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Perceived Tourism Barriers in Algeria: Economic Constraints, Destination Conditions, and Gender Association

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Abstract:
This study aims to identify the dominant barriers to tourism participation in Algeria and examine their association with gender. We used a quantitative, cross-sectional design and distributed an online questionnaire from June 2023 to January 2024. Convenience sampling yielded 168 valid responses, which were analyzed using descriptive statistics, cross-tabulations, and the Pearson Chi-square test at a significance level of 0.05. The results indicate that international tourism was the most preferred option (46.4%), followed by a preference for both domestic and international tourism (35.7%), while domestic tourism alone was preferred by 17.9% of respondents. Economic constraints emerged as the primary barrier to tourism participation, followed by security concerns, inadequate infrastructure, and poor service quality. Furthermore, the findings reveal no statistically significant association between gender and perceived tourism barriers, $\chi^2(18, N = 168) = 25.725$, $p = 0.106$. These findings contribute to the literature by integrating leisure constraints, destination competitiveness, and sustainable tourism perspectives to explain tourism participation. The study suggests that tourism development policies in Algeria should prioritize affordability, safety, infrastructure development, connectivity, and improved service quality to reduce participation barriers, strengthen destination competitiveness, and encourage greater domestic tourism demand.

INTRODUCTION

Tourism matters to society not only because it generates visitor spending, employment, and local business activity, but because destination development can influence territorial inclusion, community well-being, and urban quality of life (Godovykh et al., 2025; Justice et al., 2026; Paiva et al., 2025). Evidence from African countries indicates that tourism development can contribute to social welfare when sectoral growth generates wider human-development gains rather than isolated increases in arrivals or receipts (Pan et al., 2024). At the destination level, however, resource abundance does not automatically produce tourism value. Competitiveness depends on how resources, infrastructure, managerial capabilities, sustainability performance, and visitor-oriented systems are coordinated (González-Rodríguez et al., 2023; Wu et al., 2023; Aminah et al., 2025; Putra & Mukti Soma, 2025). This concern matters for Algeria, where substantial natural, cultural, and coastal assets coexist with persistent tourism constraints; understanding why people are constrained from participating matters

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because participation reflects destination accessibility and quality. Therefore, identifying perceived barriers provides an empirical basis for more inclusive tourism development and more sustainable destination policy.

The present study is theoretically anchored in three perspectives. First, the Leisure Constraints Model explains tourism participation through intrapersonal, interpersonal, and structural constraints that may inhibit or reshape travel decisions (Darcy et al., 2025; Wang & Fu, 2025). Recent empirical studies confirm that structural and interpersonal constraints are associated with travel intentions and decision-making, demonstrating that barriers are more than descriptive conditions (Aziz et al., 2022; Shin et al., 2022). Second, destination competitiveness theory conceptualizes competitive destinations as outcomes of interacting resources, infrastructure, managerial capabilities, and sustainability conditions (Crouch & Ritchie, 1999; Font et al., 2023; González-Rodríguez et al., 2023). Third, a gender perspective matters because tourism constraints can be experienced differently depending on social position, particularly regarding cost, safety, cultural expectations, and mobility (Aziz et al., 2022; Bernard et al., 2022; Osman & Brown, 2024). These perspectives provide a coherent theoretical basis for examining perceived tourism barriers and testing whether their distribution is associated with gender.

The general problem is that tourism development can remain underutilized when potential visitors encounter barriers across economic, infrastructural, safety, service, and social dimensions. Research shows that travel constraints include monetary limitations, inadequate accessibility, interpersonal conditions, psychological concerns, and destination restrictions, and that their effects differ across contexts and traveler groups (Aziz et al., 2022; Shin et al., 2022). Research on destination service ecosystems further demonstrates that tourist experiences are collectively produced through transport, accommodation, information, public services, businesses, and other destination actors rather than by attractions alone (Gao et al., 2022). For Algeria, this creates a practical challenge: tourism potential may exist, yet demand can remain weak when affordability, security perceptions, infrastructure, and service quality fail to provide enabling conditions. The problem is therefore not simply a shortage of tourist resources, but a mismatch between destination potential and the conditions people need to access, trust, and experience tourism. This mismatch requires empirical investigation of traveler perceptions.

Previous research has substantially advanced understanding of sustainable tourism, destination competitiveness, and travel constraints, but these research streams have often developed in parallel. Destination studies frequently emphasize macro-level competitiveness, sustainability indicators, efficiency, or destination management (Font et al., 2023; Wu et al., 2023), whereas travel-constraint studies commonly focus on behavioral intentions and psychological mechanisms among travelers (Aziz et al., 2022; Shin et al., 2022). Governance research similarly demonstrates that sustainable tourism requires stakeholder coordination, institutional capacity, and evidence-informed planning (Gispert, 2024; Pham et al., 2025; Volgger et al., 2025). Yet these contributions provide limited empirical integration between individual perceptions of tourism barriers and their implications for destination sustainability, particularly in North African contexts. Recent research has also frequently relied on structural models, qualitative cases, or destination-level indicators. Consequently, fewer studies establish a clear empirical baseline of the barriers most salient to travelers and connect these perceptions to destination-management concerns. The present study addresses this empirical and contextual gap by focusing on Algeria.

A second gap concerns gender and contextual variability. Existing studies show that gender can shape how travelers negotiate constraints, particularly when structural costs, interpersonal relations, cultural expectations, and safety are involved (Aziz et al., 2022; Bernard et al., 2022; Osman & Brown, 2024). However, gender does not necessarily generate significant differences across all tourism contexts, and assuming such differences without statistical testing may encourage stereotyped or poorly targeted tourism policies. At the same time, research on sustainable urban tourism increasingly emphasizes economic, socio-cultural, environmental, political, and technological dimensions and recognizes the perspectives of multiple destination stakeholders (Rasoolimanesh et al., 2024). Governance scholarship further argues that tourism evidence must translate into planning and implementation rather than remain at the level of problem description (Scuttari et al., 2025; Volgger et al., 2025). An unresolved question is therefore whether gender meaningfully structures perceived tourism barriers in Algeria or whether these constraints are predominantly structural and widely shared. Resolving this issue is important for evidence-based and inclusive destination management.

The state of the art connects individual experiences of tourism constraints with destination-management implications for sustainable tourism. Rather than treating barriers as isolated inconveniences, this study conceptualizes them as demand-side signals of economic accessibility, security, infrastructure, and service conditions from travelers' perspectives. This approach complements destination competitiveness research showing that comparative resources do not automatically produce competitive advantage (González-Rodríguez et al., 2023; Abdullah & Sukriyah, 2026; Fahriansyah et al., 2025) and governance research emphasizing coordinated, evidence-informed destination management (Gispert, 2024; Scuttari et al., 2025). It also extends gender-sensitive tourism research by empirically testing whether differences between male and female respondents are statistically meaningful rather than inferred from descriptive variation alone (Aziz et al., 2022; Osman & Brown, 2024). The novelty is therefore contextual and analytical: the study provides an Algeria-specific empirical profile of perceived tourism barriers. It tests their association with gender and translates the findings into implications for sustainable urban tourism. Such evidence is necessary because policy priorities should reflect perceived traveler constraints rather than rely solely on supply-side assumptions.

Against this background, the research problem is formulated as follows: Which barriers most strongly limit tourism participation in Algeria, and is perceived tourism constraint significantly associated with gender? Guided by the Leisure Constraints Model, this study assumes that tourism participation is shaped by structural, interpersonal, and intrapersonal conditions rather than destination attractiveness alone (Aziz et al., 2022). Based on previous evidence of gendered differences in the perception and negotiation of tourism constraints, the study proposes the following hypothesis: H1: Gender is significantly associated with perceived tourism barriers among respondents in Algeria (Bernard et al., 2022; Osman & Brown, 2024). Nevertheless, the hypothesis is treated as an empirical proposition rather than a predetermined conclusion because contextual differences may weaken or eliminate gender disparities. By combining the identification of dominant tourism barriers with a gender-based association test, the study contributes an empirical foundation for tourism policy in Algeria. The findings are expected to inform infrastructure priorities, affordability measures, safety communication, service improvement, and more responsive destination governance.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employed a quantitative, cross-sectional survey design to examine tourism behavior and perceived tourism barriers among respondents in Algeria and to assess whether the distribution of perceived barriers was associated with gender. A quantitative survey was considered appropriate because the study sought to describe patterns across a defined group of respondents and statistically test associations between categorical variables. Survey-based research remains widely used in tourism and hospitality because standardized instruments facilitate systematic comparison across respondents and support empirical examination of behavioral and perceptual patterns (Koc & Ayyildiz, 2021; Aziz et al., 2022; Lin, 2024). The design also aligns with recent tourism research that examines travel constraints through structured questionnaires and quantitative analysis (Lenggogeni & Syafrizal, 2023; Nguyen & Luong, 2026). The study was exploratory rather than causal; therefore, the analysis aimed to identify distributions and associations rather than establish that gender causes specific tourism barriers. This distinction matters because contemporary tourism-methodology literature encourages researchers to align analytical claims closely with research design and avoid overstating causal interpretations from cross-sectional survey data (Howard & Henderson, 2023; Liu et al., 2025).

Algeria was the study's empirical setting, although data were collected electronically rather than through a single physical field site. The country was selected because it combines substantial tourism resources with persistent challenges relating to tourism accessibility, infrastructure, security perceptions, and service provision, making it an appropriate context for examining perceived barriers to tourism participation. Focusing on Algeria also allows the study to address tourism constraints within a North African context that remains comparatively underrepresented in international tourism research. Previous studies demonstrate that tourism constraints are strongly context-dependent and can be shaped by sociocultural conditions, physical safety, structural limitations, and practical accessibility (Nematpour et al., 2024). The Algerian setting is therefore analytically relevant because perceived barriers may reflect both individual circumstances and destination-level conditions. In addition, studying the national context rather than a single destination provides a broader empirical perspective on tourism constraints. At the same time, the findings remain appropriately interpreted as exploratory evidence rather than nationally representative estimates because the sample was obtained through non-probability sampling.

Data were collected through a structured online questionnaire administered between June 2023 and January 2024. The questionnaire was organized into sections covering respondents' socio-demographic characteristics, tourism behavior, tourism preferences, willingness to participate in tourism activities, and perceived tourism barriers. The barrier section addressed economic limitations, time constraints, transportation difficulties, safety concerns, inadequate tourism infrastructure, service-related problems, and other contextual obstacles reported in the original study. Convenience sampling yielded 168 valid responses, a non-probability approach chosen because online distribution allowed efficient access to respondents. Researchers frequently use convenience-based online surveys in tourism research when they need access to dispersed respondents, and the study is exploratory (Aziz et al., 2022; Shrivastava & Gautam, 2024).

Nevertheless, such sampling can limit representativeness because inclusion probabilities are unknown. We therefore considered this limitation when interpreting the

results. Recent tourism studies have also shown the practical value of online questionnaires for examining travel constraints, preferences, and behavior across geographically dispersed populations (Lenggogeni & Syafrizal, 2023; Lee & Yen, 2024; Nguyen & Luong, 2026).

Data analysis used descriptive and inferential procedures aligned with the dataset's categorical structure. Frequencies and percentages summarized respondents' demographic characteristics, tourism preferences, and perceived barriers, allowing identification of the most frequently reported constraints. We then generated cross-tabulations to examine the distribution of tourism barriers by gender. To determine whether the observed differences reflected a statistically meaningful association, we applied a Pearson Chi-square test of independence. We selected this test because both gender and the categorized tourism-barrier responses were categorical variables. Recent tourism research has similarly used Chi-square procedures to examine differences or associations among categorical characteristics in visitor datasets (Lee & Yen, 2024), while Indonesian tourism research has also employed bivariate statistical procedures to examine relationships involving gender and tourism participation (Ramadhani, 2023). Statistical significance was evaluated at $\alpha = .05$. The analysis therefore focused on whether gender and perceived tourism barriers were statistically associated, rather than interpreting the results as evidence of causal influence. This analytical boundary is consistent with methodological recommendations emphasizing transparent alignment between research questions, measurement level, and statistical procedure (Rasoolimanesh et al., 2023).

The authors considered data quality and research ethics throughout the survey process. The final dataset comprised 168 valid responses, and descriptive screening established the distribution of responses before inferential analysis. Because the original manuscript does not report psychometric validation statistics, such as Cronbach's alpha, exploratory factor analysis, or confirmatory validity testing, no unsupported reliability or validity coefficients are introduced here. This is methodologically preferable because recent reviews of tourism and hospitality research have identified incomplete reporting of measurement development, validity, reliability, and data-quality procedures as a recurring methodological weakness (Koc & Ayyildiz, 2021; Rasoolimanesh et al., 2023; Howard & Henderson, 2023). For ethical research practice, participation should be voluntary and based on informed consent, with respondents receiving sufficient information about the study purpose and how their responses will be used before completing the questionnaire. Respondents should also be free to decline participation or discontinue their participation without consequences, while personal information should be minimized and handled confidentially. These principles are particularly relevant to online tourism research, where privacy, data protection, and responsible data governance are integral to ethical research practice (Mora et al., 2022). Any formal institutional ethics approval, exemption, or protocol identifier should be reported explicitly in the final manuscript if such approval or determination was obtained.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

Respondent Characteristics and Measurement of Tourism Preferences

Tourism preferences were operationalized as respondents' stated preference for domestic tourism, international tourism, or both. The structured questionnaire included a tourism-preference section designed to identify the respondents' preferred destination

scope and tourism orientation. This measure was descriptive in nature and was used to characterize the tourism demand pattern within the sample rather than to test causal relationships. The respondent profile was established first to provide demographic context for interpreting these preferences. As shown in Table 1, the study received 168 valid responses: 81 males (48.2%) and 87 females (51.8%). The sample was predominantly young, with 120 respondents (71.4%) aged 18–25 years and 36 respondents (21.4%) aged 26–35 years. Most respondents were not married (85.1%), and 74.4% were unemployed. Thus, the descriptive profile indicates that the survey primarily captured the tourism perceptions of a relatively young population with limited representation of the unemployed.

Table 1. Socio-demographic Profile

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	81	48.2%
	Female	87	51.8%
Age	18–25 years	120	71.4%
	26–35 years	36	21.4%
	36–46 years	8	4.8%
	47+ years	4	2.4%
Marital Status	Married	25	14.9%
	Not married	143	85.1%
Socio-professional Status	Employee	43	25.6%
	Non-employed	125	74.4%

The descriptive distribution in Table 1 provides two important characteristics for understanding the subsequent findings. First, the gender composition was sufficiently balanced for an exploratory comparison between male and female respondents, with only a 3.6-percentage-point difference between the two groups. Second, the substantial concentration of respondents aged 18–25 years, along with the high proportion of unemployed and unmarried participants, indicates that the findings primarily reflect the experiences and perceptions of younger respondents. This composition is substantively relevant because tourism preferences and perceived barriers may be closely connected to respondents' economic position, life stage, and mobility circumstances. The demographic profile therefore establishes an important contextual foundation for interpreting the tourism-preference and tourism-barrier results. Nevertheless, because age and socio-professional status were not subjected to inferential testing in the present study, their role should be treated as descriptive context rather than as evidence of statistically tested group differences.

Tourism preference, which constituted the first substantive tourism outcome examined in the survey, was measured through respondents' selection of domestic tourism, international tourism, or both. The descriptive results presented in Table 2 show that international tourism was the most frequently selected preference, accounting for 46.4% of respondents. A further 35.7% preferred both domestic and international tourism, while only 17.9% selected domestic tourism alone. The dataset also indicated that coastal tourism was the most preferred tourism type, with approximately 47% of respondents selecting this form of tourism. These descriptive findings show that respondents remained highly interested in tourism but showed a stronger orientation toward international destinations than domestic ones.

Table 2. Tourism Preferences

Tourism Preference	Percentage%
Domestic tourism	17.9
International tourism	46.4
Both	35.7

Table 2 suggests that the principal tourism challenge identified in the sample is not an absence of tourism interest, but the relatively weaker preference for domestic tourism compared with international tourism. International tourism exceeded domestic tourism by 28.5 percentage points, while more than one-third of respondents remained open to both destination contexts. This pattern suggests that domestic tourism retains a potential demand base, but its attractiveness may not be competitive enough to become the preferred option for many respondents. The finding on coastal tourism further shows that domestic tourism resources continue to attract substantial interest, particularly within a segment naturally associated with Algeria's geographic characteristics. The contrast between strong tourism interest and weaker exclusive preference for domestic tourism provides an important empirical basis for examining the barriers that may inhibit the conversion of tourism interest into domestic participation.

Measurement and Descriptive Distribution of Perceived Tourism Barriers

Perceived tourism barriers were operationalized as obstacles respondents identified as limiting tourism participation or reducing the attractiveness, accessibility, and quality of tourism experiences. The questionnaire assessed several contextual constraints, including economic difficulties, safety concerns, transportation and infrastructure limitations, and service-related problems. For analysis, the barriers were summarized into four main dimensions: economic constraints, security concerns, lack of infrastructure, and poor service quality. The descriptive results indicated that economic constraints represented the dominant perceived barrier in the survey. Security concerns were also prominent, while infrastructure deficiencies and poor service quality represented additional destination-related constraints. These results indicate that tourism barriers extended across both individual-level and destination-level conditions rather than being attributable to a single constraint.

Table 3. Main Tourism Barriers

Barrier	Impact
Economic constraints	Reduced tourism participation
Security concerns	Lower destination attractiveness
Lack of infrastructure	Limited tourism accessibility
Poor service quality	Reduced tourist satisfaction

Table 3 demonstrates the multidimensional structure of the perceived barriers reported by respondents. Economic constraints primarily limit the ability to participate in tourism, making them the most directly demand-oriented barrier. Security concerns reflect perceived travel safety and therefore relate more strongly to confidence in destination choice. Infrastructure deficiencies concern destinations' accessibility and functional capacity, whereas service quality relates to the quality of the tourism experience once participation occurs. The four dimensions therefore represent different stages of the tourism process, from the initial ability to travel to destination selection, physical access, and post-arrival experience. The prominence of economic constraints is particularly noteworthy because it suggests that affordability may constitute the most

immediate obstacle within the surveyed population. At the same time, security, infrastructure, and service-related barriers indicate that improving tourism participation requires attention to both the characteristics of potential tourists and the conditions provided by tourism destinations.

Inferential Analysis of Gender and Perceived Tourism Barriers

Gender was operationalized as a categorical demographic characteristic (male or female), while perceived tourism barriers represented the categorical distribution of constraints identified by respondents. The inferential analysis examined whether tourism-barrier responses were statistically associated with gender. A Pearson Chi-square test of independence was selected because both variables were categorical. The results showed a Pearson Chi-square statistic of 25.725 with 18 degrees of freedom, yielding a p-value of .106. Because this probability value was greater than the predetermined significance level of .05, the result did not reach statistical significance. Accordingly, the analysis did not provide sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis that gender and perceived tourism barriers are independent in the surveyed sample.

Table 4. Chi-square Test Results

Test	Value	df	p-value	Interpretation
Pearson Chi-square	25.725	18	0.106	Not significant

Table 4 presents the study's principal inferential finding. Although the cross-tabulation showed descriptive variation between male and female respondents, these differences were not sufficiently systematic to establish a statistically significant association between gender and perceived tourism barriers. Economic constraints remained the most frequently identified obstacle among both groups, with 25 male respondents and 18 female respondents reporting economic factors as their primary barrier. Female respondents showed greater concern about security, but this descriptive tendency did not translate into a statistically significant gender association. The findings therefore indicate that the principal tourism barriers identified in the study appear to be broadly shared across gender groups. In substantive terms, the results suggest that economic, infrastructural, security, and service constraints may reflect structural conditions that affect tourism participation more generally, rather than barriers concentrated within a particular gender. This finding is especially important for the subsequent discussion because it challenges an assumption that tourism constraints should necessarily be interpreted through gender differences alone. The evidence instead points toward the need to consider destination-wide and socioeconomic conditions as potentially more salient explanations of perceived tourism constraints.



Figure 1. Dimensions of Perceived Tourism Barriers

Figure 1 indicates that perceived tourism barriers in Algeria are multidimensional, encompassing economic, security, infrastructure, and service-quality constraints. Economic constraints represent the most direct limitation on tourism participation, while security concerns may reduce destination attractiveness and infrastructure deficiencies may restrict accessibility. Poor service quality further diminishes tourist satisfaction, indicating that barriers extend beyond individual financial capacity to include destination-level conditions. Taken together, these dimensions suggest that improving tourism participation requires an integrated response addressing affordability, safety, accessibility, and service delivery rather than focusing on a single constraint.

Discussion

The first finding is that respondents preferred international tourism over domestic tourism, although 35.7% expressed interest in both. This pattern extends destination-competitiveness research showing that attractiveness depends not only on natural resources but also on management, infrastructure, services, and market demand (González-Rodríguez et al., 2023; Qazi, 2024). It also complements evidence that sustainable tourism indicators can strengthen destination competitiveness when effectively incorporated into destination management (Font et al., 2023). The Algerian result therefore suggests a gap between tourism potential and destination preference: coastal resources remain attractive, yet international destinations are preferred more strongly. Theoretically, this supports a demand-sensitive interpretation of destination competitiveness, in which perceived accessibility and service conditions complement resource-based advantage. Practically, Algerian destination managers should prioritize visitor experience, connectivity, service standards, and differentiated product development to convert latent domestic tourism interest into stronger destination preference.

The second finding concerns the predominance of economic constraints, accompanied by security concerns, infrastructure deficiencies, and poor service quality. This pattern is consistent with the Leisure Constraints perspective, which conceptualizes participation as shaped by structural and intrapersonal limitations, and with recent evidence showing that travel constraints can restrict behavioral intentions (Aziz et al., 2022; Shin et al., 2022). The result also aligns with Nematpour et al. (2024), who identified structural, practical, and safety-related constraints among Muslim female travelers, although their context revealed more explicit sociocultural and gendered barriers. For Algeria, this finding broadens constraint research by showing that economic and destination-side barriers coexist within the general tourism population rather than a specialized subgroup. The theoretical implication is that tourism constraints should be understood as an interconnected system of affordability, safety, accessibility, and service conditions. Practically, policy should address these barriers simultaneously rather than through isolated promotional campaigns.

The third finding is the non-significant association between gender and perceived tourism barriers, $\chi^2(18, N = 168) = 25.725$, $p = .106$. This result differs from studies emphasizing gendered travel constraints. Aziz et al. (2022), for example, found that gender moderated relationships involving structural cost, intrapersonal constraints, and travel intentions, while Zhang et al. (2024) show that risk remains a major theme in female tourism research. Research on Muslim female travel likewise identifies physical safety, sociocultural, practical, and structural constraints as distinct dimensions (Nematpour et al., 2024). The present evidence nevertheless suggests that such

differences should not be generalized across populations or contexts. The theoretical contribution is therefore a boundary condition for gender-based interpretations of travel constraints: gender may shape specific experiences without producing a statistically detectable overall association. Practically, destination policy should avoid assuming gender-specific barriers when broader structural constraints affect travelers across groups.

The fourth finding strengthens the sustainable-tourism interpretation of the results. Economic affordability, security, infrastructure, and service quality are not separate operational problems; together they constitute conditions through which visitors access and evaluate a destination. This interpretation is consistent with research conceptualizing destinations as service ecosystems in which multiple actors and resources jointly create visitor value (Gao et al., 2022). It also accords with sustainability research showing that destination sustainability should be assessed across economic, socio-cultural, political, technological, and environmental dimensions and from multiple stakeholder perspectives (Rasoolimanesh et al., 2025). Research on destination governance further emphasizes stakeholder coordination and evidence-based planning for translating tourism data into effective policy (Bono i Gispert, 2024; Pham et al., 2025; Salman et al., 2024). The practical implication is that Algeria's tourism strategy should integrate affordability, transport, safety, hospitality training, infrastructure investment, and stakeholder coordination rather than treating them as disconnected interventions.

The principal contribution and novelty of this study lie in connecting traveler-perceived constraints with destination competitiveness and sustainable urban tourism in an underexamined Algerian context, while statistically testing rather than assuming gender differentiation. Previous research has examined destination competitiveness through macro-level indicators, sustainability metrics, or destination attributes (Font et al., 2023; González-Rodríguez et al., 2023), whereas constraint studies have often focused on particular traveler groups or behavioral intentions (Aziz et al., 2022; Nematpour et al., 2024). By juxtaposing descriptive barrier patterns with an explicit gender association test, this study shows that structural constraints may be more consequential than demographic differentiation. Theoretically, it extends Leisure Constraints reasoning to destination-level competitiveness; practically, it provides policymakers with a demand-side diagnostic for prioritizing affordable, safe, accessible, and service-oriented tourism development. The findings offer an evidence base for more inclusive and context-sensitive destination governance.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that tourism participation in Algeria is constrained primarily by economic difficulties, followed by security concerns, inadequate infrastructure, and poor service quality; however, respondents still showed stronger preferences for international than domestic tourism. The key insight is that Algeria's tourism challenge is not primarily a lack of tourism interest or resources, but a gap between destination potential and the economic, safety, accessibility, and service conditions needed to turn interest into participation and stronger domestic destination preference. The study's theoretical contribution lies in integrating the Leisure Constraints Model with destination competitiveness and sustainable tourism perspectives, demonstrating that perceived tourism barriers can function as demand-side indicators of destination performance while also showing that gender should not automatically be assumed to structure tourism constraints across contexts. The research implications are both scientific and practical:

the findings strengthen context-sensitive tourism constraint research and provide policymakers and destination managers with evidence for prioritizing affordability, infrastructure, safety, connectivity, and service improvement. However, the study is limited by its cross-sectional design, non-probability convenience sampling, relatively young sample, reliance on self-reported data, and the absence of psychometric validation of the barrier measures. Future research should use larger, probability-based samples; longitudinal or mixed-methods designs; validated multidimensional scales; and comparative analyses across regions, destinations, age groups, and socioeconomic categories to determine how structural and contextual conditions shape tourism participation in Algeria and comparable emerging destinations.

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)-ASSISTED TECHNOLOGY

While preparing this manuscript, the author used Grammarly to check grammar and spelling and improve sentence clarity, and Claude (Anthropic) to refine phrasing, improve academic tone, and summarize literature notes. After utilizing these tools and services, the author(s) thoroughly reviewed and edited the output as needed and took full responsibility for the integrity and content of the published article.

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