

*Conference theme: Tourism, People and Protected Areas in Polar Wilderness*

<http://5iptrnconference.rmf.is/>

This fifth conference of the International Polar Tourism Research Network (IPTRN) will be hosted at the edge of the Arctic in the community of Raufarhöfn (pop. 200) in Northeast Iceland by the Icelandic Tourism Research Centre. Alongside the conference, a community workshop on tourism development will be held in collaboration with local stakeholders, with the input from conference participants, scholars from the Stefansson Arctic Institute, students of polar law and scholars from the Northern Research Forum in an effort to focus on tourism in the polar regions.

Papers presented at the conference are expected to explore, among other topics, how expectations towards tourism development in peripheral places can be managed to contribute to the cultural wellbeing of peripheral communities or enhance the protection of the environment. Tourism operations in the polar-regions capitalize on the regions’ assets, including their landscapes, wildlife and remoteness. The polar regions remain relatively untouched by human activity and can be regarded as sparsely or non-populated wilderness areas. This increasingly attracts people from around the world, which may increase awareness about the polar regions while at the same time potentially negatively affecting the regions’ wilderness character.

This conference invites papers that will explore:

* Human-wilderness/wildlife interactions in the polar regions
* Tourism regulation and management in the polar regions
* Legal issues related to polar tourism and wilderness protection
* Impacts of tourism to polar wilderness areas
* Motivations for visits to the polar regions
* Community interactions with polar tourists
* Polar tourist behaviour
* Supply and demand for polar tourism
* Logistics of polar tourism
* Tourism and land use competition
* Legal issues related to polar tourism and wilderness protection
* Economic geographies of polar tourism
* Accessibility and transportation in polar areas
* The social construction/performance of touristic polar wilderness
* The geopolitics of polar tourism and wilderness protection
* Global change and the polar regions
* Parks and protected areas (including marine) in the polar regions
* Dimensions of wilderness in the polar regions

Abstracts should not exceed 300 words and should be submitted as a word document with full author and contact details to the conference organiser edward@unak.is **no later than 29 February 2016**. Abstracts submitted will be subjected to an external review process, and authors will be informed of the decision by 28 March 2016.

The registration deadline for the conference is 1 July 2016 and the conference fee is: 75.000 ISK.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The IPTRN has a limited amount of funding available to award six travel fellowships to students (from undergraduate through to PhD-level) whose abstracts are accepted for presentation. Each fellowship awarded includes the conference fee and US$500 towards travel expenses. Full details can be found at conference website ([here](http://5iptrnconference.rmf.is/student-travel-awards/)) and questions can be directed to Dr. Pat Maher (Pat\_Maher@cbu.ca) on the available format. The deadline for the student travel award application is 1 May 2016. The application should include proof of student status, a CV, and the filled in application form as stipulated.

If any questions arise, please contact Edward H. Huijbens, the conference organiser via e-mail: edward@unak.is

You can find the International Polar Tourism Research Network (IPTRN) online and on Facebook:

* <http://iptrn.rmf.is/>
* <https://www.facebook.com/IPTRN27>
* <https://twitter.com/PolarTourism>
1. The Icelandic króna (ISK) is a rather volatile currency and as all costs will be incurred in ISK, we offer you the conference price in ISK, but cannot make any guarantees as to your final cost. The conference fee includes all travel from arrival in Akureyri till departure from Egilsstaðir (4 days), food and conference materials. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)