, as you would expect of any visitor to your own home. This will show respect for Lutsel K’e Denesoline, and will help us support your safety. Being aware of the presence of visitors enables us to better plan, monitor, manage, and make decisions about our homeland.
We are the stewards of our land. We expect visitors to respect and share in the protection of the land, water, and animals.	The land, water, and animals have provided the necessities for survival and sustenance for generations of Denesoline. Places like the T’sankui Theda (Lady of the Falls) have great healing and spiritual power, promoting our well-being and curing disease and illness. Visitors can honour the sacred and spiritual nature of our territory by following the various aspects of this code of conduct. We want to protect our land, water, and animals for our younger generations.
Respect the land, or the land will not respect you.	Be mindful of your behaviour, your attitude, and what you say while on the land. Taking the weather for granted, or outwardly commenting on beautiful weather, can trigger a sudden and drastic change. Travel with humility and respect to ensure safety and prevent getting wind bound or weathered in. Remember: water is a spirit; fish are a spirit; as is any element of the earth. They are all interwoven components of life and warrant our respect.
Pay respect to the land and water with tobacco or other offerings of gratitude.	Paying with spruce boughs, tea, rifle shells, or sugar — something valuable — is also appropriate. It is a tangible display of respect to the land and water, founded not on superstition, but a way of life. Our ancestors gave thanks in this way, and we were raised to do the same. Tobacco is from the earth and from the Creator, and we pay it back to them, and to our ancestors who were on the land before us. Showing respect in this way honours our culture and will help ensure good weather and safe travels on water and on land.
Respect our community’s vision for health and well-being.	We welcome visitors that respect our First Nation, our place in history and our territory, as well as our contemporary cultural values, rules, and regulations. We promote health and well-being by making Lutsel K’e a dry community. Visitors can help us maintain an alcohol-free community for the health and well-being of our children and future generations.
Take out what you bring in — please keep the land and water clean.	Keeping the land and water clean helps protect the environment. Leaving behind garbage or waste is a sign of disrespect to the land, water, animals, and our livelihoods. Although our territory is vast, it is still our home and we want to keep it clean. It is important that the land is free of litter in order to protect that place for animals and for future generations of Denesoline. Please be sure to safely dispose of or remove anything brought into our homeland.
Hunting, trapping, and other subsistence practices on our territory must respect our traditional knowledge, customs, and livelihoods.	Denesoline hunters, trappers, and other land users are mindful of their harvesting practices, and understand that animals provide sustenance for survival. We show respect by learning and enjoying the knowledge and skills passed down to us by our Elders and ancestors. Wasting meat, or leaving it behind, is avoided as it shows disrespect for the animals and for our land. Visitors are expected to respect our hunting, trapping, and gathering culture and to remember that everything in our environment has a spirit and life behind it. All visitors who choose to hunt should do so only in the presence of a Lutsel K’e guide or monitor.

Table 1. (Continued)

Take the opportunity to learn from Denesoline guides.	Denesoline traditional knowledge is essential for survival on our land. Lutsel K’e guides know the land and how the weather changes, and are willing to share this information to assist visitors. Visitors are encouraged to hire an experienced guide from Lutsel K’e to help ensure a safe journey and a meaningful learning experience rooted in our traditional knowledge and livelihood activities. By hiring a Lutsel K’e guide, visitors also support our local sustainable economy.
Share your experiences with others back home to help us protect our land!	We do encourage visitors to take stories and pictures from their experiences on our land and share these with friends and family. We want to protect our territory — our home — from harmful industries and practices so that we can preserve our way of life. Visitors can help by sharing experiences with others and promoting cross-cultural understanding and respect. Please visit the website www.landoftheancestors.ca to learn more about protecting our land.

Holmes, A. P., Grimwood, B. S. R., & King, L. J. (2016). Creating an Indigenized visitor code of conduct: the development of Denesoline self-determination for sustainable tourism. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 24(8–9), 1177–1193.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09669582.2016.1158828>



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Discussion

