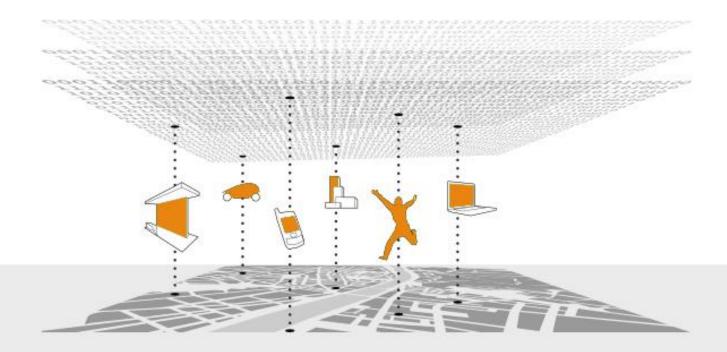
ICT tools for sustainable tourism destination management: the case of Digital Corfu

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TOWARDS A BLACK SEA NETWORK FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Tourism: the world's largest "industry"

Even if tourism is often represented as industry of low impact, the researchers have begun to recognize the tourism as a factor of environmental change and taking into consideration the heterogeneous nature of the tourism phenomenon and organizational and functional structures of tourist destinations.

The "new tourist" in the "new economy" era

Recognition that the "old" form of mass tourism can destroy the nature of host communities through pollution, overcrowding, environmental degradation, crime and deviance, has led to internal and external forces which continue to change the nature of the tourism industry.

Internal forces for change include "new" aware consumers, as well as availability of new technologies, while external forces include recognition of environmental limits and the emergence of a new global "best practice" of flexible production.

New tools for sustainable tourism destination management

Internet and tourism have close links as one of the earliest global applications of world-wide computer networks were the ticketing systems of airlines. The various available internet services may be categorized in specific sub-systems of applications as below:

- Information
- **Promotion and virtual tours** (virtual representations of the physical space, 3D models of buildings and public spaces, panoramic photos, interactive maps, videos or even real time web cams)
- **On line services** (on line booking, e-commerce and e-booking, digital market places).
- **Consumer Generated Media (**the new travel community strength)

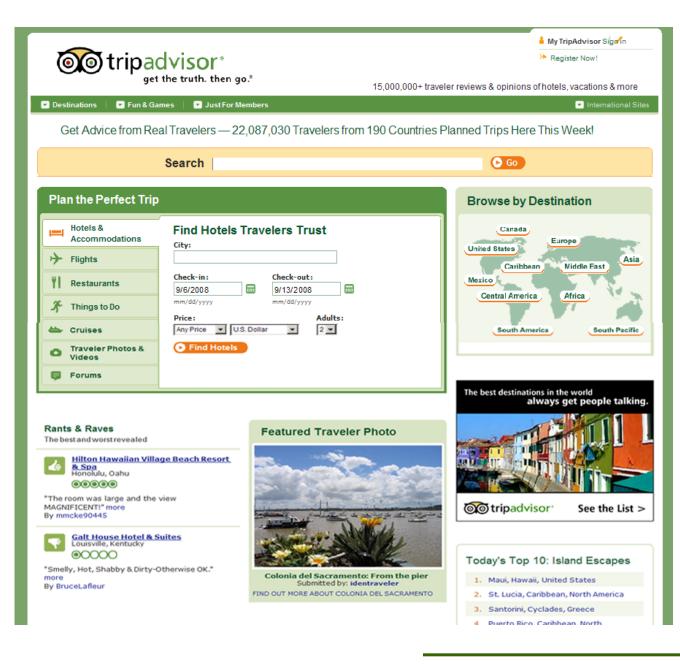
Guggenheim BILBAO

The sense of the place





The General Director of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao welcomes users in a virtual tour to the museum Source: <u>http://www.guggenheim-</u> <u>bilbao.es/visita_virtual/visita_virtual.php?idioma=en</u>



Web 2.0 and Consumer Generated Media

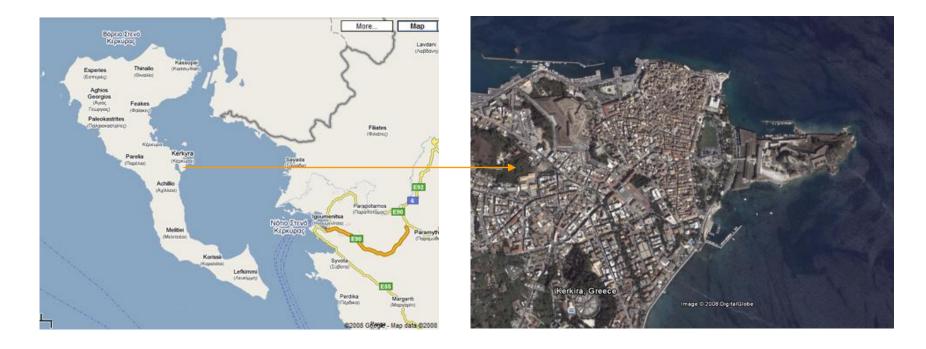
These new technologies and basically this new "internet ethic" has led to the creation of a dense web travel community whose action brings exponential changes to the travel culture and affect tourist destination leadings.

the case of Digital Corfu

www.digitalcorfu.com

Digital Corfu platform has been developed by the Urban and Regional Research Unit (URENIO) of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in the framework of the cofinanced European Innovative Action 2000-2006 program **"3I-Innovation in Ionian Islands**".

The object of the "Digital Corfu" program action was the creation of the digital city of Corfu, as a pioneer effort for the representation of the Old Town of Corfu by the means of virtual tour technology.



The City of Corfu is the capital of the Corfu Island, the major of the Ionian Islands. The historical Corfu Old Town inside the walls was lately listed in the UNESCO's World Heritage.





virtual city tour sightseeing daily tours staying and dinning shopping having fun festivities public services information arriving to Corfu

yachting and weather

The Platform's Architecture:





Spianada Roof Garden-Tour Start

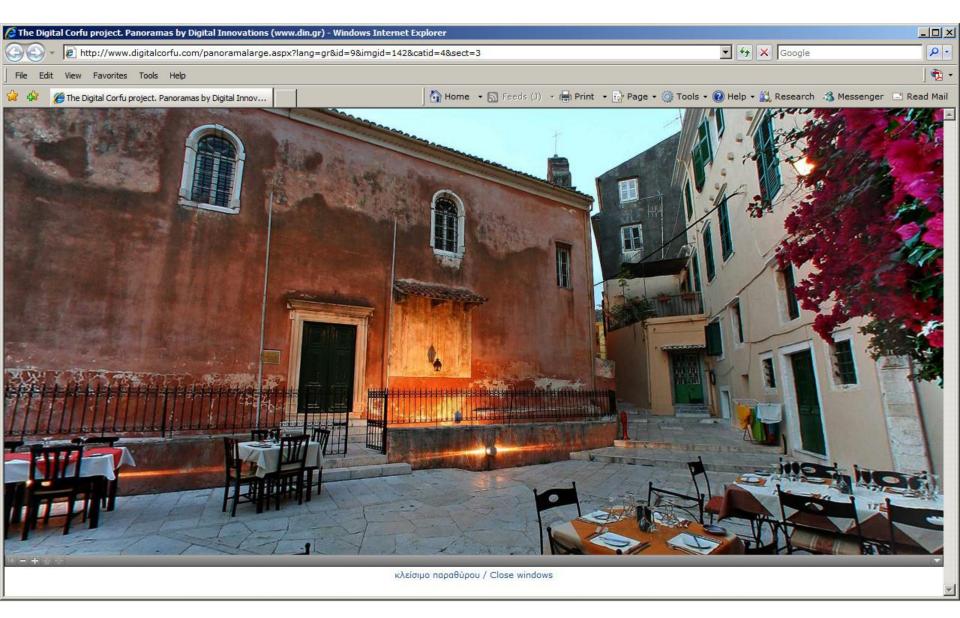
Welcome to the Virtual Tour of Corfu's historic center

At the map on the left window you can see a number of intresting places marked with red dots. You can explore them, by clicking on these dots. Your current place is marked with a bigger red-yellow dot.

At the right window you can see what you would have been seeing with your own eyes if you were stnding at that place, in the 1. Digital Corfu Virtual Virtual (OpenFrama). Draging your mouse lets you move your virtual view to any direction. Pressing the [A] and [Z] keys on the keyboard lets you zoom-in and zoom-out.

Clicking on the red dots appearing in the panorama, you can move to an other part of the virtual tour.

Have a nice (virtual) touring.



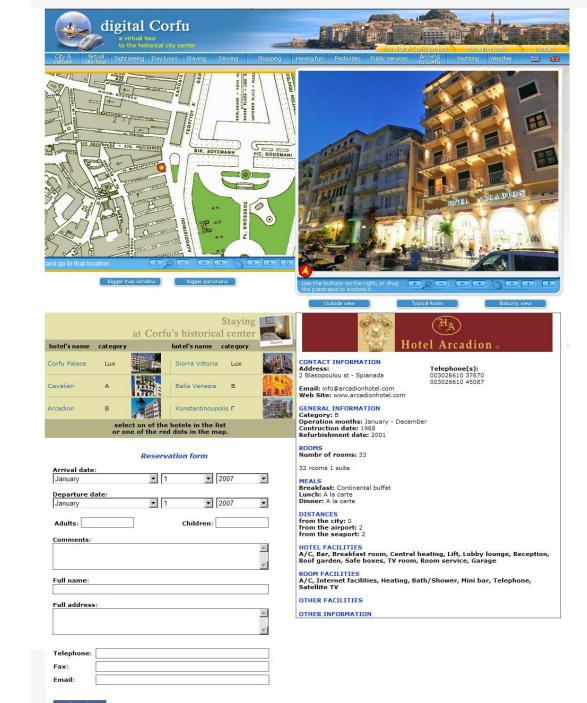
The user can choose to see bigger map or a bigger panorama



Σημεία ενδιαφέροντος πέρα από το ιστορικό κέντρο της Κέρκυρας

Αχίλλειο	
Mon Repos, A	ογικός χώρος Παλαιόπολης
Άνω Κορακιάν	
-	
	4

2. Daily Tours



3. Accommodation



4. Dinning / restaurants

σωταρισμένο κοτόπουλο με σάλτσα με σαφράν, σαμπάνια και καραμελωμένο αμύγδαλο ή κρέπες με σπανάκι και πράσινο τσάι

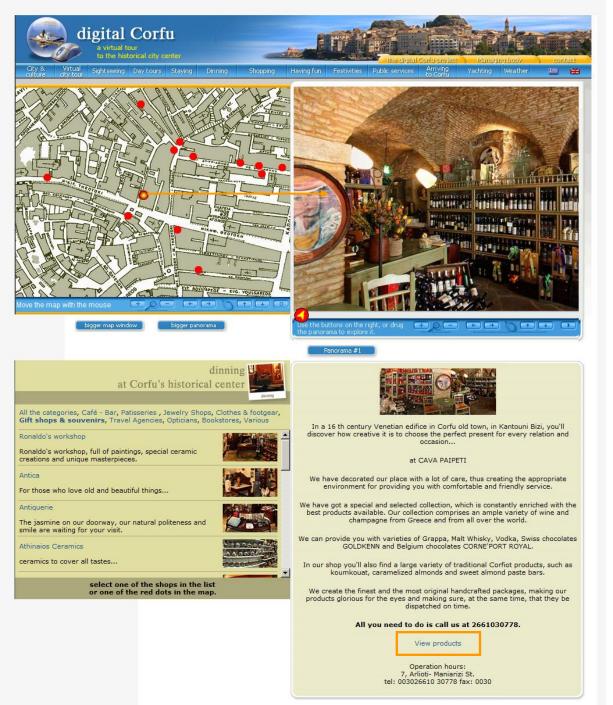
ΑΛΛΕΣ ΠΛΗΡΟΦΟΡΙΕΣ

Σπεσιαλιτέ





4. E-market place – *list of shops by category*

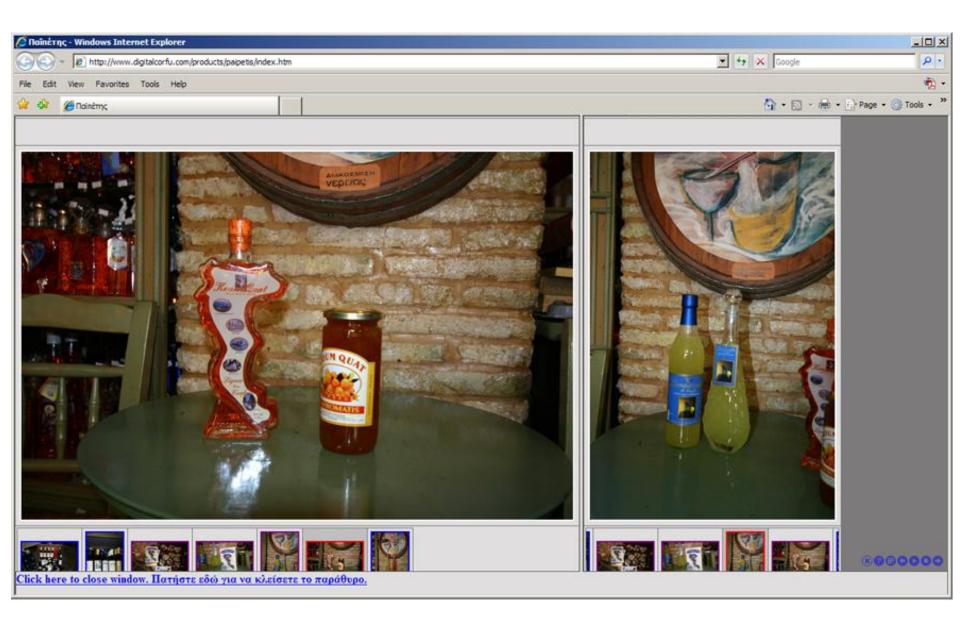


The **Digital Corfu** commercial district

includes 110 business: hotels, café, restaurants, cake-shops, jeweler's, boutiques, shoe-maker's, gift shops, tourist and local products shops, travel agencies, bookshops etc.

The "shopping" option gives the user the choice of taking a virtual stroll around the shop windows

Digital Corfu e-market place: cava shop



The user may have a detail view to the products



<u>Δοκιμάστε demo λογαριασμό</u> Ακίνδυνες συναλλαγές 5000€ Εκπαιδευθείτε online από εμας <u>www.itorex.gr</u> <u>Φωτογραφικές Μηχανές</u> Nikon,Canon, Olympus,Pentax Παραγγελίες Online <u>www.katerelos.gr</u> <u>PameDiakopes.gr</u> Οι καλύτερες online τιμές μόνο εδώ. Κλείστε φθηνά αεροπορικά τώρα! <u>www.pamediakopes.gr</u>



Augonalional Google

Cluster Map - Visitors to www.digitalcorfu.com

towards a creative travel experience

The support of the new digital technology is valuable in a sustainable tourism destination management as, now, tourism related governmental agents have strong tools in order to:

- Promote the specific cultural or environmental identity of each place, all over the world, against a mass cultural homogenize.
- Promote alternative tourist destinations against traditional and replete ones. Emergence of new alternative tourist destinations thematic tourism
- Inform travelers with a high quality of information about tourist destinations and support them with specific e-services. Wellinformed travelers with respect to the environment, the monuments, to the local ethics and the cultural identity.