

УДК 343.9

DOI <https://doi.org/10.24144/2788-6018.2026.02.2.64>

## ON THE SYSTEMATIZATION OF CORRELATION BETWEEN THE CONCEPTS OF “CRIME” AND “TURISM”

**Нестерова І.А.,**

кандидат юридичних наук, доцент,  
доцент кафедри кримінально-правової політики  
Ужгородського національного університету  
ORCID: 0000-0003-0481-2965  
e-mail: [iryna.nesterova@uzhnu.edu.ua](mailto:iryna.nesterova@uzhnu.edu.ua)

### **Nesterova I. On the Systematization of Correlation between the Concepts of “Tourism” and “Crime”.**

The article presents a comprehensive criminological study of the correlation between the concepts of “crime” and “tourism” in the context of intensified global mobility, the growth of international tourist flows, and the digitalization of social relations. It is substantiated that tourism, as a multi-level system of socio-economic, organizational, and legal relations, creates a specific environment within which particular criminogenic risks emerge. It is proved that crime in the tourism sector has a multidimensional character and includes not only criminal offenses committed against tourists during their stay in places of temporary residence, but also offenses committed by tourists themselves, as well as by entities engaged in tourism activities at all stages of the tourism process - from travel planning (document processing, insurance arrangements, booking of services) to the completion of the trip and return to the place of permanent residence.

It is argued that crime in the sphere of tourism cannot be reduced solely to offenses committed during a person’s stay abroad or at a destination. It also encompasses criminal offenses in the sphere of economic, financial, and insurance activities, including tax evasion, illegal entrepreneurship, fraud, abuse of office, falsification of insurance documents, and other acts that violate the established order of functioning of the tourism market. Seasonal fluctuations in crime rates in resort regions, the increased victimization of tourists, and socio-psychological criminogenic factors and their impact on the structure of offenses are analyzed.

The article emphasizes the complex socio-economic consequences of the spread of crime in the tourism sector, manifested in material and moral damage to tourists, destabilization of tourism business entities, reduced trust in the national tourism market, and the formation of a negative international image of the state. The necessity of a systematic and interdisciplinary approach to the study and prevention of crime in tourism is substantiated, taking into account the influence of digital technologies and the implementation of international standards of criminal law regulation.

**Key words:** crime; tourism, tourism activity, criminal offense, criminological analysis, travel insurance, economic offenses, tourist safety, seasonal crime, digitalization.

### **Нестерова І.А. Щодо систематизації співвідношення понять «туризм» і злочинність».**

У статті здійснено комплексне кримінологічне дослідження співвідношення понять «злочинність» і «туризм» в умовах інтенсифікації глобальної мобільності населення, зростання міжнародних туристичних потоків та цифровізації суспільних відносин. Обґрунтовано, що туризм як багаторівнева система соціально-економічних, організаційних і правових зв’язків формує специфічне середовище, в межах якого виникають особливі криміногенні ризики. Доведено, що злочинність у туристичній сфері має багатовимірний характер і охоплює не лише кримінальні правопорушення, спрямовані проти туристів під час їх перебування у місцях тимчасового відпочинку, а й діяння, вчинені самими туристами, а також суб’єктами туристичної діяльності на всіх етапах туристичного процесу - від підготовки подорожі (оформлення документів, страхування, бронювання послуг) до завершення поїздки та повернення особи до місця постійного проживання.

Аргументовано, що проблематика злочинності у сфері туризму не може зводитися виключно до посягань у період перебування особи в подорожі. Вона включає також кримінальні правопорушення у сфері господарської, фінансової та страхової діяльності, зокрема ухилення від сплати податків, незаконне підприємництво, шахрайство, службові зловживання, підроблення страхових документів та інші діяння, що порушують встановлений порядок функціонування туристичного ринку. Проаналізовано сезонні коливання злочинності у курортних регіонах, підвищену віктимність туристів, соціально-психологічні чинники криміногенності та їх вплив на структуру правопорушень.

Наголошено на комплексних соціально-економічних наслідках поширення злочинності у туристичній сфері, які проявляються у завданні матеріальної та моральної шкоди туристам, дестабілізації діяльності суб'єктів туристичного бізнесу, зниженні довіри до національного туристичного ринку та формуванні негативного міжнародного іміджу держави. Обґрунтовано необхідність системного, міждисциплінарного підходу до дослідження та запобігання злочинності у сфері туризму з урахуванням впливу цифрових технологій та імплементації міжнародних стандартів кримінально-правового регулювання.

**Ключові слова:** злочинність, туризм, туристична діяльність, кримінальне правопорушення, кримінологічний аналіз, туристичне страхування; правопорушення в господарській та економічній сфері, безпека туристів, сезонність злочинності, цифровізація.

**Problem statement.** The contemporary realities of global population mobility and the increasing volume of tourist flows have transformed tourism from a local phenomenon into a significant component of the global economy, a mechanism of socio-cultural interaction, and a factor of international cooperation. Tourism functions as a multi-level complex of social relations encompassing not only the organization of leisure, but also economic, financial, security, and legal components.

In this context, issues of safety and criminogenic risks within tourist environments are gaining increasing attention, as the growth in the number of tourists in certain destinations creates favorable conditions for the commission of criminal offenses, which may reduce the attractiveness of such regions (see, for example, reviews of studies on the relationship between tourism and crime) [1].

In academic literature, various approaches exist to the study of the "tourism and crime" phenomenon. Some scholars consider tourist areas as potentially criminogenic zones where crime rates may be higher due to the specific dynamics of supply and demand [2, p. 5]. Other researchers analyze the nature and structure of criminal manifestations in the tourism sector as a multidimensional problem requiring a systematic approach [3, p. 250].

Despite these scholarly contributions, there is no consensus within the academic community regarding the interpretation of the correlation between the concepts of "crime" and "tourism." In particular, debates persist concerning the scope of the research subject: whether crime in the field of tourism should be limited to criminal offenses directly related to the provision of tourism services, or whether it should also encompass other forms of criminal conduct associated with the regulation of tourism activities, as well as financial and economic governance [4, p. 310].

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** Numerous works by both domestic and foreign scholars have been devoted to the criminological study of crime in the field of tourism. Among Ukrainian researchers, particular attention should be paid to the studies of S. M. Alfiorov, A.V. Andrushko, O.A. Klymenko, and A.V. Savchenko, who examined the legal and organizational aspects of preventing criminal offenses in the tourism sphere.

In foreign academic literature, a significant contribution to the study of the relationship between tourism and crime has been made by D. Baker, M. Bras, J. Walmsley, J. Crofts, and G.J. Schneider. These scholars analyzed criminogenic risks in tourist destinations, the economic consequences of offenses in the tourism sphere, and mechanisms for regulating the safety of tourist flows.

However, contemporary realities necessitate further examination of certain controversial aspects and require continued scientific analysis.

In view of the above, **the purpose of this article** is to investigate the correlation between the concepts of "crime" and "tourism."

**Presentation of the research material and main results.** A person who decides to embark on a journey leaves their familiar environment and enters a new social space with different rules and norms of behavior. Under such circumstances, tourists often become more vulnerable to unlawful acts committed by local residents.

Travelers typically carry valuable items and personal belongings, which, in an atmosphere of leisure and reduced vigilance, are not always properly monitored. Moreover, they are often insufficiently familiar with the specifics of the local currency, systems of weights and measures, rules of trade and service provision, as well as cultural traditions, which create additional opportunities for deception and other unlawful actions.

The well-known German criminologist G. J. Schneider notes that large tourist flows during the summer months are also actively exploited by organized crime. Professional criminals target expensive cars and other valuable items, such as jewelry and precious objects, during the summer season. Areas visited by foreign tourists generally exhibit higher crime rates. According to his data, registered crime in the summer months exceeds the annual average, whereas during summer holidays, crime in major German cities tends to decrease [5].

When addressing the issue of "tourism and crime," G.J. Schneider highlights another aspect of the problem: crimes committed by tourists themselves. The scholar observes that during summer vacations, foreign professional criminals arrive at vacation destinations and exploit seasonal tourist influxes. They primarily commit car thefts, thefts from vehicles, and robberies in hotels, boarding houses, and commercial establishments. Vacationers themselves engage mostly in theft, fraud, vandalism, and minor bodily harm [5].

At the same time, Schneider acknowledges that different types of resorts - sea and climate resorts, winter sports complexes, and sanatoriums - are affected by crime to varying degrees. The level of criminal activity largely depends on the social composition of the local population and the seasonal "holiday" population. Resorts with lower crime rates are characterized by visitors who are mostly elderly people, families with children, and members of the middle class who regularly return, seeking peace, quiet, and health improvement. In such areas, personal friendly relationships often develop between tourists and local residents.

Conversely, vacation areas with high crime rates tend to attract young people without children, singles, and older adolescents who seek freedom and new experiences - precisely those age and social groups that exhibit the greatest propensity for committing crimes [5].

S. M. Alfyorov, in his research study "Activities of Internal Affairs Bodies to Counter Crime in Resort Regions (A Criminological Study Based on Materials from Zaporizhzhia Region)", reached similar conclusions regarding the characteristics of crime in resort areas [6]. The scholar treats this issue as multidimensional, emphasizing that it encompasses both criminal offenses against individuals on vacation and unlawful behavior committed by the tourists themselves.

Using the example of resort regions in Zaporizhzhia, scientist identified a stable pattern of seasonal fluctuations in crime rates: the number of crimes and other offenses is at its lowest in December, January, and February, then gradually increases in March and April, rises noticeably in May, June, and July, reaches its peak during August and September, and declines significantly in October and November [6, p. 10]. The researcher concluded that social processes in resort regions are characterized by heightened dynamism. This is due to the short-term stays of tourists, their rapid turnover, and their high concentration in public spaces such as recreational zones, parks, beaches, and entertainment venues. Such environmental specificity creates favorable conditions not only for tourist activity but also for the infiltration of criminal elements, including itinerant criminals, fraudsters, pimps, and drug traffickers, both from Ukraine and abroad.

The scholar also emphasizes the increased victimization of individuals on vacation, noting the "special psychological atmosphere in such places, where tourists exhibit personal traits such as friendliness, carelessness, and excessive trustfulness, arising against the backdrop of a temporary suspension of stable social ties and social control. At the same time, certain categories of tourists behave immorally, displaying a façade of material prosperity, which becomes ingrained as a lifestyle, a behavioral stereotype, thus forming an ideology of a carefree life that generates social envy among local residents, especially youth, and a distorted perception of certain aspects of urban living" [6, p. 9]. In resort areas, he also observed a consistent trend of increasing criminal offenses committed under the influence of alcohol.

Based on the identified specific features of crime in resort regions, the scholar outlined directions for enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement activities in maintaining public order and combating crime in these areas. Among the proposed measures are: the redistribution of personnel responsible for public order duties according to the time of day, in order to ensure the highest density of patrols in areas of service precisely during the periods when the greatest number of crimes and other offenses occur; more active use of mass communication tools (including the preparation of standard recommendations on how to behave in specific situations, guidance on conditions and procedures for contacting authorities in case of problematic situations, and information on certain behavioral norms and moral standards from the perspective of foreign and visiting citizens); and the assignment of relevant work with foreign tourists to travel agencies, businesses, institutions, and organizations, as well as to individual citizens who invite and host foreign visitors [6, pp. 12-14].

Thus, in contemporary scholarly sources, criminality in the tourism sector is primarily considered as a set of criminal offenses directed against tourists, and in some cases, as offenses committed by tourists themselves during their travels. In our view, this understanding of crime in the tourism sector is reinforced by the legislative definition of tourism not as an activity aimed at the production and sale of a tourist product for the needs of tourists, but as a temporary departure of an individual from their place of residence for recreational, educational, professional-business, or other purposes without engaging in paid activity at the destination (Article 1 of the Law of Ukraine "On Tourism") [7].

This approach to examining crime in the tourism sector is part of the broader issue of ensuring the safety of tourist activities, which is extensively analyzed in numerous scientific studies [8; 9; 10, etc.]. The Law of Ukraine "On Tourism" stipulates that state authorities and local self-government bodies, within their powers, shall take measures aimed at: ensuring the personal safety of tourists and the security of their property, preventing harm to the environment; informing tourism entities about threats to tourist safety in the country (or location) of temporary stay; providing necessary assistance to tourists in emergency situations; ensuring that tourists (or excursionists) can access medical, legal, and other types of urgent assistance, as well as communication services; prohibiting the use of tourism for illegal migration, sexual, labor, or other forms of exploitation of citizens, among other measures. To ensure tourist safety, tourism entities, while conducting their activities, are obliged, in particular, to inform tourists about potential hazards during their travels [7].

Recognizing the importance of a thorough criminological analysis of criminal offenses directed against tourists during foreign trips, as well as the need to develop effective preventive measures, the following points should be noted:

1. The victim's status as a traveling tourist is often considered the sole criterion for distinguishing crimes in the tourism sector. In reality, these are crimes that can be committed against any individual, not just tourists. The process of providing tourist services and the associated abuses generally remains outside the scope of scholarly attention;

2. In some publications, the tourist is sometimes equated with any foreign national, which effectively obscures the distinction between crimes committed against tourists and crimes committed against foreigners. In this context, it is important to note that official statistical reporting differentiates and separately accounts for foreign tourists and foreign citizens who visited Ukraine (the latter group is, of course, much larger) [11];

3. The actions discussed in the aforementioned studies pertain only to the period during which an individual is traveling. Consequently, the stage of travel organization remains largely overlooked [12, p. 29].

Thus, criminality in the tourism sphere can be appropriately understood as a set of punishable acts committed both by tourism service providers and by tourists themselves at all stages of the tourism process – from the preparation phase (obtaining travel documents, concluding insurance contracts, booking transportation tickets and accommodation, etc.) to the completion of the trip and the return of the individual to their place of permanent residence.

This type of crime encompasses offenses related both to the direct provision of tourist services and to violations of the established rules governing business activities in the tourism sector. In particular, this includes criminal acts that infringe upon property rights, economic interests, licensing procedures, and financial reporting obligations of tourism market participants.

The consequences of such offenses can result in harm to a wide range of victims: primarily tourists as consumers of services, but also tour operators, travel agencies, insurance companies, and the state. The latter is especially evident in cases of tax evasion, illegal entrepreneurship, or other violations of financial and economic regulations within the tourism business.

We consider that the level of social danger posed by crime in the tourism sector in Ukraine remains insufficiently studied, both within the scientific discourse and in practical counteraction. The consequences of unlawful acts in this area are complex and multidimensional.

First, its "social cost" manifests in the infliction of both material and moral harm on victims, which directly affects their sense of legal protection and personal safety.

Second, the commission of criminal offenses in the tourism sector undermines trust in the national tourism market as a whole. This, in turn, negatively impacts the volume of domestic and international tourist flows, the investment attractiveness of the industry, and budget revenues at various levels.

Third, the spread of crime in the tourism sector can damage international image of our state, shaping foreign partners' and potential tourists' perceptions of heightened risks associated with doing business and staying within the country.

The tourism activity is closely linked to insurance: Article 16 of the Law of Ukraine "On Tourism" stipulates that "tourist insurance (medical and accident insurance) is mandatory and is provided by tourism service providers on the basis of agreements with insurance companies. Tourists have the right to independently conclude such insurance contracts. In this case, they are required to confirm to the tour operator or travel agent in advance the existence of a duly concluded insurance contract." It is also stipulated that "at the tourist's request, the tour operator or travel agent shall provide insurance against other risks associated with the trip" [7].

In light of the above, it is appropriate to note that a comprehensive criminological study of crime in the tourism sector should include not only offenses directly related to the provision of tourist services or the organization of trips, but also criminally punishable acts committed in the field of tourist insurance.

The need for such an approach is due to the fact that insurance is an integral component of tourism activities and performs a guarantee and compensatory function within the system of protecting tourists' rights. Accordingly, criminally punishable acts in the field of tourist insurance – such as fraud, official misconduct, forgery of insurance documents, and other unlawful actions – have complex and far-reaching negative consequences.

Such offenses weaken the legal and financial protection of tourists, destabilize the operations of insurance companies, increase the risks inherent in interactions among participants in the tourism market, and generally reduce confidence in the institutional mechanisms for ensuring safety in the tourism sector.

We argue that the concept of crime in tourism cannot be limited solely to criminal offenses directly related to the provision of tourist services. Tourism activities are simultaneously a form of entrepreneurship, and therefore, their operators are required to conduct business in compliance with established legal requirements and regulations. Accordingly, it is reasonable to include in this domain criminal acts in the sphere of business and financial activity, such as tax evasion, illegal entrepreneurship, or other violations of tax and financial legislation.

**Conclusions.** The results of the conducted research allow us to formulate the following generalizations regarding the relationship between the categories of "crime" and "tourism."

Criminality in the tourism sphere has a multidimensional nature. It encompasses criminal offenses directed against tourists, acts committed by the travelers themselves, as well as illegal activities that occur at all stages of tourism – beginning with the organization of the trip (document processing, insurance agreements, booking of various services) and concluding with the return of the individual to their permanent place of residence.

The problem of crime in tourism is not limited solely to relationships involving the provision of tourist services. Tourism functions as a form of entrepreneurial activity and is regulated by commercial law. Consequently, criminological analysis should also include offenses in the financial and economic sphere, such as tax evasion, illegal business operations, fraud, and falsification of insurance documents.

The consequences of crime in the tourism sector are complex and socio-economically significant. They manifest in material and non-material harm to tourists, disruption of the operations of tour operators, travel agencies, and insurance companies, a decrease in trust in the tourism market, and the formation of a negative international image of the state.

Effective counteraction to such phenomena requires a holistic, systemic approach. This involves conducting comprehensive criminological research that considers both individual forms of criminal behavior and the characteristics of the tourism market, the specifics of interactions among its participants, and seasonal fluctuations in tourist flows.

Future research should focus on analyzing the impact of digitalization on tourism safety, improving mechanisms to prevent fraud and abuse in the sphere of travel insurance, and implementing international standards of criminal law regulation into national practice.

Thus, a clear definition and systematic organization of the relationship between the concepts of "crime" and "tourism" is a necessary condition for enhancing the effectiveness of preventive policies, ensuring the safety of travelers, and supporting the sustainable development of the tourism industry.

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Дата першого надходження рукопису до видання: 23.02.2026  
Дата прийняття до друку рукопису після рецензування: 20.03.2026  
Дата публікації: 5.03.2026

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