The reality of domestic tourism in Algeria Biskra as a model

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Abstract:

This study examines the state of domestic tourism in Algeria, with a focus on the Saharan province of Biskra. The latter possess the features that qualify it to become a tourist destination due to its Saharan character with unique landscapes, palaces, and monuments.

The study found that despite these attractions, the tourism sector in Biskra remains weak and has not reached its full potential

Keywords: Tourism; domestic tourism; tourism components, Biskra state.

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1-Introduction :

Tourism has become a major economic force in many countries, generating significant revenues and creating millions of jobs. It is now a major competitor to oil as a source of national income, and it is also a major contributor to reducing unemployment. Tourism activity has also a positive impact on other sectors of the economy, such as agriculture, food industries, and the construction sector.

The tourism sector is one of the fastest growing social and economic sectors in the world. It is characterized by its great flexibility, as it can be adapted to a wide range of destinations and activities. Tourism also represents a significant portion of the global economy, accounting for 7% of the global trade.

Tourism plays a key role in driving economic growth; so many developed countries have focused on this sector. even developing countries have attempted to exploit this potential but for some with little success despite the huge potential they enjoy.

Algeria should prioritize the development of its tourism industry as an alternative to its reliance on hydrocarbons. This can be achieved by improving the quality of tourism services, with a particular emphasis on domestic tourism. To accomplish this, it is important to empower and engage those responsible for managing the tourism sector. The tourism industry is vulnerable to external factors such as political and health conditions. Marketing also has a significant impact on the industry. As a result, the sustainability of tourism can often be unstable from an economic perspective. According to many researchers, tourism plays a significant role in driving economic growth by creating jobs, generating revenue, and contributing to the development of a country's gross domestic product. Reports from the United Nations indicate that tourism accounts for 11% of the global GDP and provides approximately 200 million job opportunities, representing 8% of total employment worldwide. Between 1988 and 2001, the growth rate of tourism income was approximately 11% (others, Mohammad Farid and, 2015, p. 51)

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about significant changes in the social and cultural fabric of societies worldwide, including Algeria. One notable trend is the growing demand for domestic tourism as people seek to travel and explore their own country. As a result, domestic tourism in Algeria has seen a surge in activity, with more people organizing trips and vacations within the country. Accordingly, this research paper aims to shed light on the reality of this phenomenon on the Algerian society in general and Biskra community in particular.

Thus, we try to ask the main question of the subject of the study as follows:

What is the reality of domestic tourism in Algeria after the Covid-19pandemic (Biskra province as a model?)

In order to answer this question, the following sub-questions must be asked:

-What are the most important challenges and obstacles facing domestic tourism in Algeria?

- What are the factors that can contribute to the activation of domestic tourism in Algeria in general and in the province of Biskra in particular?

1. The conceptual framework of the study:

1.1 Study Hypotheses:

- The province of Biskra possess all the necessary touristic elements to make it atourist attraction par excellence.

- Domestic tourism plays an important role in stimulating and developing the region, and achieving tourism development in Algeria in general.

- Despite Algeria's tourism potential, the domestic tourism remains weak.

1.2 The importance of the study:

The importance of studying the reality of domestic Tourism in Algeria lies in highlighting the tourism capabilities that Algeria abounds with, both material and immaterial.

1.3 Study Methodology:

The analytical descriptive approach was relied upon, by addressing some basic concepts

Related to domestic tourism, presenting statistics about it and trying to provide a comprehensive reading of it.

2. Terminological and procedural concepts:

2.1 Defining Tourism procedurally:

Tourism involves people traveling from their homes to other locations, either within their own country or abroad, in search of new experiences. This can include visiting natural attractions for rest and relaxation, as well as learning about the customs and traditions of other cultures.

2.2 Procedural definition of domestic tourism:

Domestic tourism is a multifaceted phenomenon that arises from people’s desire for leisure, exploration, and enjoyment. It involves traveling within one’s own country to experience natural beauty and cultural heritage.

3. Theoretical framework:

Before defining the concept of domestic tourism, it is necessary to address the definition of tourism in general.

3.1 The concept of tourism:

3.2 Tourism is a language:

A word consisting of Tour, which means to go around, and it is derived from the Latin language, while in the English language, Tourism indicates movement and rotation. This concept was launched in 1643 to indicate travel and roaming from one place to another.

3.3 Tourism idiomatically:

Tourism is one of the fast-growing industries in countries around the world and it is very labor-intensive, an important source of development and employment, especially for those with less access to the labor market, and an important industry for women, youth, migrant workers, and rural residents. (Toolkit on poverty reduction through tourism, 2013, p. 3)

Tourism is a social and human phenomenon that has existed since the dawn of human civilization. It has emerged as a prominent industry in the 21st century. In 1950, German researcher John Pepper Friedler defined tourism as a contemporary phenomenon that arises from an increasing need for relaxation, change of environment, appreciation of natural beauty, and enjoyment of staying in areas with distinct characteristics. Furthermore, tourism facilitates greater interaction between different groups of people, made possible by the expansion of trade and industry. (Al-Jallad, 2000, p. 13)

Tourism is a significant cultural, economic, and social activity that involves individuals or tourists traveling from their usual areas of residence to other locations within or outside their country's borders. The purpose of such travel may include rest, recreation, entertainment, or exploration of historical, religious, or cultural landmarks. (Mahasis, p. 25)

Tourism is defined socially as a dynamic movement linked to cultural aspects of man, in the sense that it is a civilized message and a bridge of communication between cultures and nations, and a natural stage for the development of communities and the rise in the standard of living of individuals (Kafi, 2014, p. 22)

Environmental tourism is a type of tourism that attracts visitors who are interested in exploring natural places and learning about the local flora and fauna. It also involves visiting local communities to learn about their customs and traditions (Kafi, 2014, p. 23)

- Definition of a tourist:

According to the United Nations Conference on Travel and Tourism, a tourist is defined as any person who visits a country other than the country in which he used to reside for any reason other than the pursuit of a rewarding job in the country he visits.

TINARD YVES defined it as every person who travels outside his usual place of residence for a period of not less than 24 hours and not more than 4 months, for reasons of entertainment, health, study, and going out for errands. (Sharit Abd Al-Monem, 2020, p. 130)

In addition, the tourist is a temporary visitor for a limited period of at least an hour for various reasons and motives, including pleasure and entertainment, visiting relatives, spending holidays, etc. (Ghazlan, 2017, p. 7)

There are two main types of tourists:

First, the international tourist: a person who travels across international borders for a period of not less than 24 hours and not more than a year in order to spend leisure time, enjoyment and pleasure, trade, or meet with family and friends (Kamel, 2015, page 42)

Secondly, the internal tourist: a person whose movement is limited within the borders of the country in which he resides for a period of not less than 24 hours, or one night. (Kamel, 2015, pg. 43)

3.4 Defining domestic tourism:

Domestic tourism is defined as the tourism activity that is carried out by the citizens of the province for a different period in which there are tourist attractions worth visiting, meaning that internal tourism is an industry that is within the borders of the province and does not go beyond its scope.

However, this concept differs in some countries. In America and Canada, domestic tourism is defined according to the distance of the trip. If it is 100 km or more away from the place of residence, the tourist is considered an internal tourist. As for Bulgaria and Germany, they define the domestic tourist as a citizen who spends five days away from his place of residence, Domestic tourism also means the movement of a citizen from his usual place of residence to the place of visit for a period of no less than 24 hours and not exceeding six months for any purpose except for earning money or immigration.

Definition of the International Academy of Domestic Tourism:

It is the activities of the traveler to a place outside his familiar environment for a period of time not exceeding a year without interruption for rest or other purposes (Leila Bouhdid, 2016, p. 115)

Definition of the International Organization for Inbound Tourism:

They are the activities carried out by individuals during their travels and residence in places outside their usual surroundings for a consecutive period not exceeding one year for the purpose of entertainment or business or for any other reason (Asma Madea, 2021, p. 58)

Domestic tourism is also family tourism, that is, the arrival of the tourist to his home country with his family, and this type of tourism requires multiple and varied services. Such as entertainment, children's playgrounds, swimming pools, as well as accommodation and provision of services. The period of stay of tourists ranges from a week or more. This type of Tourism is based on encouraging expatriate citizens to visit their relatives and friends and to encourage them to visit the motherland. (Tawfiq, 2008, p. 61)

Hence, domestic tourism includes two types: (Al-Khaliq, 2001, page 44).

- Recreational trips with duration of less than 24 hours.
-Domestic tourist trips with a duration of more than 24 hours.

3.5 The importance of domestic tourism:

- It increases the unity of society and social solidarity, which strengthens the sense of belonging to the same homeland.

-Achieving economic balance between the various regions and different states within the same country.
-Increasing tourism investments in the field of hotels, restaurants and public shops.
-Reducing the problem of unemployment and providing job for the unemployed, which leads to improving the standard of living in the tourist areas?
-Revitalizing various industries, especially traditional industries, which are directly related to tourism and tourists.
- It works to achieve a kind of balance in diversifying the national income and distributing it to its various regions and states.
-Domestic tourism is also a tool for cultural communication and the exchange of customs and traditions between the different parts of the country

-Domestic tourism also provides the necessary funding to preserve the heritage as well as archaeological and historical sites in the region, and thus establishing a culture of environment conservation. (Charaf Akoun, 2017, p. 290)

-Investing in domestic tourism leads to revitalizing the development process in regions that are characterized by tourism characteristics and components. Natural environmental features, historical heritage and archaeological sites are the fixed assets that must be protected and maintained in a way that paves the way for their development and presentation in an appropriate manner.

3.6 Problems and obstacles of domestic tourism:

Algeria's low ranking in policy indicators and conditions for enabling tourism and global tourism travel can be attributed to the lack of policies and investment in tourism. Algeria scored 3.6 and ranked 134th in the world when it comes to determining the priorities of travel and tourism.

Hence, tourism in general and domestic tourism in particular face a set of obstacles, which are as follows:

- Tourist areas are not kept clean, especially those with high demand by tourists.
- Lack of tourism awareness among society in general and among some agencies and bodies responsible for tourism.
- High prices in tourist areas affect the volume of domestic tourist spending in these areas and the rate of visits to other areas.
- The efforts of the agencies responsible for the development of domestic tourism are weak, leading to a significant shortage of available information on the domestic tourism movement, such as the number of tourists, the number of tourist nights, and the average daily expenditure.
- High prices for hotel accommodation and transportation impede the movement of domestic tourism.

Marketing and promotional efforts directed at the domestic tourism market are weak. (Al-Sisi, 2001, pp. 47-48)

4. Domestic tourism in Algeria:

Algeria has the basic ingredients that qualify it to be at the forefront of the world tourism countries, but despite that, it is still far from keeping pace with other countries because its capabilities and qualifications have not been exploited in a way that makes it a tourist country par excellence, and we will now attempt to present the most important of these tourism aspects and ingredients:

4.1 Natural aspects of Algerian tourism:

Algeria is a country that boasts a variety of natural landscapes. These include the 1200 kilometers of coastline, mountain ranges, deserts, oases, and more. Algeria is located on the southwestern bank of the Mediterranean basin and occupies a pivotal position in the Maghreb, Africa and the Mediterranean Sea. This is thanks to its geographical and economic character, advantages and multiple resources (Al-Alja, 2022), which include:

- The coastal strip is home to sandy beaches that stretch from east to west of Algeria. The number of coastal municipalities reaches 420, including Algiers and its surroundings, Annaba, Skikda, Qul and El Kala-Mountainous areas: these are mainly represented by the Atlas chain, which extends from east to west, and the natural landscapes it includes, such as caves, including the Awqas caves in Bejaia, and the strange cave in Djijel.

-Algeria enjoys natural capabilities such as the distinguished geographical location, in addition to the diversity of its climate throughout the year, which makes the tourist live the four seasons between regions close to each other.

-The Algerian Sahara is considered a continent on its own due to its vastness. It is the second-largest desert in the world with an area of approximately 2 million square meters. . The Sahara contains a rich and varied natural, cultural and historical heritage. Desert tourism is the essence of the Algerian tourist product. The desert contains 05 cultural protected national parks classified as world heritage. These are the Tassili the wilaya of Illizi, al-Kahhar in the wilaya of Tamanrasset, the M'zab valley in the wilaya of Ghardaïa, and the cultural parkof the Saharan Atlas in Tawat,Qourara, and Tidikelt. (Ministry of Tourism , 2022)

-Algeria’s location is between several European, African, Arab, and Western countries.- There are international reserves that contain rare plants and animals that may become international attractions.

- Algeria offers a variety of tourism options including coastal, therapeutic, desert and sports tourism. This opens up opportunities for investment to revive domestic tourism and encourage demand in various regions.

- Algeria is rich in mineral wealth that is distributed throughout the country.

-Where there are 282 hot springs in the form of natural sources or niqabs, in addition to 90 concession rights to use hot water there are also about 100 hydrothermal springs that can house new hydrothermal projects. Recently, 34 traditional mineral baths have started operation. On the other hand, Algeria enjoys a coastline of 1,600 km, which is valuable for the development of health and

leisure tourism, depending on the exploitation of this resource for the completion of seawater treatment centers.

-All these capabilities represented in the advantages and therapeutic properties of the existing hot waters, as well as the distinctive coastal strip, provide significant capacity for the development of health and leisure tourism.

4.2 The social and cultural aspects of Algerian tourism:

Algeria has a rich cultural and historical heritage that makes it an attractive destination for domestic tourism. The country boasts many monuments and ancient cities that are considered among the main pillars of its tourist offer. Here are some of the most important ones:

-Bani Hammad Citadel: The Bani Hammad Citadel enjoys an exceptional location in Algeria, as it is located in a mountainous area overlooking the region, as described by the UNESCO World Heritage Site. This castle gives a historical glimpse of life in the Hammadid Empire, which arose in Algeria during the eleventh century. This castle provided an image of the fortified Islamic cities at that time, and greatly influenced the development of architecture in subsequent Arab civilizations (Mok, 2019)

-The ancient city of Djmila was established between the years 96-98 AD, during the reign of the Roman Emperor Nerva. It includes the remains of an ancient Roman settlement and is distinguished by being built from a group of wonderful buildings in the middle of a mountainous terrain. Its buildings are built in harmony with the mountainous landscape of the region. It was a beautiful city at the time, a stable for a military base, but now it includes a variety of Roman monuments, the most famous of which are the Caracalla Arch, temples, and the theater built by Emperor Antonius Pius.

-The ancient city of Timgad: The city of Timgad was established in the year 100 AD during the reign of the Roman Emperor Trajan, and was called Thamogas in the past. It was a Roman military settlement. One of the most prominent features of Timgad is that all the houses built in it in the past were of the same size, and this is an indication of the existence of equality among all citizens of the city at the time. Currently, Timgad is considered one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and among the most prominent archaeological monuments in Timgad is the Arch of Trajan, which was built in the second century AD, the theater, and a complex consisting of 14 baths, a library, and the remains of temples and churches.

-The city of Khemisa: the ancient city of Khemisa is located in northeastern Algeria, and it is a beautiful ancient city that reflects the Roman civilization. Among the most famous Roman monuments in it are: The Roman Theater and Roman arches, and the city of Khemisa is also characterized by the beauty of its landscapes, such as the picturesque hills overlooking the entire city.

-The ancient city of Tipaza: The city of Tipaza is distinguished by its wonderful view of the sea, and it is one of the most famous monuments of the Roman civilization in Algeria. And the city of Tipasa occupied a large and remarkable commercial importance in the Roman civilization.

According to UNESCO World Heritage Site, Tipasa is characterized by the diversity of its monuments, as it includes Phoenician, Roman, Byzantine, and Paleo Christian antiquities.

M'zab Valley: The M'zab Valley is located in Ghardaia province, on the northern part of the Algerian desert. According to the UNESCO World Heritage Site, this valley is characterized by rich culture and history due to its preservation of customs and traditions that go back 1,000 years. These customs and traditions are still practiced today, and the M'zab Valley is an ideal destination for tourists who love wild trips and adventures and the M'zab Valley is an ideal destination for tourists who love wild trips and adventures (province, 2020)

The Shrine of the Martyr is a monument built in 1982 AD to commemorate the Algerian War of Independence. It reaches a height of 92 meters and consists of three curved columns joined at the top that symbolize palm fronds. (BHATTACHARYA, 2020)

4.3 Infrastructure: The abundance and diversity of tourism resources in Algeria requires the availability of infrastructure to access them, which is mainly represented by (Omar, 2014, p. 397)

-**Transport networks**: Algeria has a road network with a length of 180,039 km, distributed among national roads, province roads, municipal roads, and urban roads. Algeria also has 53 airports, including 13 airports with international standards for international flights, and the length of the railway network is 4272 km, and is witnessing development and the introduction of electricity for some high-speed trains. As for air transport, we note that there is a significant development in its basic infrastructure (Hori Al Mokhtariya, 2012, p. 278)

-**Telecommunications network:** Algeria has a single operator in the fixed-line service, which is the Algeria Telecom group. The sector also has mobile networks, including Mobilis, in addition to private companies such as DJeezy and Ooredoo. The Internet is also available.

5.Study application:

5.1The reality of domestic tourism in the province of Biskra:

The Wilaya of Biskra has various tourism potentials that qualify it to be a tourist pole par excellence, due to its distinguished strategic location. It possesses different natural, cultural, religious and culinary tourism. These factors have made it a destination for local and foreign tourists and a target for investors in this sector. The province of Biskra has recorded a qualitative leap in the hospitality infrastructure sector. Many reception structures with various capacities have been completed to meet the different demands of tourists.

Introduction to Biskra:

Biskra appeared as a municipality according to the decision of May 1878 subject to the decision of the Senate dated April 9, 1878. Biskra was a district belonging to the wilaya of Aures until 1974, when it was upgraded to a province according to Law No. 04-84 of 4/9/1984.

The city is mediated by three national roads, National Road No. 03, which connects the northeast to the southeast, National Road No. 46, which connects the city with Algiers, and National Road No. 83, which connects it with Tebessa.

Since ancient times, Biskra has represented a link between the north and the south and a tourist crossing par excellence (the desert gate). It is also considered one of the most important major oases in Algeria, extending over an area of up to 5 square kilometers.

5.2Elements of tourism in the province of Biskra:

The province of Biskra has all the tourism elements that make it a place to attract tourists, as it is rich in green oases, in addition to the historical, urban and cultural monuments and evidence that the region enjoys.

5.3 Geographical and natural tourism potentials:

with a no flat agricultural lands, in addition to valleys, lakes and dams that cross them. Moreover, the regions boast number of oases, which include among others:

-Western Zab oases: Tolga, Foughala, Al-Dawson, Lagros, Bordj Ben Azouz.

-The oases of the eastern Zab: Sidi Oqba, Mchonoche, the municipality of El Hajeb are classified as a tourist expansion area, and the province of Biskra is located on highlands and mountains, which can favor the development of mountain tourism, especially in Qantara, Mchonoche Strait and Ain Zatoot.

Biskra also enjoys many beautiful landscapes, such as the site of Jemina in the municipality of Mezairaa. It is noticeable that tourism flourishes during the period from the beginning of October to the end of May. Where tourists, whether foreign or local, come to hot and temperate areas in winter for the purpose of treatment, where most of them go to natural baths. And the most important ones are as follows:

- Hammam al-Salihin, which is one of the oldest therapeutic baths dedicated to skin and thoracic diseases, and treatment of joint and rheumatic diseases.

- Al-Baraka bath (Elhadjb): to treat diseases of the intestines and stomach, and diseases of the joints, veins and skinHammam Sidi Hajj Lotaya: for the treatment of diseases of the joints, intestines and stomach

The following table shows the mineral compounds and baths located in the province of Biskra, in addition to the type of treatment, the number of therapists, the percentage of water flow, and the temperature.

Table No (1) shows the mineral complexes and baths located in of the province of Biskra, in addition to the quality of treatment, the number of therapists, the water flow rate, and the temperature.

Temperature	flow rate	Traditionalists	Persons treated	treatment sessions	existing structures
°45	65 l/s	52308	125975	Treatment of bone and circulatory diseases, rheumatism - skin diseases Chest diseases. Joint diseases	The mineral complex Hammam al-SalihinBiskra
52 °C°	40 l/s	10335	/	Bowel and stomach diseases Diseases of the joints and veins - the skin	Al Baraka Spa - El Hajeb
440°C	25 /s	5345	/	/	Sidi Yahya's bathroom
Closed due to a dispute between partners					Spa Rest and Recreation - Kindergarten

Source: Directorate of Tourism and Handicrafts 2022

Mineral fermentation compounds contribute to the revival of medical tourism, which has become accredited in most medical circles. And the province of Biskra has three equipment dedicated to physiotherapy. As the number of incoming tourists reached 125,975 treated tourists in 2021.

5.4 Cultural and historical tourist attractions:

Biskra is an excellent location that consists of diverse tourist attractions. This has made it a destination for tourists and an important tourist pole. The province offers visitors the possibility of experiencing the various aspects of nature through the mixing and harmony between mountains, valleys, and desert. The stunning views are adorned with palm forests, fruit trees, and sand dunes. Some of the most important of these scenes include the meanders of Mchonish, the meanders and the strait of Qantara, Faj Bani Sweik, the forests of the Ain Zatoot mountains, Gardens of 05 July and 20 August and Lando in Biskra, Dam Foum El Gharza in Sidi Okba, in addition to palm groves across in various municipalities of the province.

- Table No (2) shows the archaeological and historical sites classified at the state level for the year 2022

Classification date	history	Name	
1900	Roman era	Baths ruin	biskra
18-1958-07-	colonial era	Dar Al-Sayouda (Old Municipality)	
1900	Old vows	Roman bridge	Alqantara
23011923-	Natural relic	Arch grooves	
1900	Old vows	stone formations	
1900	Old vows	Roman bridge	
1900	Middle Ages	The door of Uqba bin Nafeh Mosque	Sidi Oqba
1996	Middle Ages	The door of Uqba bin Nafeh Mosque	
1996	Roman era	Seal the mouth of the stitch	
1996	Roman era	The ancient city of Judah	
1982-02-01	Old vows	petroglyphs	eaynalnaaqa
2010-07-18	Islamic era	Sidi Amer Mosque	zaribatalwad
2010-07-18	Islamic era	Sidi Masoud Mosque	
2010-07-18	Old vows	Badass Historic Site	
301928-01-	Natural relic	Grooves Sidi	Amzira

		Mesmoudi	
301928-01-	Natural relic	Akbash village	
1928-01-30	Natural relic	Jumina village	
301928-01-	Natural relic	kangat Sidi Nagy	kangat Sidi Nagy
301928-01-	Natural relic	the village	
301928-01-	Natural relic	Amchonch grooves	Amchonch
2010-07-18	Islamic era	The ancient mosque	Tolga
2010-07-18	Islamic era	The ancient mosque	Bouchekroun
2010-07-18	Islamic era	Borj Ben Azouz Mosque	Borj Ben Azouz
181952 -07 -	Roman era	Alkasabat	Melili

Source: Directorat of Tourism, Biskra Province, 2022

- Hotel components at the state level:

The province of Biskra has 24 hotels, including 3 classified hotels. The total capacity of these hotels is 2201 beds. Some of the hotels in Biskra include the Royal Hotel, The Palm Hotel, Al Sharq Hotel, Al Haj Al Shawi Hotel, and the Train Station Hotel. You can find more information about these hotels in the table below.

Table No (3) the evolution of the number of tourists in Biskra from 2010 to 2021:

The number of incoming tourists				the month
foreigners		Algerian		
nights	access	nights	access	
7284	4514	115856	90164	2010
6688	3293	123726	73102	2011

6161	2559	134632	73282	2012
68058	130785	2997	7793	2013
65140	129303	3893	12844	2014
10665	3603	138997	75325	2015
9318	3255	122895	63427	2016
9785	3516	96546	56414	2017
9512	3441	116487	63033	2018
6046	2582	105711	55377	2019
1628	615	54042	28758	2020
2263	454	75396	46458	2021

Source: Biskra Tourism Directorat 2022

Biskra is a tourist destination par excellence, especially during the period between October and November. However, the development of the number of tourists recorded in recent years does not reflect the reality of the province's enormous tourism potential. For example, in the year 2010, the number of tourists reached 90,164 Algerian tourists and 4,514 foreign tourists. Then it began to decline during the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 to reach 7,793 Algerian tourists and 2,997 foreign tourists, and this is due to the weak promotion of tourism at the province level. The number of tourists increased in 2014 to 12,844 tourists, and continued to rise during the years 2015 until 2019.Thenstarted declining again due to Covid-19 pandemic, which negatively affected the tourism sector, to reach 28,758 tourists. To recover again in late 2021 after easing the measures taken to limit the spread of the pandemic.

By tracking the tourism movement during the recent years, we that the demand is growing slowly and fluctuating. This decline can also be attributed to the low quality of services and the high prices.

6. Conclusion

Algeria is considered as a continental country, full of tremendous diversity in its terrain and climate. However, the domestic tourism activity is not at the required level. Algerian citizens prefer to visit other destinations such as Tunisia and Turkey instead of discovering and visiting their homeland. This is due to the absence of a culture of discovering the local product as well as the lack

of advertising and awareness of the importance of domestic tourism. The study reached the following results:

-Biskra is known as the gateway to the Algerian desert. Since ancient times, it has been a destination for tourists due to its tourism potential.

-The tourism sector has experience various problems that affect the course of internal tourism development in Algeria in general and in the province of Biskra in particular.

-Numerous issues in the tourism industry have an impact on Biskra's status as a top tourist destination as well as the overall development of internal tourism in Algeria. One of them is the challenge of funding tourism project, which are very costly along with the lack of a specialized agency in national tourism financing. The tourism sector in Algeria has faced many challenges that have hindered its development. The sector has suffered from marginalization and lack of interest compared to other sectors by authorities. This is reflected in the low financial funds that are often allocated to it compared to other economic sectors.

- Lack of interest in the cleanliness of tourist places and a lack of activities aimed at highlighting local products. In addition, the quality of tourism services is poor and the prices are high.

- Absence of a professional organization that governs the profession. In addition to the lack of new technologies for the international tourism market and modern methods of electronic management of transport in order to organize travel agencies, reservations and services.

-Poor flight connections between tourist destinations, particularly in the south. This is weak in comparison to the north.

- Deficit in modern payment methods at banks and other businesses that serve travelers. The insufficiency of financial resources for both tourism activities and investment.

-Absence of an institutional structure for the tourism industry at the national level that meets the needs of the private sector.

- A shortage of competent administrative staff and technical personnel who are equipped to handle the complexities of the tourism industry.

-Lack of modernization as well as absence of tools for evaluation and follow-up of the development of tourism at the national and international levels. The focus is on traditional tourism markets and there is a weakness of tools and means to enter new markets.

- Limited Algerian participation, especially the private sector, in international tourism exhibitions and conferences.

-Little involvement of the various media in the development of cultural tourism.

The efforts made are still insufficient compared to the natural and historical resources and capacities. There are shortcomings and problems that this sector suffers from, starting from the tourism culture of society and ending with the absence of a strategy in planning for an industry that can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

7. Recommendations:

-Introducing the tourism resources and qualifications available in the province of Biskra.

- Organizing tourism activities throughout the year in line with the nature of the region.

-Exploiting tourism resources and cultural heritage and promoting it in order to bring hard currency by attracting tourists, especially for eigners.

-Organizing and programming international and national events, whether political, cultural or sports, across all the provinces of the country, in order to comprehensively introduce Algeria with its coasts, mountains and deserts**.**

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