



COVID-19: CHANGING PERSPECTIVES OF INTERNATIONAL SECOND HOME TOURISTS TOWARDS RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN TÜRKİYE

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Abstract

Study Objective: This study aims to empirically analyze the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on changes in international second residence tourists' perspective on recreational activities and their recreational experiences.

Methodology/approach: An empirical qualitative perspective was adopted in the study. Online surveys were sent to a total of 500 international second residence tourists in Alanya/Turkey. Analyzes were made on the 430 response data returned.

Originality/value: Recreational areas are extremely important in the destination selection of international second home tourists'. There is a gap in studies focusing on changes in their recreational experiences during the pandemic. For the sustainability of the demand for second homes in the destination, it is necessary to follow the changes experienced during the pandemic process and to make provision for negativities. The study compares the purposes of participating in recreational activities of international second home tourists before the pandemic and during the pandemic period. It also comparatively analyzes the level of participation in indoor, outdoor and virtual recreational activities before the pandemic and during the pandemic period.

Main results: Study results confirmed that the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on the recreational activities in which second residence tourists participated. While the pandemic has reduced the interest in indoor activities, it has also increased the interest in outdoor and virtual activities significantly.

Theoretical/methodological contributions: The pandemic process has not yet been fully clarified. Thus, the black swan theory remains valid for the Pandemic Process. The results of this study provide an understanding of the effects of COVID-19 specific to the experiences of international second residence tourists. The results of this study will guide the ongoing studies on second homes.

Social/management contributions: In the new normal process, the demand for recreation areas has increased. Thus, carrying capacity problems arose. As a result, the destination satisfaction of international second home tourists may decrease and may decide to leave the destination. Locals who cannot use recreational areas may feel displaced. It must be taken into account that the pandemic has brought xenophobia to the agenda. Local governments should definitely make a new plan for the use of recreational areas in order to prevent possible conflicts between international second home tourists and local people.

Keywords: COVID-19. Recreation. Second home tourist. Second home tourism.

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COVID-19: MUDANDO AS PERSPECTIVAS DOS TURISTAS INTERNACIONAIS DE SEGUNDA CASA EM RUMO ÀS ATIVIDADES DE RECREAÇÃO NA TÜRKİYE

Resumo

Objetivo do estudo: Este estudo tem como objetivo analisar empiricamente o impacto da pandemia COVID-19 nas mudanças nas perspectivas dos turistas internacionais segundos residentes sobre atividades recreativas e experiências recreativas.

Metodologia/abordagem: Uma perspectiva qualitativa empírica foi adotada na pesquisa. Uma pesquisa on-line foi enviada a um total de 500 turistas internacionais de segunda residência em Alanya/Turquia. As análises foram realizadas nos dados obtidos das 430 respostas retornadas.

Originalidade/ relevância: As áreas de lazer são extremamente importantes na seleção do destino dos turistas internacionais de segunda residência. Há uma lacuna nos estudos com foco nas mudanças nas experiências recreativas durante a pandemia. Para manter a demanda por segundas residências no destino, é necessário acompanhar as mudanças durante a pandemia e antecipar as negatividades. O estudo compara os objetivos dos turistas internacionais de segunda residência em participar em atividades recreativas antes e durante a pandemia. Também analisa comparativamente o nível de participação em atividades recreativas internas, externas e virtuais antes e durante a pandemia.

Principais resultados: Os resultados mostraram que a perspectiva dos turistas internacionais de segunda residência sobre as áreas de lazer mudou com o efeito da pandemia. Embora a pandemia tenha reduzido o interesse em atividades internas, também aumentou significativamente o interesse em atividades ao ar livre e virtuais.

Contribuições teóricas/metodológicas: Os efeitos do processo pandêmico ainda não foram revelados em todas as suas dimensões. Os resultados obtidos ampliam a consciência dos efeitos do COVID-19 especificamente para a experiência recreativa. Além disso, fornece orientação para estudos futuros.

Contribuições sociais / para a gestão: A procura por áreas de lazer aumentou no novo período normal. Assim, surgiram problemas de capacidade de carga. Como resultado, a satisfação dos turistas internacionais com o destino de segunda residência pode diminuir e estes podem decidir abandonar o destino. A população local que não pode utilizar as áreas recreativas pode sentir-se deslocada. É preciso levar em conta que a pandemia também trouxe a xenofobia para a agenda. A fim de evitar possíveis conflitos entre turistas internacionais de segunda residência e a população local, os governos locais devem elaborar um novo plano para a utilização de áreas recreativas.

Palavras-chave: COVID-19. Recreação. Segunda casa. Segunda casa turística. Turismo.

COVID-19: CAMBIANDO LAS PERSPECTIVAS DE LOS TURISTAS INTERNACIONALES DE SEGUNDA RESIDENCIA HACIA LAS ACTIVIDADES RECREADORAS EN TÜRKİYE

Resumen

Objetivo del estudio: Este estudio tiene como objetivo analizar empíricamente el impacto de la pandemia COVID-19 en los cambios en las perspectivas de los turistas internacionales de segundos residentes sobre las actividades recreativas y las experiencias recreativas.

Metodología/enfoque: En la investigación se adoptó una perspectiva empírica cualitativa. Se envió una encuesta en línea a un total de 500 turistas internacionales de segunda residencia en Alanya/Turquía. Se realizaron análisis de los 430 datos de respuesta devueltos.

Originalidad/relevancia: Las áreas de recreación son extremadamente importantes en la selección de destino de los turistas internacionales de segunda residencia. Existe una laguna en los estudios que se centran en los cambios en las experiencias recreativas durante la pandemia. Para sostener la demanda de segundas residencias en el destino es necesario seguir los cambios experimentados durante el proceso pandémico y tomar precauciones contra las negatividades. El estudio compara los propósitos de los turistas internacionales de segunda residencia de participar en actividades recreativas antes y durante la pandemia. También analiza comparativamente el nivel de participación en actividades recreativas interiores, exteriores y virtuales antes y durante la pandemia.

Principales resultados: Los resultados del estudio confirmaron que la pandemia de COVID-19 afectó las actividades recreativas en las que participaban turistas de segundos residentes. Si bien la pandemia redujo el interés por las actividades en interiores, también aumentó significativamente el interés por las actividades virtuales y al aire libre.

Contribuciones teóricas/metodológicas: El proceso pandémico aún no está del todo claro. Así, la teoría del cisne negro para el proceso pandémico sigue siendo válida. Los resultados de este estudio proporcionan una comprensión de los impactos específicos de COVID-19 en las experiencias de los turistas internacionales de segunda residencia. Los resultados de este estudio guiarán los estudios en curso sobre segundas residencias.

Contribuciones sociales/de gestión: La demanda de áreas de recreación aumentó en el período de nueva normalidad. Así surgieron problemas de capacidad de carga. Como resultado, la satisfacción con el destino de los turistas internacionales de segunda residencia puede disminuir y pueden decidir abandonar el destino. La población local que no puede utilizar las áreas recreativas puede sentirse desplazada. Hay que tener en cuenta que la pandemia también ha puesto la xenofobia en la agenda. Para evitar posibles conflictos entre los turistas internacionales de segunda residencia y la población local, los gobiernos locales deben elaborar un nuevo plan para el uso de las áreas recreativas.

Palabras clave: COVID-19. Segunda casa turística. Recreação. Segunda casa. Turista de segunda residência. Turismo.


Introduction

The rapid spread of the Covid-19 virus around the world caused the World Health Organization to declare it a pandemic on 11 March 2020. Many countries have begun to take drastic measures to control the spread of the virus. Stopping domestic and international flights, lockdown, quarantine, etc. are some of them. By the end of July 2022, there were more than 567 million confirmed cases and some 6.3 million recorded deaths (WHO, 2022). The economic cost of the pandemic has reached 1 trillion dollars in 2020 (WEF, 2020). Further downside scenario sees a \$2 trillion shortfall in global income (UNCTAD, 2021). Due to travel restrictions, the travel and tourism sector has also fallen to zero. The Global Travel & Tourism sector suffered a loss of almost US\$4,5 trillion in 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19. Globally, 62 million jobs were lost in the tourism sector in 2019 (WTTC, 2021).

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is felt not only in the economic field but also in the social and psychological sense. The risk of being infected drove individuals apart. In some studies, it was reported that family members could not get together (Humadi, 2020). The sacrifice of human relationships to the risk of being infected is seen as the most significant social cost of the virus (Quass et al., 2020). In a pandemic, isolation, lockdown, and quarantine (more extreme forms of social distancing) have precipitated negative effects on people's mental health (Venkatesh & Edirappuli, 2020). Economic hardship and fear-mongering of less reliable media sources increase anxiety, fear, and panic (Witteveen & Velthorst, 2020).

The pressure and stress experienced have caused changes in people's emotions and behaviours (Ardebili et al., 2021). Basic values that shape daily life, such as personal relationships and consumption habits, are the areas where emotional and behavioural changes are the most. Fear of infection has placed social distancing between individuals (Curşeu et al., 2021). However, the rates of home ordering and online shopping have increased (Brewer & Sebby, 2021). More emphasis has been placed on personal hygiene and care (Swarnakar & Santra, 2020). In addition, travel (Boto-Garcia & Leomi, 2021) and holiday intentions were also postponed. Recreational areas have become a priority and important in this period where long holiday plans are postponed (Mateer et al., 2021).

The relaxation of restrictions has enabled the resumption of tourism activities. However, people prefer to go to quieter places rather than busy holiday destinations (Pappas & Glyptou, 2021). Second homes that offer isolated accommodation opportunities to people are in high demand (Zoğal, Domènech & Emekli, 2020). People who prefer a second home holiday usually



choose a place of stay within the national borders. Research conducted during the pandemic includes these people (Baltacı & Kurar, 2022; Seraphin & Dosquet, 2020; Sheller, 2021; Zoğal et al., 2020). There are no studies on foreigners who buy or rent second homes from other countries. There is a research gap on foreigners buying or renting second homes from other countries. This gap offers an opportunity to better understand the reflections of a global event, especially the COVID-19 pandemic, which corresponds to the black swan theory. Recreational opportunities are one of the most important attractions that keep second home owners in a destination (Sievänen, Pouta & Neuvonen, 2007). Additionally, second home tourists provide significant economic contributions to destinations (Baltacı & Cevirgen, 2020). For this reason, it is necessary to ensure that second home destinations recover after times of crisis, to create touristic resilience and to take risks into account. The results of the study will contribute to achieving these.

In this study, these people will be called international second home tourists (ISHOT). The main purpose of this study is to reveal the changes in the recreational experiences of ISHOTs in other countries far from their homeland during the COVID-19 process. The sub-objectives of the study are to determine the rates of ISHOTs' use of recreation areas before and after the pandemic and their purposes of participating in recreational activities (socialization, fear of death, being with friends, etc.). Thus, it can be revealed whether there has been a change in the meaning they attribute to recreational activities during the Covid-19 period and for what purposes they carry out these activities. Determining behaviors during the pandemic process will also guide studies in this field. In addition, second homes create social, cultural and economic effects on the destinations (Baltacı & Cevirgen, 2020). The decrease in demand for second homes for vacation purposes may have negative economic consequences (Pitkänen et al., 2014). Especially the economic effects encourage the local people's perspective towards foreigners who own second homes positively. Thus, both the destination gains economically and the local people and foreigners can live in harmony (Baltacı & Cevirgen, 2020). Finally, one of the motivation sources that affect ISHOTs in destination selection is outdoor recreational equipment (Baltacı & Kurar, 2022; Müller, 2016). Monitoring the attitudes of ISHOTs during the pandemic is important in predicting their decision to stay in the future. Thus, the destination will be prevented from being damaged economically and the sustainability of the created second home supply will be ensured. In this respect, the results of the study will provide important clues for local governments. The study adopted an empirical method to test the targeted results. The application-based data collection process was conducted in Alanya/Turkey. The destination

is visited by an average of 4 million tourists annually (Baltacı & Cevirgen, 2020). ISHOTs from 90 different countries have a total of 42,882 second homes in Alanya (ALTSO, 2019). The fact that people from different nationalities live is considered important in terms of generalization of the results and data diversity.

Covid-19 and second home tourism

Second-home tourism is a form of tourism that includes the phenomenon of migration and transforms tourism into a lifestyle (O'Reilly, 2007). Second-home tourists travel for a more comfortable and quality life (Rezvani et al., 2012). People who are still working can acquire a second home in their own country for holiday purposes. Retired people can choose other countries for their second homes. It is called retirement migration in the literature (Bruer, 2005). Factors such as climatic conditions, health, and public infrastructure, ease of transportation, currency exchange rate, socio-economic status, and house prices are effective in the choice of destination. The interaction of second-home tourists with local people is intense. They live in the same buildings as them and shop in the same places. They become part of local life. This is one of the features that distinguish them from tourists who prefer hotels for their holidays (Baltacı & Cevirgen, 2020).

Second homes are associated with concepts such as relaxation, comfortable living, escaping from stress, and happiness (Baltacı&Kurar, 2022). The negative effects of the pandemic and restrictions led people to tend to avoid crowds and stress. Second homes were then seen as an important risk aversion place. Thus, there has been a movement from the more crowded city centres to the quieter areas. This escape has been termed the placebo. Because the population density that will occur in second housing areas increases the risk of infection for both the second homeowners and the local people (Seraphin & Dosquet, 2020).

The high demand for second homes has created some concerns in the local community and local governments. The possibility of the infrastructure being insufficient in the face of intense demand and the risk of second homeowners carrying the virus are the main ones. For this reason, the local people started to protest against the second homeowners. Local governments began to warn them not to come to their second homes (telegraph.co.uk; islandecho.co.uk). However, people's desire to escape and isolation prevents this demand from stopping.


Relationship between second homes and recreational facilities

One of the important factors affecting the choice of destination for purchasing a second home is the recreational areas (Visser, 2006). Seizing recreational opportunities in international second home destinations is a common trend among retirees. Recreational infrastructure is essential for those seeking an active lifestyle during retirement (Wong & Musa, 2015). The vastness of the recreational hinterland, environmental opportunities, horse riding, hiking, fishing, having a good time with friends, and strengthening family ties are some of them (Müller & Marjavaara, 2012; Wong & Musa, 2015). This feature creates the main difference between recreational second homes and residential tourism second homes. Residential second homes are completely holiday indexed and are preferred over hotels. Second homes acquired for recreational purposes, on the other hand, tend for daily leisure activities as well as holidays (Vágner & Fialová, 2011). Second-home tourists who prefer recreational homes have different characteristics from other types of tourists. They stay overnight for longer periods (Seseña 2004). They have a close relationship with the local people and act like a local person. They develop neighbourly relations as well as touristic relations (Baltacı & Cevirgen, 2020).

Second homes are places of relaxation. It also offers individual vacation opportunities. Therefore, it also provides privacy. Massey and Maxwell (1993: 29) stated that people want their second home in a warmer or cooler place: a quieter place, or a livelier place. Mainly, they want it in a different place where life is easier and more fun than it is at home. Especially retired people prefer places where they can spend their free time. Therefore, recreational areas are very important for them. The fact that second homes are called recreational homes is the best indicator of this (Timothy, 2004).

Those who want to use their homes only on weekends or for short periods prefer nearby destinations. For them, calmness and spending time with family are at the forefront rather than recreation areas. (Müller & Marjavaara, 2012). Rather than the environment of the house, its equipment becomes important. However, people who will spend longer time in their second homes generally prefer abroad destinations. For ISHOTs, natural resources are as important as household equipment. There are no longer career plans for ISHOTs, which are mostly retirees. For them, physical, psychological, spiritual, and social development is at the forefront (Aydın & Tütüncü, 2021).

The closure process caused by Covid-19 has eliminated socialization one of the main goals of second homeowners. Technology has become the critical approach to maintaining




social connectedness during the COVID-19 pandemic (Haase et al., 2021). The low level of knowledge of retired ISHOTs regarding the use of mobile phones, computers, and the Internet has caused them to experience more limited opportunities for online socialization. This negatively impacted ISHOTs far from their home country. Loneliness arising from the limitation of communication with friends, neighbours, and family has caused the ISHOTs to experience psychological problems. Another of the most important problems is the physical health problem experienced by the retired due to inactivity during their stay at home (Aydın & Tütüncü, 2021). However, the fact that they can use applications that require technical use, such as participating in virtual tours, proves that the pandemic process encourages learning (Arora & Srinivasan, 2020).

COVID-19 has also affected the rate of use of recreational areas. Interest in some indoor leisure activities has disappeared (Baltacı & Kurar, 2022). This led people to engage in more outdoor recreation, which has been deemed safer than congregating indoors (Landry et al., 2020). In the period when access to recreational areas was restricted, people found other ways out. Quarantined people played music from their homes and danced on streets and balconies. People learned how to fill the long-vacant hours and discover meaning in things they used to take for granted – themselves, their families, and the natural world (Stodolska, 2021).

The tough resistance to not using recreational areas in the first period of the pandemic began to soften over time. With the decrease in death rates and the implementation of mask and distance rules, it has started to use these areas again (Rice et al., 2020). The increase in the vaccination rate also positively affected the interest in recreational areas. Rice and Pan (2020) found an average 25% increase in green area visits in the USA. They identified an average %25 increase in green space visitation in ABD. Facilitating people's participation in outdoor activities through policy and infrastructure development can be a key step in promoting their health and resiliency during times of crisis (Jackson et al., 2021).

Changing behavior of people during the COVID-19

The pandemic process has devastated people psychologically. This pressure has caused people to exhibit different behaviours. This change has been tried to be explained by many theories. Ghaderi, Hall, and Beal (2022) proved that the fear of infection significantly affects employees' protection motivation intention in quarantine hotels. Hamid and Bano (2021) reported that planned behaviour affects the tendency to travel during the pandemic process.



Yeoman, Schänzel and Zenweld (2022) emphasized that the pandemic affects future tourist behaviours and trends and that a significant change is inevitable. Fan et al. (2022) examined people's lodging tendencies within the scope of protection motivation theory. The study results made it clear that future tourist behaviour will be different from pre-pandemic and new trends will dominate. Qiao, Ruan, and Pabel (2022) examined the impact of the pandemic on tourist behaviour in the context of protection motivation theory. The study confirmed that negative mass media negatively impacted tourist behaviour and made conservation motivation more conservative.

Tourist behaviour change is also seen in the choice of destination and accommodation type. Falk, Hagsten, and Lin (2022) demonstrated that tourists gravitate toward personalized vacations for fear of being infected, and that second homes are important in these choices. Munne, Hasan and Bhowmik (2021) stated that the pandemic has increased the interest in second home tourism. During the pandemic, people turned to second homes to protect themselves and have an isolated holiday. Zoğal et al. (2020) confirmed the increase in demand for second home tourism and stated that the increase may continue in the future. However, it was stated that this rapid increase was not due to the general variables affecting the preference for second homes, but to the instinct for protection. Seraphin and Dosquet (2020) agreed with this view. They argued that the demand for second homes was purely a placebo effect and that people thought they could better protect themselves there. Although these data show that the motivations affecting the choice of second homes have changed, they are insufficient to prove the level and motivations of the change. In other words, it is not clear whether the location of the house, its equipment and the recreational infrastructure of the destination are the reasons for preference for second home owners. In this study, it will be revealed whether recreational areas, which are an important source of motivation in choosing a second home destination, still maintain their importance.

Methodology

Study Area

This study was carried out in Alanya/TURKEY. The destination is visited by an average of 4 million tourists annually (Baltacı & Cevirgen, 2020). ISHOTs from 90 different countries have a total of 42,882-second homes in Alanya (ALTSO, 2019). Ranking them according to the countries with the highest number of second homes in the city, the Russian Federation is the

first with 7,555 homes, Norway is the second with 5,875 homes, followed by Germany with 5,253 homes (Baltacı & Cevirgen, 2020).

Questionnaire design, sampling and data collection

A quantitative research method was used in this study. The data were collected through a structured questionnaire comprised of three main sections. In the first part, questions about the demographic characteristics of ISHOTs were included. The second part consisted of questions about the tendency to participate in recreational activities before Covid-19 and after lockdown. In addition, questions about motivations leading to recreational activities were also asked.

Many studies have been conducted on the factors that push individuals to indoor outdoor and virtual recreational activities. The attraction of shopping malls, theatre-cinema, food-drinking instinct, museums visit (Calvo-Porrall and Lévy-Mangín, 2018), opera-musical performances (Zhang, Chen, Sun & Bao, 2013), interest in art (Mohammed Ahmed, 2022), gym (Henchy, 2011), social activities (Zahrobsky, 1950) and reading books (Arbuthnot, 1959) are among the “*indoor activities*”.

Outstanding “*outdoor activities*” are nature park excursions, horseback riding (Aasetre, Gundersen, Vistad & Holtrop, 2016), fishing, picnics, outdoor photography, historical and archaeological site visits (Smith et al, 2021), running , hiking, cycling (Davies, Lumsdon & Weston, 2012), water sports (de Freitas, 2051; Mimbs et al., 2020), and gardening (Hosaka et al., 2018).

The presence of mass media in human life has supported “*virtual activities*”. Virtual tours (Halaç and Saatçi, 2018), online interviews (Humagain & Singleton, 2021), online games (Chik and Ho, 2017), watching television and news (Hamermesh, 2020), online reading (Dixit et al., 2020), online fitness (Zasacka, 2017), learning a new language (Clark & Lupton, 2021), wellness and exercise resources (Shevchenko & Petrushenko, 2021) are considered as “*virtual recreational activities*”.

In studies on the motivations for participation in recreational activities, communing with nature, having fun, having a good time (Fan & Luo, 2021), wellness (Shevchenko & Petrushenko, 2021), socialize (Davies et al., 2012), learning new things (Stein, Denny & Pennisi, 2003), enjoying retirement (Siegenthaler & Vaughan, 1998), escape from stress and anxiety (Manfredo, 1984), forget my loneliness (Başaran, 2016), the fear of death (Çetinkaya

& Özçelik, 2021), the pursuit of happiness (Fan & Luo, 2021), to see the Sky (Derrien & Stokowski, 2020), thinking about the good days and relaxation (Zurawik, 2020) to dream of the past (Holtermann et al., 2012) are emphasized.

In the third part, there are 5 questions to determine the tendencies to participate in recreational activities. This part was measured on a 5-point Likert scale (1 “completely disagree” and 5 “completely agree”). Studies examining the relationship between the pandemic and the willingness to recreational activities have proven that there is a significant relationship between the vaccination rate and participation in recreational activities (Spennemann & Whitsed, 2021). The pandemic process has increased the perception of hygiene and sanitation. These variables also affect individual behaviours (Purnama & Susanna, 2020). However, the psychological effects of the studies continue for a long time, even if the major events that have occurred lose their effect (Pfefferbaum & North, 2020). This indicates the possibility of people not participating in recreational activities for a while, even when the pandemic has completely disappeared. On this basis, the questions constituting the fourth part were formed as follows;

- Q1:** The increase in the vaccination rate encourages me to participate in recreational activities.
- Q2:** People's compliance with hygiene rules encourages me to participate in recreational activities.
- Q3:** Measures taken in recreational areas encourage me to participate in recreational activities.
- Q4:** I will be starting to participate in indoor activities in the near future.
- Q5:** Even if the pandemic is over, I will try to stay away from indoor activities.

The questionnaire was created online. There are associations of 25 different nationalities in Alanya. In addition, there is a foreigners' council that meets every two weeks within the Alanya Municipality. Survey links were transferred to mobile numbers and shared via social media accounts through these organizations. Answering every question was mandatory. The participants of the study were determined through purposeful sampling. People who were in Alanya during the COVID-19 pandemic were included in the sampling. People who left Alanya during the process or did not participate in recreational activities were excluded. A pre-test was conducted with 150 people to test the validity of the scale. Skewness and kurtosis values were checked, and reliability coefficients were checked. All values were at acceptable levels and

above. Therefore, the actual implementation started. First, e-mails were sent to citizens living in Alanya through foreign associations and social media posts were made. Those who were in the Alanya destination during the pandemic were identified. An online survey link was sent to returning second home tourists. A total of 500 messages were sent and 430 questionnaires were returned. Data collection occurred from mid-February through the end of Jun 2021. The return rate of the questionnaire form is 86%. To test the homogeneity of the survey data, skewness-kurtosis coefficients were first checked. The values were found to be between -1.5 and +1.5 and the normality of the data was confirmed (George & Mallery, 2010; Tabachnick ve Fidell, 2013). The reliability of the questionnaire was determined as $\alpha=0.749$ (Hayes & Coutts, 2020). Independent samples t-test and f (ANOVA) tests were used to test differences between variables.

Respondents' profile

54,2% of the respondents are male and 45% are female. More than half of the respondents are 41 years or older. 87,9% of the participants own their first home in their own country. 81,2% of them bought or rented a second home for the holiday. While the majority of the respondents were in Alanya before the pandemic, more than a third of them came to their second homes during the pandemic. Almost half of the participants have a monthly income of more than 3000 Euros and the majority are retired. 65,8% of the respondents own a second home. Almost all of the respondents live in their second home with at least one person other than themselves (see table 1).



Table 1.

Descriptive Results of The Ishots

Gender	n	%	Recreational Second Home Status	n	%
Female	197	45,8	Owner	283	65,8
Male	233	54,2	Long term rented	94	21,9
Time to come to Alanya	n	%	Short term rented	53	12,3
Before Pandemic	267	62,1	Countries of ISHOTs	n	%
During Pandemic	163	37,9	Belgian	56	13
Economic Status	n	%	German	89	20,7
Under 1500 Euro	96	22,3	Iranian	47	11
1501-3000 Euro	149	34,6	Netherlander	65	15
More than 3001 Euro	185	43,1	Russian	58	13,5
Working Status	n	%	Scandinavian	73	17
Active employee	110	25,6	Others	42	9,8
Retired	287	66,7	Reason for buying/rented a second home	n	%
Unemployed	33	7,7	Holiday	349	81,2
Number of people staying at second home	n	%	Investment	36	8,4
1 (Alone)	36	8,4	Others	45	10,5
2	228	53	Age	n	%
3	114	26,5	15 and 18 years	32	7,4
4 or more	52	12,1	18 and 29 years	66	15,3
Do you have a permanent residence in your own country?	n	%	30 and 40 years	58	13,5
Yes	378	87,9	41 and 50 years	98	22,8
No	52	12,1	51 years and older	176	41

A significant portion of the respondents participates in indoor recreational activities in their daily lives. In the pre-pandemic period, the most common indoor recreation activities are going to cafes and restaurants (%100), social activities (party, etc.) (%83,5), theatre & cinema (81), and shopping malls (%70). Reading books (%53), visiting art centres (53) and museums (38), opera and other musical activities (%42), and going to the gym (39) are less preferred activities. With the pandemic, the trend toward indoor recreational activities has dramatically decreased. The greatest decrease was experienced in museum visits. The greatest decrease was experienced in museum visits. It was followed by the gym (-%78), shopping malls (-%77,4), and art centres (-%63,3). However, it was determined that there was an increase in activities such as reading books (+%60) and spring cleaning (+28) (see table 2).

Table 2.

Percentage Of Change In Indoor Recreation Activities

Activities	Pre COVID-19		During COVID-19		Change
	n	%	n	%	%
Shopping Mall	301	70	68	16	-77,4
Museum	163	38	12	2,8	-92,7
Theater & Cinema	348	81	159	37	-54,3
Opera & Musical Performance	180	42	34	8	-81
Art Centre	226	53	83	19,3	-63,3
Gym	167	39	36	8,4	-78,4
Cafe & Restaurant	430	100	268	62,3	-37,8
Social Activities (Parties)	359	83,5	157	36,5	-56,3
Spring Cleaning	82	19,1	105	24,4	+28
Reading book	227	53	364	85	+60

The rate of participants' participation in outdoor recreational activities before covid-19 is moderate. Swimming (%97,9), stray animals feeding (68,4), and outdoor sports (%57,4) are the most preferred outdoor recreation activities. Horseback riding (+278), visiting historical and archaeological sites (+%218,1), outdoor photography (+112,5), visits to national parks (+%78,2), and gardening are the outdoor recreations that have increased the most during the Covid 19 period. Fishing (-%29), swimming (-%56) and dangerous water sports (-%58,4) are activities that show a decline (see table 3).

Table 3.

Percentage of Change In Outdoor Recreation Activities

Activities	Pre COVID-19		During COVID-19		Change
	n	%	n	%	%
National Parks	124	28,9	221	51,3	+78,2
Running Fields	158	36,7	203	47,2	+28,5
Outdoor Sports	247	57,4	318	74	+28,7
Fishing	62	14,4	44	10,2	-29
Stray Animals Feeding	294	68,4	357	83	+21,4
Hiking	113	26,3	199	46,3	+6,5
Picnic	147	34,2	219	50,9	+49
Swimming	421	97,9	185	43	-56
Cycling	128	29,8	165	38,4	+28,9
Horseback Riding	46	11,7	174	40,5	+278
Water Sports (Canoeing, Rafting)	89	20,7	37	8,6	-58,4
Gardening	144	33,5	223	51,9	+54,9
Visiting Historical & Archaeological Sites	33	7,7	105	24,4	+218,1
Wildlife Surveys	67	15,6	92	21,4	+37,3
Outdoor Photography	24	5,6	51	11,9	+112,5

During Covid-19: In the last 3 months

In the pre-pandemic period, respondents mostly preferred virtual recreational activities such as playing games (%66,7), online chats (85,3), watching television (%82,3), and news (%64,9). During the pandemic, participation in virtual recreational activities increased. Participation in online fitness clubs (+%377), reading online (+%156,9), virtual tours (%95,7), and use of resources for health and exercise (+%92,6) are the virtual activities with the highest increase (see table 4).

Table 4.

Percentage of Change In Virtual Recreation Activities

Activities	Pre COVID-19		During COVID-19		Change
	n	%	n	%	%
Games	287	66,7	320	74,4	+11,5
Virtual Tours	164	38,1	321	74,6	+95,7
Online Chat	367	85,3	430	100	+17,1
Television	356	82,3	422	98,1	+18,5
Reading Online	58	13,5	149	34,6	+156,9
Watching News	279	64,9	392	91,1	+40,5
Online Fitness Class	18	4,2	86	20	+377
Wellness & Exercise Resources	149	34,6	287	66,7	+92,6
Learning a New Language	47	10,9	69	16	+46,8

During Covid-19: In the last 3 months

The factors that led the respondents to recreational activities in the pre-pandemic period were listed as having a good time (%84,2), socialising (%76,3), having fun (68,1), strengthening family ties (%55,6), enjoying retirement (%62,6), wellness (%60,5), escape from stress and anxiety (%53,7). The pandemic process has led to a change in this motivation. Respondents listed the aims of participating in recreational activities during the Covid-19 process as follows: Avoiding bad news in the media (+%550), fear of death (+%236,6), thinking about good days (+%150), dreaming of the past (+%147), watching the sky (+%122,6), forgetting loneliness (+%91), commune with nature (+%78,4), avoiding stress and anxiety (+%72,7). Strengthening family ties (-40,6%), learning new things (-34%), and enjoying retirement (-43,1%) were the motivations that were postponed in this process (see table 5).

Table 5.

Percentage of Change In The Purpose of Participating In Recreational Activities

Purpose	Pre COVID-19		During COVID-19		Change
	n	%	n	%	
Socialize	328	76,3	418	97,2	+27,4
Having Fun	293	68,1	345	80,2	+17,7
Being with Friends	177	41,2	223	51,7	+26
Strengthening Family Ties	239	55,6	142	33	-40,6
Learning New Things	135	31,4	89	20,7	-34
Have a Good Time	362	84,2	418	97,2	+15,5
Enjoying Retirement	269	62,6	153	35,6	-43,1
Wellness	260	60,5	387	90	+48,8
Escape from Stress & Anxiety	231	53,7	399	92,8	+72,7
Forget my Loneliness	86	20	164	38,1	+91
The fear of Death	41	9,5	138	32,1	+236,6
The Pursuit of Happiness	77	17,9	119	27,7	+54,5
Avoiding Bad News from the Media	38	8,8	247	57,4	+550
To Dream of the Past	61	14,2	151	35,1	+147,5
Thinking about the Good Days	76	17,7	190	44,2	+150
Commune with Nature	148	34,4	264	61,4	+78,4
To See the Sky	84	19,5	187	43,5	+122,6

During Covid-19: In the last 3 months

The distribution of the obtained data is presented in table 6. Accordingly, the increase in the vaccination rate positively affects the attitude towards recreational activities. The observance of the hygiene rules by the people using the recreational areas encourages the respondents to recreational activities. Measures taken in recreational areas encourage respondents to recreational activities. However, this rate is not very high. Respondents are undecided about participating in indoor recreational activities shortly.

Table 6.

Tendency of Respondents To Participate In Recreational Activities In The Future

ITEMS	mean	1		2		3		4		5	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Q1	4,12	13	3,2	22	5,1	57	13,2	146	33,9	192	44,6
Q2	3,81	10	2,3	39	9,1	96	22,3	163	37,9	122	28,4
Q3	3,41	34	7,9	18	4,2	148	34,4	127	29,5	101	23,5
Q4	3,05	67	15,6	53	12,3	156	36,3	98	22,8	56	13
Q5	3,85	14	3,2	27	6,3	101	23,5	154	35,8	134	31,2

1: Strongly disagree; 2: Disagree; 3:Unstable; 4:Agree; 5: Strongly Agree

Comparisons among means (t and F tests)

It was tested whether there was a significant difference between the demographic characteristics of the participants and means (see Table 7). Means were compared with the t and F (ANOVA) test. In the study, only the variables that had a significant relationship between them were presented. Other values are not included in the table. According to the results of the analysis, the risk perception of women for recreational activities is lower. Their motivation to participate in these activities is higher.

Table 7.

T And F Statistics


Variables	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q5	
	mean	p	mean	p	mean	P	mean	p	mean	p
<i>t statistics</i>										
Gender	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>
Female	4,56	,000	3,94	,007	3,73	,000	3,23	,000	3,67	,004
Male	3,68		3,68		3,09		2,87		4,03	
Come to Alanya	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>
Before Pandemic	3,86	,000	3,65	,011	3,26	,002	2,81	,000	3,93	,026
During Pandemic	4,38		3,97		3,54		3,29		3,77	
<i>F Statistics</i>										
Working Status	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>
Active Employee	3,84		3,53		3,15		2,85		4,18	
Unemployed	4,05	,028	3,87	,021	3,31	,014	3,09	,038	3,96	,007
Retired	4,47		4,03		3,77		3,21		3,41	
Second Home Status	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>
Short Term Rented	3,79		3,49		3,16		2,67		4,19	
Long Term Rented	4,09	,009	3,93	,004	3,43	,000	3,19	,000	3,95	,001
Owner	4,48		4,01		3,64		3,26		3,41	
Reason for Second Home	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>p</i>
Investment	3,72		3,11		3,29		2,53		4,14	
Others	4,23	,000	4,07	,000	3,45	,002	3,24	,008	3,75	,014
Holiday	4,41		4,25		3,49		3,38		3,66	

ISHOTs, who were in their second homes before the pandemic and decided to stay here after the outbreak of the pandemic, are more moderate about recreational activities. Retired and unemployed people are more positive towards recreational activities. Second home ownership or long-term rental status stood out for the positive attitude towards recreational activities. Acquisition of a second home for holiday purposes has ensured that the attitude towards recreational activities is positive.

Discussion

This study focused on the recreational experiences of ISHOTs during the covid-19 process. The study results showed that the majority of ISHOTs were in Turkey before the pandemic and did not leave after the pandemic broke out. The rest came to their second homes during the pandemic process. This proved that second homes were seen as an area of isolation for people (Baltacı & Kurar, 2022; Seraphin & Dosquet, 2020; Zoğal et al., 2020). ISHOTs participated extensively in both indoor and outdoor recreational activities before the pandemic. This finding confirms the importance of recreational areas for second-home tourists (Visser, 2006; Müller & Marjavaara, 2012). With the removal of all mandatory restrictions, especially long-term renters and owners continued their interest in outdoor activities. They tended to participate in indoor activities in the future. The results confirmed the association of second homes with recreational motivation (Baltacı & Kurar, 2022; Vágner & Fialová, 2011). Elderly and retired ISHOTs made up the majority. They were more willing to participate in recreational activities than other groups. People who stayed for short periods had less willingness. Also, they were not inclined to participate in indoor activities in the future. Sievänen et al. (2007) stated that older people stay at the destination longer. It also found that short-term second home owners or tenants participate in sports-focused events, generating more income for the destination. In our study, it was observed that the demand for outdoor activities increased, but the interest in activities such as water sports decreased. Water sports are important to the experience of both locals and tourists (Mimbs et al., 2020). Thus, it was concluded that efforts should be made to keep short-term ISHOTs at the destination and to maintain economic gain.

The Covid 19 pandemic has affected the recreational choices of ISHOTs (Jackson et al. 2021). The rate of participation in outdoor recreational activities was at an average level in the pre-pandemic period. The pandemic has reduced the participation rate in indoor events. (Stieger, Lewetz, & Swami, 2021). After the pandemic, the rate of participation in outdoor recreational activities greatly increased. This is a similar process to the SARS in Hong Kong (Marafa & Tung, 2004) and Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans (Rung et al., 2011). However, participation in outdoor recreational activities such as rafting, canoeing, and swimming, which provide close interpersonal contact, decreased after the pandemic. When the findings are evaluated together, ISHOTs prefer to stay away from activities involving close contact (Deforche et al., 2021).




The pandemic has increased ISHOTs' propensity for virtual events. Indoor recreational activities have been replaced by virtual activities. One way to relieve people during times of lockdown could be virtual apps. Presenting outdoor recreations as virtual reality will be a place of relaxation, even if it does not offer a real experience (Caneday, 1992). Virtually experiencing recreational activities can be undesirable. However, to assume that virtual reality will not be a part of the future is to ignore the rapid development in technology. The study results proved that the willingness to participate in indoor recreational activities is very low. Here, virtual reality has the potential to help counteract the pressure of high demand for open spaces. Thus, capacity overruns that may occur will be prevented and it will contribute to the sustainability of both the environment and recreational areas (Valenzuela, 2020).

While ISHOTs turned to recreational activities to have fun and have a good time before the pandemic, this motivation turned into a self-protective behaviour (Vacondio et al., 2021) with the pandemic. Fear of death intensified (Çetinkaya & Ozcelik, 2021) and negative news put pressure on them (Witteveen & Velthorst, 2020). However, the longing for the past has increased and the desire to be intertwined with nature after restrictions has become irresistible. All these have changed the ISHOT's perspective on recreational activities (Stieger et al., 2021). For this reason, activities that integrate nature should be organized and announced. The participation of ISHOTs should be encouraged.

The vaccination rate is important in changing the recreational attitude (Rice et al., 2020). ISHOTs welcome the increase in the vaccination rate and state that this situation encourages them to participate in recreational activities (Spennemann & Whitsed, 2021). The observance of hygiene rules by people using recreational areas is another source of motivation. However, this attitude is not high. This points to some problems in compliance with hygiene rules in recreational areas. The attitude towards the measures taken in recreational areas is at a low level. ISHOTs are not sure that the measures taken against the risk of infection are sufficient.

ISHOTs do not believe that the pandemic will end shortly. They are hesitant to participate in indoor recreational activities for a short time. Although they tend to participate in indoor activities after the pandemic is over, they are not very keen yet (Beery, Olsson & Vitestam, 2021). The results obtained in the study show that there are some deficiencies in the management of recreational areas during the pandemic process. The inadequacy of the measures taken drives ISHOTs away from recreational areas. However, it is necessary to take measures to force the people who use these areas to comply with the hygiene rules (Spennemann & Whitsed, 2021). The negative attitude towards recreational areas will also



decrease the usage rate of these areas. As this affects people physically and psychologically, it will cause a significant decrease in the economic income obtained from these areas (Landry et al., 2021). Lack of planning can have more serious consequences. Demand for recreational areas can turn them into areas where the infection is escalating again. Thus, these places where people go for their well-being can bring about destruction both in terms of their health and psychology, as well as the burden of the health sector and its cost to the state. For this reason, the carrying capacity in recreational areas should be recalculated and applied quickly.

In the study, it has been observed that the interest in indoor recreational activities has decreased and this will continue for a while. ISHOTs mostly prefer outdoor activities (Mateer et al., 2021). People will not be allowed to enter outdoor recreational areas at the rate of their pre-pandemic capacity. It is necessary to develop the existing capacities of these areas or to construct new recreational areas. Thus, the balance of carrying capacity will be easily achieved (Deforche et al., 2021). Museum trips decreased in terms of physical visits but increased virtually. This is also a sign that the sense of curiosity cannot be suppressed and that such visits may start again in the future. In such a case, museums need to be prepared for the new normal process with important planning. Visitor management systems and transferring museums to the virtual environment are mandatory alternatives that should be considered.

Outdoor recreational activities are not normally considered to be affected by the social distancing rule (Spennemann & Whitsed, 2021). The intensity experienced after the lockdowns necessitates compliance with these rules. Local people who are unable to use areas as their carrying capacity is exceeded may feel displaced (Müller, 1999). Thus, possible conflicts may arise between users and non-users. It should be taken into account that the pandemic has increased xenophobia and hostility (Mamun & Griffiths, 2020).

Self-organized outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, running and cycling have become even more popular as many recreational facilities have been closed. The psychological impact included increased stress, anxiety, and confusion. The economic impact is expected to be substantial, but the recreational industry is showing its resilience by finding new ways of continuing operations (van Leeuwen et al., 2020).

Conclusion

ISHOTs have some signs of concern about the adequacy of the measures taken. The reluctance to participate in indoor recreational activities in the future is an issue that the local government should pay attention to. The carrying capacity of recreational areas should be recalculated and this capacity should be increased by opening new areas. The negative attitude of the groups, who consider the increase in vaccination rates as an advantage for participation in recreational activities, towards the measures taken by the state is a thought-provoking situation.

This study examined ISHOT's second homestay in terms of health protection and isolation. Examining it from another perspective, such as psychological ownership theory, will add depth to the findings.

Finally, outdoor recreation is important for building social resilience (Samuelsson et al., 2020). For second home tourism to continue sustainably, recreational opportunities must be re-evaluated and re-planned to motivate ISHOTs to stay.

The negative attitude of ISHOTs towards indoor activities also eliminates the reason for them to buy housing from another country, and it causes these demands to be met only with outdoor-outdoor activities. However, these people use their second homes not only in summer but also in winter. Thus, a seasonal feature emerges for the residences and the usage period is naturally limited. The arrival of ISHOTs only in summer will cause the benefit to the local people living in the destination to decrease.

During the pandemic process, people's desire to integrate with nature has increased. Morse et al. (2020) found that people turned to outdoor activities to integrate with nature and participation in activities that required close contact decreased. The study confirmed this in the results obtained. Local governments need to increase nature-based activities and encourage second homeowners to participate. Finally, the carrying capacity of recreational areas should be re-determined and planned according to pandemic conditions. Otherwise, these areas risk turning into areas where people are reinfected instead of areas where they seek happiness.


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