Investigating the island trope in faith based tourism

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‘Islandness’ as Focus (and not just Locus)
A World of Islands
Island Studies

• Size / Scale
  • Positioning / Location
  • Remoteness / Peripherality
  • Endemism / Indigeneity
• Fragmentation / Archipelagicity
  • Articulation by Compression
  • Jurisdiction / Governance
From Farming/Fishing to Services

Large Economy

SECONDARY SECTOR (Industrialization)

Small Economy

PRIMARY SECTOR

TERTIARY SECTOR
Beyond the Dominant ‘3S’ Stereotype
Island Tourism: Pros & Cons

Pros:
- Low Capital & Export Set-Up Needs
  - Natural Capital
  - Large Multiplier Effect
  - Large Job Creation
  - Domestic ‘Buy-In’

Cons:
- Dependence on External Markets & Agents
  - Ecological Erosion
  - Low Local Content
  - Low Skill/Low Paid Jobs
  - Unstoppable Growth Demands; NIMBYism; Irritation
Small Island Tourism: Challenges

- **A**ccessibility (getting to/from the island by ship or plane)
- **E**xpansion of benefits beyond capital/port city
- **I**dentity (leveraging a suitable island brand)
- **O**verdependence (avoiding a mono-service economy)
- **U**ltra-islandness (handling multi-island/archipelagic destinations)
Connection to Faith and Pilgrimage

Emotional Journeys Over Water
Boundedness affords Protection (to a point)
Seclusion offers Deep Engagement
Emotional Journeys back to Normality

Conflation: Island as Sacred Space