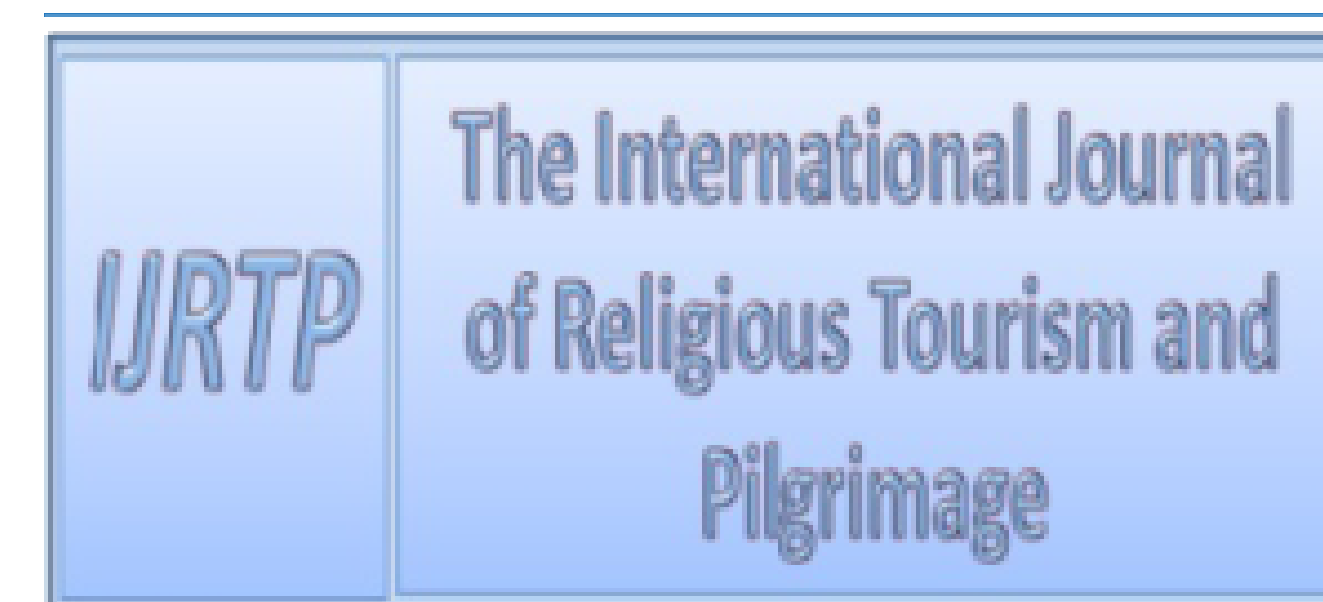




IRTP
Institute for Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage




17th Annual International Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IRTP) Conference

University of Girona and Montserrat Abbey University , Spain

24th – 27th
June 2026




ANNOUNCEMENT



The International Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Conference (IRTP) organised by the Institute for Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IRTP) in conjunction with the International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IJRTP), University of Girona and Montserrat Abbey invites abstracts for their 17th International Conference to be held from **24th–27th June 2026** at the University of Girona and Montserrat Abbey, Spain.

The aim of the conference is to provide both empirical and personal insights into the changing nature of religion in society and to further the debate for both policy-makers and academics to consider these evolving challenges within the future development of faith tourism and pilgrimage. The main emphasis for acceptance at this event is based on participants presenting papers, which apply to the main themes of the conference.



ORGANISATION

HOSTED BY:

University of Girona and Montserrat Abbey University

University of Girona: <https://www.udg.edu/ca/ft/facultat-de-turisme/detall>

UNESCO Chair on Cultural Policies and Cooperation (UdG): <https://www.udg.edu/ca/catedres/UNESCO-politiques>

Montserrat: <https://www.montserratvisita.com/>

Please check the conference website for further information, www.irtp.co.uk

ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

Silvia Aulet Serrallonga, University of Girona

silvia.aulet@udg.edu

Carlos Fernandes, Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo

cfernandes@estg.ipv.pt

Kevin Griffin, Technological University Dublin

kevin.griffin@tudublin.ie

Razaq Raj, Leeds Beckett University

r.raj@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Darius Liutikas, Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences

darius.liutikas@gmail.com

ORGANISATION

ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

Parichay Parviesh, Katharos Techie

parichay.parivesh@katharostechie.in

Dolors Vidal Casellas, University of Girona

dolors.vidal@udg.edu

Maria Angélica Álvarez, University of Girona

mariaangelica.alvarez@udg.edu

Ana María Candell, University of Girona

anamaria.candell@udg.edu

Josep Altayó, Monestir de Montserrat

marketing@larsa-montserrat.com

CONFERENCE THEMES

The key themes of the conference include (but are not limited to) the following:

- 📍 Artificial Intelligence Capabilities and Pilgrims Experience
- 📍 Crowd Control and Crowd Dynamics for Religious Sites
- 📍 Critical Perspectives on Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage
- 📍 Environmental Impacts on Religious Sites
- 📍 Faith and Gastronomy in Religious Tourism
- 📍 Gastronomy in Religious Tourism
- 📍 Globalization / Impacts at Religious Sites
- 📍 Islands Association with Spiritual Healing and Wellness Practices
- 📍 Legal, Security and Safety issues for Pilgrims
- 📍 Pilgrimage and Religious Tourism Motivations
- 📍 Managing and Promoting Religious Sites
- 📍 Media and Cultural Challenges for Pilgrimage

- Mobilities, Pilgrimage, and Tourism
- Physical Environment and Sacred Tourist Destinations
- Pilgrimage, Spirituality, Religion and Tourism
- Pilgrimage and Spiritual Journeys
- Political Challenges Facing Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage
- Overtourism at Religious Sites
- Religious Commemoration and Remembrance
- Religious Cultural Heritage
- Religious Tourism and Political Economy
- Risks and Conflicts of / at Sacred Sites
- Role of Ritual in Sacred Journeys
- Spiritual Reflection and Cemeteries
- Secular v Ritual Tourism
- Social Media and Information Technology for Pilgrimage
- Sustainability in Pilgrimage and Religious Tourism
- Sustainable Practices for Religious Tourism
- Terrorism, Migration and Religious Tourism
- Theory, Philosophy and Theology of Religious Tourism




SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Vitor Ambrósio, Higher Institute for Hotel and Tourism Studies, Portugal
- Honey Libertine Achanzar-Labor, University of the Philippines Manila
- Silvia Aulet University de Girona, Spain
- Yasin Bilim, Necmettin Erbakan University, Turkey
- Dino Bozonelos, California State University, San Marcos, USA
- Marija Bratic, University of Nis, Serbia
- Marko-Antonio Brkić Herzegovina University
- Stefania Cerutti, University del Piemonte Orientale, Italy
- Tomasz Duda, University of Szczecin, Poland
- Ruth Dowson, Leeds Beckett University, UK
- Tariq Elhadary, Istanbul Nisantasi University, Turkey
- Carlos Fernandes, Polytechnic of Viana do Castelo, Portugal
- Pierre Fournie, Gustave Eiffel university, France
- Gilson Garofalo, Pontifical Catholic University of Sao Paulo, Brazil

- George Greenia, William & Mary University, USA
- Kevin Griffin, Technological University Dublin, Ireland
- Maureen Griffiths, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
- Nour Farra Haddad, Lebanese University, Lebanon
- Dian Mohmammad Hakim, Universitas Islam Malang, Indonesia
- Stephen Haller, Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada
- Tadeja Jere Jakulin, University of Primorska, Slovenia
- Md Javed Kawsar, University of Salford, UK
- Dorothy Lane, Luther College, Regina, Canada
- Maximiliano Korstanje, Universidad de Palermo, Argentina
- Maria Leppakari, Archipelago City of Pargos
- Isilda Leitao, University Nova de Lisboa, Portugal
- Lucrezia Lopez, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- Darius Liutikas, Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences, Lithuania
- Syamsu Madian, Universitas Islam Malang, Indonesia
- Ian McIntosh, IUPUI Honors College, USA.
- Polyxeni Moira, University of West Attica, Greece



- 
- ⦿ Dane Munro, University of Malta
 - ⦿ Dimitrios Mylonopoulos, University of West Attica, Greece
 - ⦿ Jerome Ong, University of the Philippines, Manila
 - ⦿ Daniel H. Olsen, Brigham Young University, USA
 - ⦿ Danijel Pavlović, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Belgrade, Serbia
 - ⦿ Elisa Piva, Università del Piemonte Orientale, Italy
 - ⦿ Lluís Prats, University of Girona, Spain
 - ⦿ Giovanni Ruggieri, OTIE and University of Palermo, Sicily, Italy
 - ⦿ Razaq Raj, Leeds Beckett University, UK
 - ⦿ Tamara Ratz, Kodolányi János University, Hungary
 - ⦿ Rossana Salerno, University of Palermo, Italy
 - ⦿ Carlos Santos – Center of Applied Economics Studies of the Atlantic, Portugal
 - ⦿ Kiran Shinde, La Trobe University
 - ⦿ Anna Trono, University of Salento, Italy
 - ⦿ Dolors Vidal, University of Girona, Spain
 - ⦿ Shin Yasuda, Teikyo University, Japan
 - ⦿ Vincent Zammit, Malta


KEYNOTE **SPEAKERS**

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS TO BE CONFIRMED






IMPORTANT DATES



Abstract submissions:	15th February 2026
Notification of Abstract Acceptance:	28th February 2026
Conference Registration Deadline and submission of extended abstract:	15th May 2026
Full Paper Submission:	15th September 2026




FEEES

There is no presentation fee for those who are selected to deliver papers. Costs will be kept to a minimum and will be approximately **€270.00** (which includes tea and coffee, lunches and Gala Dinner). Accommodation recommendations will be provided, with preferential rates organised in a number of nearby hotels and hostels. For any questions related to the fee, accommodation and transport, please contact mariaangelica.alvarez@udg.edu

For all payment details please see: www.irtp.co.uk



PUBLICATIONS



The conference organisers have an impressive track record of successfully publishing papers from their events. Following review, suitable papers that are submitted according to the deadline, will be published in the International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IJRTP) and/or selected for inclusion as chapters in forthcoming books in the organisers' Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Book Series with CABI publishers.

Conference Abstracts (extended abstracts) will be available online at <https://arrow.dit.ie/irtp>



CONFERENCE LOCATION


University of Girona

The University of Girona, through its Faculty of Tourism and the UNESCO Chair in Cultural Policies and Cooperation, is responsible for co-organizing the IRTP conference. The institution has a recognized academic and research trajectory in the field of religious tourism, combining teaching with research projects, in cooperation with international organizations and local stakeholders. While the congress is coordinated by the University of Girona, it will be hosted at the Monastery of Montserrat, an emblematic and inspiring setting that embodies the theme of the meeting.

About University of Girona and Montserrat Abbey

Montserrat is mountain, monastery, and sanctuary—a unique landmark where nature, culture, and spirituality meet. Located in the heart of Catalonia, is one of the most emblematic and spiritual landmarks of the region. Rising majestically with its distinctive serrated peaks, the mountain has inspired pilgrims, artists, and visitors for centuries. At its heart lies the Benedictine Monastery of Santa Maria de Montserrat, founded in the 11th century and home to the revered Black Madonna, a symbol of Catalan identity and devotion. In 2025, Montserrat celebrated the millennium of its foundation, marking a thousand years of uninterrupted history that blends faith, tradition, and community life.

The monastery complex combines religious tradition, cultural heritage, and natural beauty. Its basilica, museum, and library house invaluable artistic and historical treasures, while its Escolania boys' choir, one of the oldest in Europe, continues to enchant audiences with its daily performances. Beyond its spiritual significance, Montserrat offers breathtaking views and hiking trails that connect the sacred site to its natural surroundings, making it a unique place where culture, faith, and landscape meet.



Easily accessible from Barcelona, Montserrat has become both a major pilgrimage site and a cultural destination, welcoming thousands of visitors each year who seek inspiration, reflection, or simply the experience of its extraordinary setting. Today, Montserrat stands as an emblematic place of encounter, reflection, and inspiration, welcoming pilgrims, researchers, and visitors from around the world.

Travel Information

How to get to Barcelona

By plane, here's how long it would take to reach Barcelona from certain major cities:

Rome – 1 hr. 55 min.

Paris – 1 hr. 45 min.

Berlin – 2 hrs. 45 min.

Milan – 1 hr. 40 min.

London – 2 hrs. 15 min.

New York – 8 hrs.

How to get to Montserrat from Barcelona

BY CAR

From Barcelona–El Prat Airport, Montserrat can be reached by car via the A-2 and C-55 highways. The distance is about 60 km, with a travel time of approximately 60–70 minutes. Parking is available near the monastery and at the base stations of the cable car (Aeri de Montserrat) and the rack railway (Cremallera).

BY TRAIN

From Barcelona's Plaça Espanya station, regular FGC trains (R5 line to Manresa) connect to the lower stations of Montserrat: Monistrol de Montserrat (for the Cremallera rack railway) or Aeri de Montserrat (for the cable car). Travel time from Barcelona to Montserrat Abbey is about 90 minutes, including transfer.

BY BUS

Direct buses to Montserrat depart from Barcelona (e.g. from Carrer Viriat, near Sants Station). The trip takes about 75 minutes and arrives at the monastery square.

BY TAXI OR PRIVATE TRANSFER


A taxi or private transfer from Barcelona–El Prat Airport to Montserrat takes about 60 minutes. Shared transfer services are also available and may offer a more economical option.

It is recommended to reach the monastery using either the Cremallera rack railway or the Aeri cable car, both of which provide a comfortable, sustainable, and scenic access to the sanctuary.

Accommodations

The best place to stay during the congress is the Monastery of Montserrat itself. As there are no night connections for the rack railway (Cremallera) or the cable car (Aeri), it is strongly recommended that participants remain accommodated on site throughout the days of the congress.

Montserrat offers several accommodation options, ranging from simple monastic cells to hotel rooms and a hostel. Detailed information about special rates and booking procedures for congress participants will be provided shortly. Please note that the opening day of the congress is 24 June, which is a public holiday in Catalonia. Participants are advised to carefully check the schedules of the different means of transport. In addition, those planning to arrive on 23 June should be aware that it is the night of the midsummer festival (revetlla de Sant Joan), when accommodation demand is very high both in Barcelona and Montserrat. Early booking is therefore strongly recommended.



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DETAILS

FORMAT OF ABSTRACTS

Please provide the following information in your Abstract:

- ⦿ A clear and precise **title** for your paper.
- ⦿ The name(s), institutional **affiliation** and **email** address for **all** contributing authors.
- ⦿ A list of **five keywords** that describe the research.
- ⦿ A concise abstract – **max. 300 words** – in good English, which provides an overview of your proposed paper.
- ⦿ 3 key **bibliographic references** at the end of the abstract.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Submit your paper via the link on the conference website at: www.irtp.co.uk