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| Reviewer: 1  Comments to the Author I find the paper interesting with sufficient contextualisation to past and current tourism geographies and political geography literature. The case suits well for the approach. Only minor note is that the conclusions of the paper could include more aspects from the outlined literature review (however, the conclusions are sufficient but there could be more connections made, if possible). | Dear reviewer 1,  thank you for your kind comments.  Due to comments from the other reviewers, I decided to change the structure of the document slightly. |
| Reviewer: 2  Comments to the Author Dear Editor,  This article has good potential, and deals with an extremely important issue for a country like the Maldives. However, it does so very superficially, remaining largely descriptive and missing a clear analytical framework. What is also missing is a clear methodology. The reader is simply presented in the initial pages with a few conceptual hints (Heterotopia, space of exception, touristed landscapes, etc.) but with no clear development of the same concepts into some analytics or, in some cases, with no further use in the rest of the paper. In addition, the key literature on enclavic tourism is largely incomplete (see for example Minca’s “The Island” (in Tourist Studies, 2009) and, more in general, Richard Ek’s work on the same topic, but also Tim Edensor’s).   In addition, it is never made clear what is the actual objective of this article, since its engagement with existing debates on enclavic tourism is not only modest but it does not seem to propose anything new. The concept of Heterotopia, for example, has been discussed extensively in the past, also in relation to tourism, but no reference is made here of those past debates. And in any case, the concept is not engaged in full in analysing the Maldives case. I remain perplexed, for example, when the authors seem to assume that a place may be more. Another entirely underdeveloped concept is that of space of exception, mentioned at the beginning, and then recovered towards the end but with no much benefit for the main argument. I suggest this concept to be abandoned, since it is not taking the analysis of the specific case very far, at least in the way in which it is treated here. Overall, I am under the impression that the authors do have good material on the Maldives and should possible make a better use of it, writing a largely empirical piece. In this case, however, the structure and the main argument should be clear from the outset, together with the methodology adopted. A few additional, minor, points:   Sentence unrelated  P.5 Not clear how the reference to “reinforce power dynamics?” helps in any way the argument.   P.6 Local culture tends to be essentialized when the authors claim that it may be “overwhelmed by external influence” … This is a bit of a common place, also because nothing is said to justify the belief in the existence of such thing as a unified ‘local culture’ in the Maldives  p.6 Reference to the Indonesian case is surprising and isolated, and frankly not very helpful, unless a proper comparison is made between the two cases  p.9 From this point the paper become almost purely descriptive, it reads very much like a report, and we are therefore left with the question: what are we to learn from this extensive description that we could not learn directly from the same materials?  p.10 George Corbin appears at p.10 out of the blue but very little is made of it, and is entirely forgotten in the rest of the paper – I suggest cutting this reference…   p.14 “border of the island not natural, border are social constructs”, ok, good point, but then not much is done with it  p.16 “iconemes”: this concept is never explained; this part of the article is all over the place  p.19 reference to “not simply landscapes of power…”; again, I get lost any time the authors propose, out of the blue, a new concept, while not explaining it or developing it much further.   My suggestion, as it emerges from the comments above, is that, in the present form, this paper cannot be considered for publication. In my opinion, this is not a paper as yet… The author should decide whether they intend to write a report, an empirical paper on the Maldives or a literature review on island enclavic tourism. The present text is neither of these, so it remains very difficult even to assess. I hope that this is helpful. | Dear Reviewer 2, thank you for your helpful comments. I will try to answer your points:  The previous version of the document aimed at introducing the Maldivian experience as a specific case of planned enclavic tourism, that is, not as a "heterocentric process of territorialization" (Minca, 2000, p. 392), as usually suggested by the literature  Methodology: in the former version of the paper, the methodology was included in the acknowledgements. My mistake. Now, it is in a separated note.  Debate: Thank you for suggesting more literature. I found The Island of Minca particularly useful. In the new version of the paper, I am directly concerned with the ideas that have been presented there.  As already written, the general idea was to introduce a specific case of planned enclavic tourism.  The Maldivian island resort does not have a permanent population because it occupies an uninhabited island. It does not even belong to the administrative territory of the state. Therefore, it does not follow the Maldivian religious rules. In this perspective, in my opinion, it can be considered a "space of exception". However, as this is not the main point of the document, I have removed the concept.  I decided to follow your advice and to engage with a specific theme, the presence of foreign workers in the resorts and the limited space in which they are forced to live.  I have removed the reference.  I have deleted the sentence.  The reference was made to strengthen the case of planned tourist enclaves. I cancelled it.  I believe that an introduction to the history of tourism in the Maldives is relevant to the paper and I have decided to maintain it, albeit in a short form.  The same goes for George Corbin. I think it is worth mentioning because he invented the formula of the Maldivian holiday island    I tried to develop the concept more explicitly, specifying that the island's boundary is, in fact, the outer limit of private property.  I have now introduced the concept in the introduction.  I have deleted the reference  Yes, your comments were extremely helpful. |
| Reviewer: 3  Comments to the Author This is essentially a descriptive overview of enclave tourism in Maldives. As such it does a good job and it is an enjoyable read. It is well organised and very clear.  However, the negative side of the enclave development is only touched upon through the main body. The last 12 lines of the conclusion do not redress the balance.  A harder edge to the article, or at least a section that deals with harder issues, would add to the whole. The lack of opportunity for the local people in general and women in particular within the Maldivian space, despite the heavy foreign investment in tourism, the growth of Islamic fundamentalism, the clash of political parties and so on is skimmed over. Yet, arguably, many of the problems can be laid at the door of the one-island-one-resort policy.  The flourishing and yet problematic post 2007-8 development of guesthouses might also be alluded to rather more fully.   Apart from the above there are some technical points that would improve the article:  1. I would cut out mention of Polynesia in the opening paragraphs. For me it diverted from the main thrust of what I supposed the article was intended to consider.   2. Some sentences are too long. See for example 'Only when... was altered' (p.4/30). Also see 'A further...1997, p.13) (p. 5/30).  3. I presume that the Abstract should refer to 'customs' rather than costumes'. | Thank you for your nice comments.  In the new version of the document, I tried to explore a negative side of enclave tourism that is not commonly discussed in literature, namely the quality of life of the foreign workforce living in the resort islands.  In the new version, I have focused on the issue of foreign workers, but I have also tried to explain why many Maldivians are not really interested, at the moment, in working in resorts.  I have tried to do it  I have deleted the paragraph  Yes, I tried to reduce the wordiness  Yes, thank you |