




Dark Tourism

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Vampire tourism and vampirism: the darker side of travel medicine [Get access >](#)

Aoibheann C Rainford, MB Candidate, Gerard T Flaherty, MD PhD,
Brian Hallahan, MD MRCPsych 

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- ‘Dark tourism’ refers to the travel of individuals to destinations and sites linked to death, tragedy and the macabre.
- Though morbid curiosity has always existed throughout human civilisation, first described as recently as 1996.
- High valence sites: Auschwitz concentration camp and other sites of mass genocide, visits to the hometowns of serial killers and sites associated with the grislier myths of popular culture, such as Bran’s (Dracula’s) Castle in Transylvania.
- Dark tourism brings into context a relatively underrepresented facet of travel medicine, that of psychological care.

Danger for Traveler

- 25yo Dartmouth student, Winona, who was just asked to take an academic leave because of poor grades and dangerous partying and self harmful behavior
- She comes to you declaring her intention to, rather than go home to her dysfunctional family, take the forced academic leave as a personal journey of discovery by a world tour of disaster sites
 - Phnom Phen Genocide Museum
 - Italian Torture Museum
 - Titanic sub tour
 - Chernobyl
- Her med list shows a series of antidepressive agents, insomnia med ambien, and morning after anticonception drug prescriptions
- You also note there have been multiple positive drug screens and negative pregnancy tests



Dangerous Traveler?

- 45yo man, Jeff, who is seeking pretravel for his mission to every African country to convert the heads of state to his religion of fundamental aesthetic worship of the Christian God
 - “Only by sincere vows of poverty, chastity and community can Africa emerge to greatness”
 - “I will go to their homes if they won’t see me at their palaces”
- His med list shows he reported to rooming nurse he has stopped taking chronic meds lithium and risperidone
- He has pressed and tangential speech and is clearly agitated



Dangerous Pre-Traveler?

- You are concerned and try to ask more questions, but Jeff becomes more and more frustrated with you
- He now cannot stay in his seat and moves about the (small) clinic space
- As you try to de-escalate him, he leans against the clinic door, and declares, “You are on the side of the Devil, trying to prevent me from my mission!”

