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Foraging Tourism: Critical Moments in Sustainable Consumption

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Title: Foraging Tourism: Critical Moments in Sustainable Consumption

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Abstract:

Despite the prevalence of sustainability discourses across the Global North, for the majority of people, abstract issues of sustainability often have a low salience for the realities of travel choices. Sustainable tourism researchers recognise that any shifts resulting in sustainable tourist practice are likely to come about as a result of shifts in everyday, highly routinized social practices, relations, and socio-technical structures. This paper examines relations between social practice, sustainability, and tourism through the rise of foraging tourism across the UK, US, and Antipodes. Using evidence from qualitative interviews and media analysis detailing perspectives of professional foragers and attendees, alongside observant participation on foraging courses, the paper records the personal political motivations prompting the accrual of foraging courses. By engaging with debates surrounding the meanings of sustainable tourism, the paper extends understanding of these concepts through the identification of foraging tourism as a facilitator of sustainable practice and discourse, identifying the ways through which tourism informs and is informed by everyday practice.