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THE ROLE OF URBAN RENEWAL IN CREATING AUTHENTIC TRAVEL EXPERIENCE OF URBAN TOURISM, A CASE STUDY OF TÜRKIYE AND MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

This article discussed a findings from a comparative analysis on urban renewal initiatives and their impacts on the urban tourism landscape in the Malaysia and Türkiye. These countries boast a wealth of cultural heritage and historical significance, rendering the place as good case studies for investigating the profound consequences of urban renewal on the tourism industry. In this study, definition of urban renewal in the context of urban tourism, encompassing an intricate understanding of the strategies, challenges, and outcomes from the urban renewal programmes will be thoroughly discussed. Outcomes from this study are intended to provide valuable insights towards improving future urban development and tourism planning in both countries.

Keywords: Urban renewal, urban tourism, travel experience

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INTRODUCTION

Urban tourism's rising popularity reflects a global trend of an increasing number of travelers seeking genuine cultural experiences by exploring vibrant cities. This form of tourism allows tourists to deeply engage with diverse cultures, explore historical landmarks, and interact with local communities in an array of urban settings. Consequently, urban tourism holds the potential to emerge as a significant driver for economic growth, job opportunities, and the facilitation of cross-cultural exchange in cities worldwide. To harness this potential, numerous cities have initiated urban renewal projects aimed at enhancing its appeal and authenticity as travel destinations. These initiatives reflects good response to the growing demand for immersive and culturally enriching travel experiences.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this study are:

- To identify strategies and approaches of urban renewal initiatives in Türkiye and Malaysia towards creating authentic travel experiences for urban tourism
- To analyse the outcomes and impacts of urban renewal efforts on the tourism industry, local communities, and the overall urban environment in Türkiye and Malaysia.
- To recommend best practices from the experiences of Türkiye and Malaysia that can inform urban planners, policymakers, and tourism professionals in creating authentic travel experiences through urban renewal.

LITERATURE REVIEW

URBAN TOURISM

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) (2019) defines urban tourism as a type of tourism activity that takes place in an urban setting and is characterized by nodes of transportation and non-agricultural economic activities like administration, manufacturing, trade, and services. Destinations in urban areas and cities provide a wide variety of natural, technological, social, and cultural experiences and goods for both leisure and business. Five main elements identified by researchers define cities as tourist destinations: According to Ramzy and Morsi (2020), five main factors were identified to characterize cities as a tourism destination as following:

Highly populated urban areas, where the increased number of tourists visit friends and relatives

Major travel nodes that serve as gateways to other destinations

Commercial and industrial focal points

Harbor services such as education, administration centre, health and others

Cultural, artistic, and recreational destination

ELEMENTS OF URBAN TOURISM

Tourism is inextricably tied to a city's ability to develop and provide more and better living conditions for its residents and visitors in which urban tourism can be classified into three main elements (Md Khairi et al., 2018). Firstly, the primary elements include a variety of facilities, which divide the city into places with activities and for leisure. Secondly, secondary elements are the facilities and services that are provided to support tourists in experiencing the primary elements. Lastly, additional elements consist of tourism infrastructure are implemented to provide ample experience for tourists when they visit the destination. This can be visually analysed from information in Figure 1. The importance of these elements will aid in the identification of the nature of urban tourism in both Malaysia and Türkiye. The next section will show examples of urban tourism in Malaysia and Türkiye based on these key elements.

PRIMARY ELEMENTS	
Activity Place Cultural Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museums and Art Galleries • Theaters and Cinemas • Concert Halls • Convention Centers • Other Visitor Attractions Sport Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor and Outdoor Amusement Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Night Clubs • Casinos and Bingo Halls • Organized Events • Festivals 	Leisure Setting Physical Characteristics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Street Pattern • Interesting Buildings • Ancients Monuments and Statues • Parks and Green Areas • Waterfronts (Harbor, Canal, River) Socio-Cultural Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liveliness of the Place • Language • Local Customs and Costumes • Cultural Heritage • Friendliness • Security
SECONDARY ELEMENTS	ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation • Catering Facilities • Shopping • Markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility • Transportation and Parking • Tourist Information (maps, signs, guides)

Figure 1: The elements of urban tourism (Source: Ruetsche, 2006)

URBAN TOURISM IN MALAYSIA AND TÜRKIYE

This section show examples of urban tourism in Malaysia and Türkiye based on these key elements.

MALAYSIA'S URBAN TOURISM

The tourism industry in Malaysia has been focusing towards international markets since its beginning stage in the 1960s. In general, cities and towns such as Kuala Lumpur, Georgetown and Malacca. have been developed based on their function, potential and special features. Urban tourism in Malaysia currently encompasses various elements within its cities offering a diverse range of experiences and attractions for visitors especially in these cities. (Razali & Ismail, 2014).

TÜRKIYE'S URBAN TOURISM

In Türkiye, urban tourism is a thriving and diverse industry, with various cities offering one-of-a-kind experiences that merge history, culture, and modernity. Urban tourism in Türkiye is still in its early stages, hence urban tourism planning remains a difficult undertaking. In Türkiye, urban tourism highlights places with a dense population and historical significance as potential tourist attractions (Kerimoglu & Ciraci, n.d.).

MALAYSIA	TÜRKIYE
1. Cultural Diversity	
<p>Malaysia's urban landscape reflects a blend of cultures, primarily Malay, Chinese, Indian and indigenous traditions. Cities like Kuala Lumpur, Georgetown in Penang and Melaka showcase this cultural diversity through heritage sites, religious landmarks and ethnic enclaves (Aksan et al., 2014).</p>	<p>Türkish cities reflect a blend of cultures due to their strategic location bridging Europe and Asia. The diversity is evident in areas like Istanbul, where Asian and European influences converge. According to Yolal (2016), it offers a captivating blend of historic sites, beautiful architecture, busy markets and many more.</p>
	
<p>Figure 2: Heritage Zones in Georgetown (Source: Penang Global Tourism, n.d.)</p>	<p>Figure 3: Hagia Sophia, Istanbul (Source: Authors, 2023)</p>
2. Historical Landmarks	
<p>Many cities in Malaysia, such as George Town and Melaka, boast UNESCO World Heritage Sites making them an important tourism hub (Ghaderi et al., 2012) and preserving historical landmarks, colonial architecture and cultural heritage, allowing visitors to delve into the country's past.</p>	<p>Türkish cities reflect a blend of cultures due to their strategic location bridging Europe and Asia. The diversity is evident in areas like Istanbul, where Asian and European influences converge. According to Yolal (2016), it offers a captivating blend of historic sites, beautiful architecture, busy markets and many more.</p>
	
<p>Figure 4: Christ Church Melaka (Source: Harun & Jalil, 2014)</p>	<p>Figure 5: Sultanahmet Mosque, Istanbul (Source: Authors, 2023)</p>

URBAN TOURISM IN MALAYSIA AND TÜRKIYE

MALAYSIA	TÜRKIYE
3. Modern Architectural	
<p>Iconic modern structures like the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur and contemporary developments reflect Malaysia's modern architectural achievements (Aksan et al., 2014).</p>	<p>Cities in TÜRKIYE exhibit a mix of traditional and modern architecture. Ankara's modern and historical attractions such as the contemporary Anitkabir mausoleum and the historic Roman Temple, highlight the city's contemporary side (Zekan et al., 2022).</p>
 <p>Figure 6: Kuala Lumpur Skyline (Source: Airlines, 2023)</p>	 <p>Figure 7: Kocatape Mosque, Ankara (Source: Moustafa, 2013)</p>
4. Culinary Experiences	
<p>Malaysia is renowned for its diverse culinary scene. Urban areas offer arrays of street food, traditional dishes, and fusion cuisines, contributing to the appeal for food tourism.</p>	<p>Türkish cuisine is renowned worldwide. Urban areas offers a vast array of traditional dishes, street food, and modern interpretations of Türkish cuisine, making it a destination for food enthusiasts.</p>
 <p>Figure 8: Malaysia Cuisine (Source: Raji et al., 2017)</p>	 <p>Figure 9: Traditional Türkish Street Food (Source: Authors, 2023)</p>
5. Shopping and Entertainment	
<p>Cities like Kuala Lumpur and Penang are known for their shopping districts, offering traditional markets, high-end malls and vibrant entertainment hubs, catering to various tastes and preferences (Aksan et al., 2014).</p>	<p>Türkish cities like Istanbul are renowned for their bustling markets and traditional bazaars (Munshi, 2022), such as the Grand Bazaar and modern shopping districts, along with vibrant nightlife, cultural shows and entertainment options.</p>
 <p>Figure 10: Petaling Street Market (Source: Authors, 2020)</p>	 <p>Figure 11: Grand Bazaar (Source: Authors, 2023)</p>

MALAYSIA	TÜRKIYE
6. Green Spaces and Parks	
<p>Despite being urban centres, cities like Kuala Lumpur feature green spaces and parks, providing recreational areas for local and tourists. The Perdana Botanical garden are among these urban oases (Ghani et al., 2018).</p>	<p>Despite being urban, TÜRKIYE's cities still offer green spaces and parks. For instance, Istanbul features parks like Gulhane Park and Emirgan park, providing relaxation and recreation for residents and tourists.</p>
 <p>Figure 12: Perdana Botanical Garden, KL (Source: CityNet, 2017)</p>	 <p>Figure 13: Gulhane Park (Source: Authors, 2023)</p>
7. Cultural Events and Festivals	
<p>Urban areas of Malaysia, according to Aksan et al. (2014), host various cultural festivals and events, celebrating religious and cultural occasions such as Chinese New Year, Hari Raya and Thaipusam offering visitors the opportunity to experience local traditions.</p>	<p>Various cultural and art events, music festivals and celebrations take place in Türkish cities, providing tourists with the opportunity to witness local traditions and celebrations (Munshi, 2022).</p>
 <p>Figure 14: Malaysia's traditional costume (Source: Malaysia Airline, n.d)</p>	 <p>Figure 15: Whirling Dervishes Show (Source: Authors, 2023)</p>
8. Business and Convention	
<p>Malaysia's urban centres,, serve as a hub for business, conventions and international conferences, attracting business travellers and professionals. The city is a popular location for business travel and corporate events (Sofian et al., 2021).</p>	<p>Türkish cities serve as important hubs for business conferences, trade exhibitions, and conventions, attracting business travellers and professionals from around the world.</p>
 <p>Figure 16: Matta Fair, Kuala Lumpur (Source: Mice Central and Eastern Europe, 2019)</p>	 <p>Figure 17: Istanbul Congress Centre (Source: Petra News, 2023)</p>

URBAN TOURISM IN MALAYSIA AND TÜRKİYE: IMPORTANCE OF AUTHENTIC TRAVEL EXPERIENCE IN URBAN TOURISM

Malaysian urban tourism possesses many elements of urban tourism, such as cultural heritage, historical exploration, culinary delights, shopping, and entertainment. Malaysia is a vibrant and alluring destination for urban travellers, which offers a blend of traditional and modern attractions, catering to a wide range of interests and preferences. Therefore, preserving these places and developing these places according to their future need and are necessary as measures to boost the tourism industry in the country.

In conclusion, Türkiye's urban tourism sector has a lot of potential for growth. Proper tourism planning is important especially for cities with significant historical significance, like Istanbul. Tourists from all over the world can enjoy a variety of urban tourism activities in Türkiye. These places possess many primary elements of urban tourism that may foster interest among the tourists. Therefore, due to its history, Türkiye's urban tourism may require effort to maintain the cultural heritage of the area.

CHARACTERISTICS OF URBAN TOURISM

The characteristics of urban tourism may vary based on the specific destination and context.



Figure 18: Characteristics of Urban Tourism (Source: Robinson et al., 2011)

IMPORTANCE OF AUTHENTIC TRAVEL EXPERIENCE IN URBAN TOURISM

Cultural Understanding and Appreciation

Travelers have chances to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of various cultures through authentic travel experiences. They may also foster cross-cultural understanding and develop deeper respects for various cultures by becoming fully immersed in local customs, traditions, and ways of life.

Meaningful Connections

Authentic travel experiences enable visitors to form meaningful bonds with local communities. Interacting with locals, taking part in cultural activities, and participating in community-based tourism initiatives foster genuine connections and create lasting memories.

Personal Growth and Learning

Experiences abroad that are truly authentic provide chances for development and education. Travelers can enhance their viewpoints, expand their horizons, and gain fresh perspectives on both themselves and the world around them by stepping outside of their comfort zones.

Unique and Memorable Experiences

Travelers benefit from having one-of-a-kind authentic experiences and unforgettable moments that cannot be duplicated elsewhere. These adventures produce enduring memories and tales to tell based on experiences of discovering new "gems", taking part in regional customs, or learning about the non-conventional attractions.

Sustainable Tourism

Sustainable tourism methods frequently coincide with authentic travel experiences. The practice can support local economies, uphold cultural traditions, and promote responsible tourism as it will minimise environmental impact and support local businesses.

Differentiation from Mass Tourism

In an era of mass tourism and standardised experiences, authentic travel experiences stand out as a way to get away from the crowds and experience something genuine and one-of-a-kind. Authenticity-seeking travelers frequently seek out alternatives to mainstream tourist attractions, preferring more intimate and immersive experiences.

Emotional Connection

Authentic travel experiences have the ability to elicit emotions and foster a strong bond between travelers and the places they visit. These experiences may affect the senses and leave a lasting impression on travelers, ranging from memories and experiences of breathtaking natural landscapes to vibrant cultural performances.

Support for Local Communities

Authentic travel experiences frequently involve directly supporting local communities. Travelers who patronise local businesses, stay in community-owned lodging, or participate in community-based initiatives contribute to the destination's economic well-being and help preserve local traditions and cultural heritage.

FACTORS INFLUENCING AUTHENTICITY IN URBAN TOURISM



URBAN RENEWAL

The revitalisation and transformation of urban areas to enhance their physical, social, economic, and environmental conditions is known as urban renewal. In order to create more livable, sustainable, and vibrant communities, it involves the redevelopment, rehabilitation, and regeneration of dilapidated or underutilised spaces within cities. Urban renewal aims to improve the overall quality of urban life by addressing problems like blight, decay, inadequate infrastructure, social exclusion, and economic decline (Ansumant, 2019).

OBJECTIVES OF URBAN RENEWAL

To improve the physical environment of urban areas.

To promote social inclusion and community development.

To protect historical buildings, landmarks, and cultural assets while integrating them into contemporary urban designs.

To create environmental-friendly urban environments that mitigate the impacts of climate change, enhance resilience, and promote sustainable living.

In general, the goals of urban renewal are to develop inclusive, vibrant, and sustainable urban environments that may enhance residents' quality of life, draw more tourists, and promote social and economic well-being. Depending on particular qualities and difficulties of each urban area, the specific goals may change.

URBAN RENEWAL AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Urban renewal projects can significantly contribute to the growth and improvement of tourism in a city, thus there is a close relationship between urban renewal and tourism development. The following are some crucial facets of the connection between urban renewal and tourism growth:

Enhancement of Tourism Infrastructure

Urban renewal initiatives frequently include the development or improvement of tourism infrastructure. The actions may involve building new hotels, restaurants, cultural institutions, museums, transportation networks, and leisure facilities for better visitors' experience. The efforts may draw more visitors and the tourism industry can expand with the help of upgraded and expanded infrastructure.

Preservation of Cultural Heritage

Preservation and revitalisation of historical sites, landmarks, and cultural assets are frequently the main goals of urban renewal projects. Cities can highlight their distinctive histories and traditions by restoring and conserving their cultural heritage elements, which will increase their appeal to travelers who are looking for real, authentic, and culturally rich experiences.

Creation of Tourist Attractions

Initiatives for urban renewal can improve or add to existing tourist attractions, increasing the city's appeal to the tourists. The development of entertainment districts, the revitalisation of waterfront areas, or the creation of themed tourist zones are among many examples of how to do this. These new attractions can increase visitors' length of stays, diversify the tourism product, and encourage tourism-related businesses.

Improvement of Public Spaces and Aesthetics

Urban renewal initiatives are frequently concentrated on improving the appearance and usability of cities' public spaces. Creating attractive environments that are enjoyable to both locals and visitors can be done by improving urban landscapes, developing parks and gardens, and beautifying streetscapes. These new and aesthetically pleasing areas may draw more visitors, lengthen their stay, and promote exploration and spending within the city.

In summary, urban renewal and tourism development are inextricably linked, with urban renewal projects as essential actions in improving tourism infrastructure, preserving cultural heritage, creating tourist attractions, and improving public spaces. Cities can unlock their tourism potential, attract more visitors, and generate economic and social benefits for both residents and tourists by aligning urban renewal efforts with tourism development strategies.

ROLE OF URBAN RENEWAL IN CREATING TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

Urban renewal plays a significant role in creating travel experiences by transforming urban environments and enhancing the overall quality of destinations. Here are some key ways in which urban renewal contributes to the creation of travel experiences:

1. Creating Vibrant and Attractive Urban Spaces
2. Preserving Cultural Heritage
3. Enhancing Infrastructure and Amenities
4. Fostering Authentic Interactions
5. Promoting Cultural Tourism
6. Showcasing Contemporary Expressions
7. Embracing Sustainability

METHODOLOGY

This study used a qualitative research method such as comparative case studies by collecting and summarising information from different sources to achieve the research objectives. Scopus Database was one of the sources to search for relevant publications regarding urban renewal. According to Figure 17, the Scopus Database reveals over 335 papers between 1980 and 2023 researched and written on urban renewal. Most of the documents were released after 2012, with the highest number of papers released in the year 2021.

ANALYSIS

PROJECT 1: REVITALISING HISTORIC DISTRICTS THROUGH URBAN RENEWAL



Figure 19: Revitalisation historic districts through urban renewal
(Source: Boussaa, 2017)

The project aims at supporting the revitalisation of historical districts through urban renewal, cultural heritage preservation, leading towards fostering economic growth, improving living conditions, and enhancing the overall appeal and vibrancy of these distinctive urban areas.



OBJECTIVES

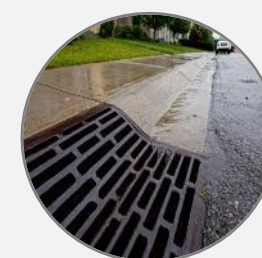


- 1) To establish a foundational understanding of the specific issues that urban renewal initiatives must address.
- 2) To identify comprehensive strategies that considers the requirements of each historic district.
- 3) To evaluate the efficiency and accomplishment of the revitalisation efforts and provide guidance for upcoming urban renewal initiatives in historic districts.

COMPONENTS



Heritage Preservation



Infrastructure Enhancement



Partnerships and Collaboration

PROJECT 2: SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY IN URBAN RENEWAL



OBJECTIVES



- 1) To improve transportation accessibility within the urban area, ensuring tourists easy access to various destinations and attractions.
- 2) To foster collaboration and integration between tourism planning and transportation planning processes.
- 3) To reduce the environmental impact of transportation in the urban area.



Figure 20: Sustainable transportation and mobility in urban renewal (Source: Chino, 2014))

The project's objective is to create a mobility of transportation system that is sustainable and will enhance the authenticity of urban tourists' travel experiences. It aims to provide quick, effective, and environmentally friendly transportation options so that visitors can explore the city, engage with the local culture, and support a thriving and sustainable urban environment.

COMPONENTS



Intelligent Transportation Systems



Electric and Low-Emission Vehicles



Land Use Planning

PROJECT 3: TRANSFORMING INDUSTRIAL AREAS INTO SUSTAINABLE URBAN SPACES



OBJECTIVES



- 1) To explore the transformation of industrial areas into sustainable urban spaces that can contribute towards creating authentic travel experiences.
- 2) To focus on sustainable design and infrastructure in the transformation of industrial areas.
- 3) To promote tourism development and community engagement in the transformed industrial areas.



Figure 21: Transforming industrial areas into sustainable urban spaces (Source: Kishani, 2018)

The project's goal is to show how repurposing defunct industrial areas as green urban spaces can give urban tourists more authentic travel experiences. Urban renewal processes emphasise the value of eco-friendly architecture, neighborhood engagement, and tourism growth, ultimately boosting the appeal and viability of these areas as tourist destinations.

COMPONENTS



Mixed-use Development



Sustainable Design and Infrastructure



Economic Revitalisation

FINDINGS

URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT

Authentic travel experiences for tourism generally focus on conserving and showcasing local culture, history, and customs while offering tourists with a real and immersive experience. It is crucial to remember that the scope of urban renewal initiatives is wide and may differ from one city to the next, and can have a wide range of scope. The following section will go over specific examples of urban renewal initiatives in Malaysia and Türkiye.

URBAN RENEWAL CASE STUDIES IN MALAYSIA

In Malaysia, urban renewal can be defined as a succession of reconstruction and rehabilitation activities in metropolitan areas with the goal of improving infrastructure, quality of life, and economic prospects. Table 1 depicts some examples of urban renewal projects in Malaysia.

Table 1: List of Urban Renewal Projects in Malaysia

URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS	URBAN PROBLEMS	URBAN RENEWAL INITIATIVES	IMPACTS
Georgetown UNESCO World Heritage Site	Georgetown, the historic heart of Penang was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The area was facing urban decay with many dilapidated old buildings and decline in its economic significance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of Historic Buildings • Art and Culture Promotion • Promotion of Local Cuisine • Cultural Events and Festivals • Tourism Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourist Magnet • Economic Revival • Cultural Preservation • Recognition and Awards for successful urban renewal
Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur	Bukit Bintang district saw a comprehensive urban renewal project aimed at revitalising the area. Even though it has a rich history, the places are facing -challenges related to congestion and outdated infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street Beautification • Pedestrian-Friendly Environment • Shopping and Retail • Cultural Events and Festivals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourist Attraction • Economic Growth • Cultural revival • Quality of Life
Melaka Waterfront Redevelopment	Melaka, a historic city with a rich cultural and colonial heritage had issues related to urban decay and underutilisation of its historical assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of Historical Sites • River beautification • Heritage Walks and Trails • Night Markets and Street Food • Events and Festivals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourist Attraction • Economic Growth • Cultural Preservation
Ipoh, Perak	Ipoh, is the capital city of Perak , was historically known for its tin mining industry but faced challenges as the industry has declined. Urban renewal actions aimed at rejuvenating the city's economy and attracting more tourists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Preservation • Street Arts and Murals • Cafes and Hipster Culture • Cultural and Art Festivals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourist Attraction • Economic Growth • Cultural Revival • Quality of Life
Kampung Baru	Kampung Baru is a traditional Malay village that has existed for over a century, surrounded by the modern skyscrapers of Kuala Lumpur. The village faced challenges such as outdated infrastructure, land use issues and the need for revitalisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of Cultural heritage • Cultural and Art Spaces • Culinary Tourism • Cultural Events and festivals • Accessibility and Signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourist Attraction • Economic Growth • Cultural Revitalization • Quality of Life

In Malaysia, urban renewal can be observed by focusing on city areas or highly populous areas with good potentials to become tourism hubs. These projects encountered difficulties due to the aged infrastructure, urban deterioration, and economic significance. Based on Table 1.0, we can observe that, in addition to the historical structure conservation, cultural activities and festivals have become the major elements in keeping these areas active with tourists. It is critical to make these areas vibrant so that they are not neglected and be the cause for the area to become desolate despite its abundant tourism resources.

Despite the challenges of modernisation, understanding tourist preferences can be an important aspect in developing renewal programmes, where promoting local food as urban tourism can benefit the local economy. For example, the cafes and hipster culture in Ipoh have drawn many individuals to visit the city on a regular basis to taste the experience. In summary, these projects have been successful in balancing historical preservation with modern urban tourism demands, resulting in thriving and culturally rich urban areas.

FINDINGS

URBAN RENEWAL CASE STUDIES IN TÜRKIYE

Türkiye's urban renewal has been a significant and continuous undertaking in various cities and regions. These projects attempt to revitalise urban areas, improve infrastructure, and improve people's quality of life. Table 2 presents some significant examples of Türkiye urban renewal projects.

Table 2: List of Urban Renewal Project in Türkiye

URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS	URBAN PROBLEMS	URBAN RENEWAL INITIATIVES	IMPACTS
Karakoy Port Area Redevelopment	Karakoy, was historically known for its port activities and warehouses. Over time, the area had deteriorated and the port was no longer in operation, making it an ideal candidate for urban renewal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revitalisation of Waterfront • Conversion of Industrial Buildings • Cultural and Arts Focus • Tourism infrastructure • Historical Preservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Tourism Hub • Economic Growth • Cultural Preservation • Community Revival
Cappadocia	Cappadocia have made it as UNESCO World Heritage Site, however, the region faced challenges related to preserving its historical and natural heritage while accommodating a growing number of tourists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cave Hotel Developments • Balloon Tourism • Conservation of Rock-Cut Churches • Balanced Tourism Management • Cultural Events and Festivals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Tourist Attraction • Economic Revival • Heritage Preservation • Cultural Revival
Izmir Waterfront (Kordon) Redevelopment)	The Izmir Waterfront, is a prominent coastal area along the Aegean Sea in Izmir. Historically, it had faced challenges related to congestion, pollution and outdated infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promenade Enhancement • Cultural and Art Installations • Renovation of Historical Buildings • Urban Parks and Green Spaces • Cruise Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourist Attraction • Economic Growth • Cultural Hub • Quality of Life
Hamamonu District Urban Renewal	Hamamonu is a historic district in the heart of Ankara, known for its Ottoman-era architecture, narrow streets, and old houses. It faced issues related to urban decay and underutilization of its historical assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of historical Architecture • Cultural and Art Spaces • Restaurants and Cafes • Art Festivals and Cultural Events • Accessibility and Signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourist Attraction • Economic Growth • Cultural Revival • Quality of Life
Cumalikizik Village Urban Renewal	Cumalikizik is a traditional Ottoman-era village near Bursa known for its well-preserved architecture cobblestone streets and cultural heritage. It faced challenges related to the aging population and need for revitalisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of Ottoman-era architecture • Cultural and Art Spaces • Cultural and Traditional Festivals • Cafes and Local Eateries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourist Attraction • Economic Growth • Cultural Preservation • Quality of Life

According to Table 2, urban renewal in Türkiye prioritises on recovering its cultural legacy due to its historical relevance, particularly the Ottoman architectural history. Urban rehabilitation programmes have successfully transformed these regions into popular tourist destinations. However, if the increasing number of tourists to these specific locations is not successfully controlled, it may pose a threat to these historical assets.

The introduction of street arts, cultural events, and festivals draws artists and enthusiasts from various fields to these locations. In summary, Türkiye's urban renewal projects have rejuvenated historic neighbourhoods, maintained cultural and historical assets, facing obstacles in balancing development between major centres and smaller towns which has contribute to a more balanced economic growth throughout regions. As a result, tourism has expanded, generating higher income and making these locations more well-known on a global scale.

According to the findings, urban renewal can be used to promote urban tourism by transforming problems sites into travel attractions that benefit the community. These urban revitalisation initiatives have the potential to provide visitors with a genuine travel experience. Urban revitalisation may concentrate on the following aspects or elements in order to revitalise the area and give an authentic urban tourism travel experience:

CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

VIBRANT AND APPEALING URBAN SPACES

CULTIVATING AUTHENTIC TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

CONCLUSION

In summary, although urban tourism in Malaysia and Türkiye shares common characteristics, the development of tourist attractions in urban centers differs between the two countries. Both countries exhibit a noticeable dearth of comprehensive urban renewal initiatives aimed at bolstering urban tourism. Recognising the significance of cultural experiences available, it is imperative to channel efforts into transforming areas with historical or cultural resonance into dynamic spaces and compelling cultural attractions. This is a facet where the comparison between Malaysia and Türkiye underscores their distinctive approaches to urban tourism development.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, we express our gratitude to Allah SWT, the Most Gracious, and His Prophet Muhammad SWT for the guidance and blessings throughout this undertaking. We extend heartfelt appreciation to our supervisor, Dr. Suzilawati, for her invaluable guidance and support throughout the execution of this project.

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