



The Relationship Between Maritime Culture and Archaeotourism in the Ancient City of Knidos

Semahat GÖKER ÖZYÜREK¹

ABSTRACT

This conceptual study seeks to explore the intricate and multidimensional relationship between maritime culture and archaeotourism through a focused examination of the Ancient City of Knidos, a historically significant settlement strategically situated at the intersection of the Aegean and Mediterranean civilizations. Owing to its favorable geographical position and its highly developed harbor infrastructure, Knidos played a prominent role as a maritime trade hub during antiquity. In the present day, the site continues to draw scholarly and touristic attention, largely due to the abundance of its tangible and intangible maritime cultural heritage. When considered within the framework of archaeotourism, this heritage presents considerable potential not only for preserving cultural identity but also for generating socio-economic benefits and promoting sustainable development at the regional level.

The study adopts a comparative conceptual approach by analyzing national archaeotourism implementations in Turkey alongside the case of Knidos. The aim is to identify shared challenges and opportunities, and to develop a model that can inform thematic tourism strategies grounded in maritime heritage.

Ultimately, the study proposes a conceptual model that underscores the synergy between heritage preservation and thematic tourism development. This model emphasizes the need for sustainable visitor management, community participation, digital innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration to fully realize the potential of Knidos as a dynamic example of how maritime culture can be meaningfully integrated into archaeotourism policy and practice.

Keywords: Knidos, Maritime Culture, Archaeotourism, Cultural Heritage, Sustainable Tourism.

Knidos Antik Kenti'nde Denizcilik Kültürü ile Arkeoturizm Arasındaki İlişki

ÖZET

Bu kavramsal çalışma, Ege ve Akdeniz medeniyetlerinin kesişim noktasında stratejik bir konumda yer alan tarihî öneme sahip Knidos Antik Kenti özelinde, denizcilik kültürü ile arkeoturizm arasındaki karmaşık ve çok boyutlu ilişkiyi incelemeyi amaçlamaktadır. Elverişli coğrafi konumu ve gelişmiş liman altyapısı sayesinde Knidos, antik dönemde önemli bir deniz ticaret merkezi olarak öne çıkmıştır. Günümüzde ise somut ve soyut denizcilik kültürel mirasının zenginliği sayesinde hem akademik hem de turistik ilgi odağı olmaya devam etmektedir. Bu miras, arkeoturizm çerçevesinde değerlendirildiğinde yalnızca kültürel kimliğin korunması açısından değil; aynı zamanda bölgesel düzeyde sosyo-ekonomik fayda sağlanması ve sürdürülebilir kalkınmanın teşvik edilmesi açısından da önemli bir potansiyel barındırmaktadır.

Çalışma, Knidos örneğiyle birlikte Türkiye'deki ulusal arkeoturizm uygulamalarını analiz eden karşılaştırmalı bir kavramsal yaklaşım benimsemektedir. Amaç, ortak zorlukları ve fırsatları belirleyerek, denizcilik mirasına dayalı tematik turizm stratejilerini şekillendirebilecek bir model geliştirmektir.

Sonuç olarak çalışma, mirasın korunması ile tematik turizm gelişimi arasındaki sinerjiyi vurgulayan kavramsal bir model önermektedir. Bu model, Knidos'un potansiyelinin tam anlamıyla gerçekleştirilmesi için sürdürülebilir ziyaretçi yönetimi, yerel halkın katılımı, dijital yenilikler ve disiplinlerarası iş birliği gerekliliğine dikkat çekmektedir. Bu bağlamda, denizcilik kültürünün arkeoturizm politikalarına ve uygulamalarına anlamlı biçimde entegre edilmesi önerilmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Knidos, Denizcilik Kültürü, Arkeoturizm, Kültürel Miras, Sürdürülebilir Turizm.

¹Bağımsız Araştırmacı, ORCID ID: 0000-0002-1263-6271
semahargkr08@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

The Ancient City of Knidos is located at the westernmost tip of the Datça Peninsula—known for its mountainous terrain—within the borders of today’s Datça District in Muğla Province. As one of the most important port cities of antiquity, Knidos served as an active point of passage and stopover within the commercial networks of the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas (Sözel, 2023: 661). Situated within the Caria Region during ancient times, the city, along with its two harbors, functioned as a strategic stopover along the ancient maritime trade routes of southwestern Anatolia due to its geographical position. From the Archaic and Classical periods onwards, Knidos stood out for its maritime trade activities; its harbors served as critical gateways that connected the city to the outside world, indicating a dense volume of maritime traffic in the region (Aslan, 2015: 101). Given Knidos’s historical prominence as a trade and maritime center, its current cultural heritage must be examined within the context of archaeotourism. At this point, evaluating the city’s potential through the concept of archaeotourism becomes particularly meaningful.

Archaeotourism is defined as a term derived from the combination of archaeology and tourism (Jusoh, Sauman, Yunu, Nayan, Nasir & Ramli, 2017: 1167), and it holds a significant place within cultural tourism due to its inclusion of all the cultural heritage elements left behind by past societies. The main areas of activity in this type of tourism include ancient cities, historical regions, museums, and other archaeological attractions (Girauda & Porter, 2010: 7–8; Srivastava, 2015, s. 31–32; Thomas & Langlitz, 2019: 69). Therefore, centers such as Knidos, with their rich archaeological accumulation, have strong potential to serve as primary application areas for archaeotourism. These activities, carried out in regions containing archaeological cultural assets (ACAs), generate positive educational, cultural, social, and economic effects on the local population, thereby contributing to development at both the local and national levels (Thomas & Langlitz, 2019: 78). With global tourism activity reaching 1.4 billion people in 2018 and expected to grow at an average annual rate of 3.3% to even higher levels by 2030 (UNWTO, 2020), the significance of archaeotourism becomes even more apparent when considering that a large portion of this increase stems from cultural heritage-based tourism.

Maritime culture is a cultural system encompassing social lifestyles connected to the sea, economic structures, religious rituals, and both tangible and intangible heritage. Archaeotourism, on the other hand, aims to preserve and utilize archaeological heritage in tourism. These two concepts intersect directly through elements such as ancient port cities, shipwrecks, amphorae, harbor infrastructures, and sea-related deities (Henderson, 2019).

Archaeological Port Cities: Ancient settlements like Knidos, Delos, Salamis, and Naples represent shared domains of both maritime culture and archaeotourism (Avrami, 2000).

Underwater Archaeology: Shipwrecks, underwater routes, and trade networks are valuable both for academic research and for diving tourism (Öztürk, 2010).

Mythology and Sea Deities: Figures such as Poseidon and Aphrodite become integral to cultural narratives through archaeological temple sites and attract the interest of archaeotourists (Şengal & Şengal, 2024: 757).

Archaeotourism activities based on maritime heritage not only provide a source of income for local communities but also contribute to the preservation of traditional ways of life. Especially in coastal regions of Greece, Italy, and Turkey with maritime pasts, archaeotourism revitalizes these areas and ensures cultural continuity (Timothy & Nyaupane, 2009).

This study aims to examine conceptually the interaction between maritime culture and archaeotourism specifically in the Ancient City of Knidos. The discussion focuses on how Knidos, an important port city in antiquity, can be evaluated today within the context of cultural heritage tourism and particularly archaeotourism, through its tangible and intangible maritime heritage. Within this framework, the study problematizes how the maritime-based historical background of Knidos can be integrated into contemporary tourism practices and proposes a conceptual evaluation.

The globally increasing trends in thematic tourism have brought along new approaches for experiencing and preserving cultural heritage. Within this context, archaeotourism has become a strategic domain not only for bringing the past into the present but also for local development, identity formation, and sustainable tourism policies. The case of Knidos, with its unique heritage elements rooted in maritime history and mythological narratives, stands out as a key location where such trends materialize. However, it is observed that this potential has not yet been fully realized. Therefore, approaching Knidos from an archaeotourism perspective will contribute not only to the academic literature but also serve as a guide for regional tourism planning.

This research is a conceptual study conducted through a descriptive approach. Based on information obtained from a literature review, the historical, geographical, and cultural characteristics of Knidos have been analyzed in the context of archaeotourism and maritime culture. The conceptual framework of the study is built on the classification of cultural heritage (tangible and intangible), thematic types of tourism (particularly archaeotourism), the operationalization of maritime culture as a tourism value, and principles of sustainability. The data obtained have been structured under subthemes that enable the evaluation of Knidos's current state and potential.

2. Theoretical Background

2.1. The Historical and Geographical Importance of Knidos: Its Role as a Port City

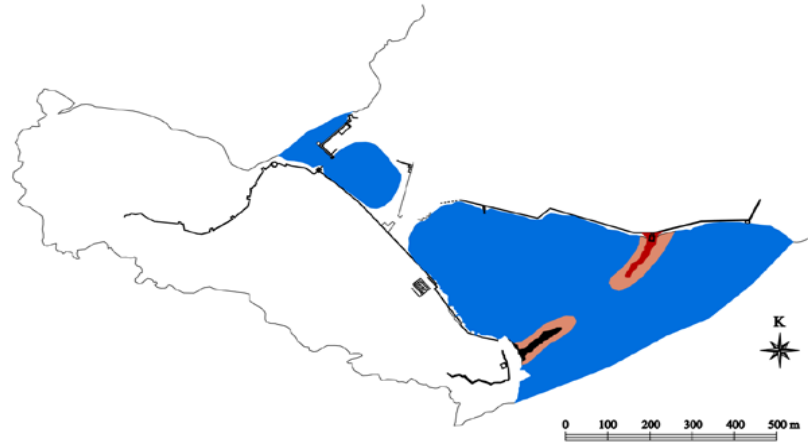
The landmass known today as the Datça or Reşadiye Peninsula was referred to in ancient sources as the Knidos Peninsula. It stretches in an east-west direction into the Aegean Sea from the southwestern tip of Anatolia. Herodotus (I. 174: 2–3) described the Knidos Peninsula as extending from the Bybassos Strait in the east to the Triopion Cape in the west, designating the entire region as Knidian territory. According to his account, these lands were bordered by the Gulf of Keramos in the north and the islands of Syme and Rhodes in the south. The narrow isthmus that connects the peninsula to the mainland lies approximately 18 kilometers west of Marmaris, between Bordont Bay and Hisarönü, and is around 2 kilometers wide. From this point, the peninsula extends approximately 63 kilometers to its westernmost point, known today as Deveboynu Cape (ancient Kap Krio), and is bordered by the Gulf of Gökova and the Bodrum Peninsula to the north, the island of Kos to the west, and the islands of Rhodes and Syme to the south. According to Herodotus, the narrowest point of the peninsula, the Bencik Isthmus, measures approximately five stadia (about 800 meters) in width and corresponds today to the location known as "Balık Aşırın." This area is believed to be where the people of Knidos attempted to dig a canal to transform their city into an island as a defensive measure against the Persian commander Harpagus's campaign in 545 BCE (Herodot, 1973.)

The Ancient City of Knidos was founded on Kap Krio, a small island situated near the mainland, sloping toward the sea and facing south. This unique topographical setting led the ancient geographer Strabo to describe the city as a "double city." Over time, sedimentation and the accumulation of sand dunes caused the formerly separate island of Kap Krio to merge with the mainland, resulting in its present-day appearance as a peninsula. According to Strabo's accounts, in antiquity an artificial breakwater was constructed between Kap Krio and the

mainland, joining the two landmasses while leaving a narrow channel in between. It is believed that passage through this channel was possible via small boats or a movable bridge. This distinctive geographical feature played a crucial role in both the urban development and maritime activities of Knidos (Love, 1968: 134; Bruns-Özgan, 2002: 4; Doksanaltı, 2020: 379).

As illustrated in Figure 1, the union of the mainland and Kap Krio formed a natural isthmus, which resulted in the creation of two bays to the east and west. Structural modifications made at the mouths of these bays rendered them sheltered, thereby giving them distinct harbor functions. Due to its relatively small size, the western bay is referred to as the "Small Harbor," directionally as the "Western Harbor," and, based on Strabo's descriptions and archaeological findings, functionally as the "Military Harbor." The eastern bay, being larger in scale, is referred to as the "Large Harbor," directionally as the "Eastern Harbor," and in terms of function, as the "Commercial Harbor" (Büyüközer, 2019: 216).

Figure 1: Knidos Military and Commercial Harbors



Source: Büyüközer, A. (2019). Knidos liman duvarları. *Cedrus*, 7: 217

2.2. Maritime Cultural Heritage in Knidos

The vast and naturally sheltered harbor of Knidos created a favorable environment for the development of both commercial and cultural connections with the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean regions. The rocky hills surrounding the city provided a natural line of defense for the port and naval base, while also offering a topographical structure conducive to enclosing the city with strong fortifications. These geographical and strategic advantages were decisive factors in making Knidos a prominent settlement in antiquity (Büyüközer, 2022: 83).

A study evaluating the initial findings from underwater archaeological research conducted in 2014 highlights the extent to which Knidos's maritime cultural heritage had developed. These investigations were carried out in Knidos—an important maritime trade center in the Caria region during antiquity—focusing on updating the status of previously identified remains and identifying new cultural assets. As a result of the research, discoveries were made in three areas: Gırap Bay, the commercial harbor basin, and the lighthouse breakwater. These findings included one roof-tile shipwreck, four amphora shipwrecks, one architectural block wreck, two iron anchors, two stone anchors, and numerous amphorae, braziers, and architectural fragments from different historical periods. Among these, amphorae originating from Cyprus, Rhodes, Rome, Byzantium, and the Marmara region, dating from the 5th century BCE to the 13th century CE, were identified. These artifacts reveal that Knidos maintained strong commercial ties with the Eastern Mediterranean, Aegean, North Africa, and the Black Sea from antiquity through the Middle Ages. Furthermore, the relative scarcity of

Knidian amphorae found underwater supports the view that these goods were largely distributed through external markets. Overall, this study sheds light on the long-standing and diverse maritime trade history of Knidos, making a significant contribution to the region's archaeological and commercial past (Aslan, 2015).

In another study, Büyüközer (2019) extensively examined the wall and tower structures surrounding the commercial and military harbors that were part of the defensive system of the Ancient City of Knidos. Located at the farthest point of the Datça Peninsula in southwestern Anatolia, Knidos holds critical importance in terms of ancient maritime trade and defense strategies, thanks to its topographical structure and dual harbors. The harbors that developed on the eastern and western sides of the isthmus—formed by the merging of the mainland with the island of Kap Krio—served both commercial and military functions. The city walls, approximately 4 kilometers in length, were shaped according to geomorphological conditions, incorporating natural rocks and cliffs into the defensive line. The wall and tower construction techniques featured isodomic and polygonal blocks, resembling Hellenistic architecture. Particularly, the narrow entrance of the military harbor, reinforced with opposing towers and a chain system, reveals the characteristics of a "closed harbor" (*limen kleistos*). Moreover, the breakwaters and moles, while serving defensive purposes, also reflect the technical sophistication of ancient harbor engineering. Some sections of these structures are interpreted as potential lighthouses, serving both defensive and navigational purposes. Knidos's harbors, therefore, are not only indicative of trade activities but also reflect the political and military strategies of the period. This study details the holistic relationship between city planning, harbor structures, and defense systems.

Knidos stands out not only for its tangible remains but also for its intangible maritime cultural heritage. The city's deep connection with the sea is reflected in its mythology and rituals, embedding itself in cultural memory. Knidos is especially known for hosting deities associated with the sea. The figure of Aphrodite Euploia—"Aphrodite of smooth sailing"—is at the heart of the city's unique cultural identity. The temple dedicated to Aphrodite served as an important religious and symbolic stop for sailors, who would offer votive offerings to ensure safe sea voyages (Greaves, 2004; Montel, 2010). In addition to Aphrodite, sea gods such as Poseidon also played a key role in the belief system of Knidos, as evidenced by written sources and temple remains. Maritime-related rituals were often integrated with religious ceremonies held in the harbors, including blessings for ships about to depart—rituals believed to have been merged with the cult of Aphrodite (Pironti, 2015).

Mythological narratives are also among the intangible heritage elements that enrich Knidos's maritime culture. The ancient geographer Strabo's descriptions of Knidos as a "double city" and his references to the artificial breakwater linking the island to the mainland illustrate how deeply the city was geographically and mythologically intertwined with the sea (Strab. XIV. 656).

2.3. The Concept of Archaeotourism and Practices in Turkey

Archaeological tourism and cultural tourism are complementary in nature and are characterized by mutual interaction. The mythological narratives or historical events associated with archaeological sites are highlighted through cultural tourism, thereby increasing visitor interest in these areas. Such myths or historical references serve as strong motivational factors for tourists to visit archaeological sites (Alawer, 2018). On the other hand, archaeology-based tourism activities contribute to the preservation of local cultural values and historical heritage while also becoming a sustainable source of income that economically benefits the local population (Pacifico & Vogel, 2012).

According to Ross, Saxena, Correia, and Deutz (2017), archaeological tourism is not limited to tangible remains; it is also directly connected to the intangible dimensions of heritage. However, some archaeological sites may lack sufficient visual appeal or public recognition in terms of their physical structures, causing them to remain in the background in terms of tourist interest. At this point, tourism professionals or destination managers aim to make archaeological remnants more appealing by supporting them with mythological stories and historical narratives, thereby marketing these areas as tourist products.

Ramsey and Everitt (2008) demonstrated that despite economic hardships in Belize, archaeological excavations led to the inclusion of the Caracol Maya Ancient City into tourism, thus contributing economically to the region. The researchers note that the revenues from tourism not only support ongoing excavations but may also be used to finance future archaeological projects planned for the Caracol region. This situation shows that archaeological tourism not only contributes to regional development but also enables the creation of new tourism products.

The study by Sarialtun (2021) evaluates the archaeotourism and geotourism potential of Çayönü Hill and the Hilar Rocks, emphasizing that these areas possess both cultural and natural heritage value. With settlement traces dating back to the Neolithic period and rock-cut tombs, these sites offer a richness that could be presented as open-air museums. However, due to deficiencies in conservation policies and promotional efforts, this potential has not been fully utilized. It is proposed that these areas, which can contribute to local development, should be integrated into tourism through comprehensive planning. The study advocates for the joint evaluation of the cultural and economic values of archaeological heritage and in this regard, provides a conceptual foundation supportive of the Knidos example.

In addition to the above, a comparative review of key archaeotourism practices in Turkey reveals valuable insights that can inform the case of Knidos. For example, Göbeklitepe in Şanlıurfa has been promoted globally as the “zero point of history,” benefiting from extensive media coverage, UNESCO inscription, and state-backed infrastructure development. This site exemplifies the integration of archaeological heritage with digital technologies and thematic storytelling, which has significantly increased visitor engagement (Tavus, 2024: 248).

Likewise, Troy (Çanakkale), with its world-renowned mythological legacy and the Troy Museum, demonstrates how interpretation and branding strategies enhance site appeal and educational value. These examples contrast with Knidos, where infrastructural limitations and insufficient promotion hinder its full tourism potential (Özdemir, 2020).

Another notable case is Ephesus (İzmir), where high visitor numbers are managed through advanced site planning and layered tourist experiences. Ephesus also provides a model for balancing site conservation with public access. In comparison, Knidos’s unique maritime character and undersea heritage offer untapped opportunities that are yet to be systematically developed (UNESCO, 2015).

Furthermore, archaeological coastal sites such as Patara and Myra in Antalya have drawn interest through their combination of classical heritage and seaside accessibility. However, unlike Knidos, these sites benefit from better connectivity and integration into established tourism circuits. The comparative analysis of these destinations emphasizes the strategic gaps Knidos currently faces, especially in terms of access, visibility, and destination management (Çevik & Bulut, 2022).

Ultimately, these national practices demonstrate that successful archaeotourism initiatives rely on long-term vision, interdisciplinary collaboration, active community participation, and innovative marketing approaches. By analyzing these examples, this study

identifies key challenges and strategic opportunities for Knidos to emerge as a model destination that meaningfully integrates maritime culture into archaeotourism policy and practice.

Table 1. Comparative Analysis of Archaeotourism Applications in Turkey

Destination	Key Strengths	Challenges	Relevance to Knidos
Göbeklitepe	UNESCO site, strong branding, digital tech use	Remote location, seasonality	Inspiration for digital storytelling
Troy	Myth-based branding, museum support	Mass tourism pressure	Comparative mythological narrative
Ephesus	Visitor management, infrastructure	Over-tourism risk	Conservation-tourism balance
Patara & Myra	Seaside access, historical layering	Limited thematic storytelling	Coastal connectivity
Knidos	Maritime heritage, dual harbors	Accessibility, lack of promotion	Model for thematic port tourism

Table 1 presents a comparative overview of key archaeotourism destinations in Turkey, emphasizing their strengths, challenges, and relevance to Knidos. While destinations such as Göbeklitepe and Ephesus excel in branding and infrastructure, they also face issues like remoteness or over-tourism. In contrast, Knidos stands out for its maritime heritage and dual harbors, offering significant potential despite its limited accessibility and promotion.

2.4. Archaeotourism Potential and Current Practices in Knidos

Located at the farthest point of the Datça Peninsula, the city of Knidos is currently situated in a location that is difficult to access by land. Accessibility is mostly limited to narrow, winding, and largely rural roads, which restricts tourist mobility to Knidos. As a result, the majority of visitors consist of individuals who either own private vehicles or participate in organized tour groups. Nevertheless, as in antiquity, maritime connections remain significant for Knidos even today; particularly in the summer months, the site is accessible via yacht tourism and daily boat tours departing from the coast (Sözel, 2023: 661; Aslan, 2015: 101). These accessibility features indicate that the visitor profile generally comprises educated, high-income, and culturally motivated tourists. While limited accessibility and the lack of mass tourism help preserve the site, they also reveal that its full potential in terms of local economic benefit and sustainable tourism has yet to be fully realized.

Table 2. SWOT Analysis of Knidos as an Archaeotourism Destination

Strengths	Weaknesses
Rich tangible and intangible maritime heritage	Limited land access; narrow and winding roads
Dual harbor system (military and commercial) as unique archaeological features	Lack of mass tourism infrastructure (accommodation, visitor center, amenities)
High cultural value; mythological and religious associations (e.g., Aphrodite Euploia)	Insufficient on-site interpretive tools (panels, signage, audio guides)
Appeal to high-income, culturally motivated, and niche-interest tourists	Inadequate promotional activities and digital presence
Opportunities	Threats
Thematic route integration (e.g., maritime archaeology, Aphrodite-themed tours)	Risk of degradation from uncontrolled yacht and diving tourism
Use of digital technologies (VR, AR, mobile apps) in on-site experience	Coastal erosion and natural wear affecting underwater and harbor structures
Growing global interest in sustainable and experience-based cultural tourism	Budget constraints for archaeological excavation and site management

Potential for academic collaboration and heritage-driven local employment	Limited stakeholder coordination for strategic site development
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Source: Aslan, 2015; Srivastava, 2015; Thomas & Langlitz, 2019; Sözel, 2023

As summarized in Table 2, the SWOT analysis of Knidos reveals that despite its considerable cultural and maritime assets, the site suffers from infrastructural and promotional limitations. A strategic approach addressing these factors can transform Knidos into a flagship archaeotourism destination.

2.5. Contributions of Maritime Culture to Archaeotourism and Sustainability

Maritime culture is not only a historical accumulation but also a multifaceted heritage area that offers educational, economic, and experiential potential for the development of archaeotourism. In this context, the interaction between maritime heritage and archaeotourism needs to be examined from multiple dimensions, ranging from tourism diversification and conservation policies to local development and sustainability principles.

Educational and Experiential Values: Maritime culture, within the scope of archaeotourism, is not limited to the exhibition of tangible remnants from the past but also offers visitors a multidimensional learning experience through ancient maritime techniques, sea deities, and mythological elements. Especially in ancient port cities, archaeological excavations and guided tours provide participants with opportunities to engage directly with cultural heritage (Thomas & Langlitz, 2019: 74). As much as tangible elements like harbor structures and shipwrecks, intangible components such as mythological narratives and maritime rituals serve as rich sources for educational content (Poulios, 2014: 16).

Tourism Diversification: The integration of maritime heritage into archaeotourism presents valuable opportunities for the diversification of thematic tourism. In particular, diving tourism offers a compelling field for enthusiasts of underwater archaeology, enhanced by elements such as ancient shipwrecks, amphorae, and marine ruins (Jusoh et al., 2017: 1170). Similarly, customized routes to historic harbors via yacht tourism appeal to high-quality tourist profiles and generate economic benefits (Srivastava, 2015: 33). This diversification contributes to transforming archaeotourism into a more sustainable model, distancing it from the pressures of mass tourism.

The Conservation-Utilization Balance: Opening archaeological sites to tourism necessitates maintaining a careful balance between conservation and utilization. The preservation of maritime heritage structures must be approached holistically with their natural environment, and their touristic use must be planned and managed responsibly (Giraud & Porter, 2010, s. 9). Especially in places like Knidos, which possess rich cultural layers both underwater and on land, managing this balance between scientific conservation principles and tourism dynamics is one of the core conditions for sustainable archaeotourism (Gullino et al., 2015: 81).

Risks and Threats: The growth of archaeotourism may also bring certain adverse effects. Unplanned and excessive visitor numbers may lead to physical degradation and the commercialization of cultural heritage (Thomas & Langlitz, 2019: 78). Underwater heritage can be damaged by unregulated diving activities, while structures in coastal areas are increasingly at risk due to natural erosion and human interference. Therefore, visitor management plans, carrying capacity analyses, and active involvement of local communities are of critical importance (UNWTO, 2020).

3. Conclusion And Recommendations

The Ancient City of Knidos holds significant potential for archaeotourism due to its geographical advantages, maritime infrastructure based on two separate harbor systems, and rich cultural heritage components. The city's tangible (harbor structures, underwater remains, amphorae) and intangible (sea gods/goddesses, mythological narratives, maritime rituals) heritage elements align closely with the core components of archaeotourism and provide a strong foundation for thematic tourism practices. However, current assessments indicate that this potential is not being effectively utilized. Limited accessibility, insufficient promotional efforts, inadequate infrastructure, and constraints in the implementation of sustainability principles prevent Knidos from achieving its full touristic value. In this context, evaluating Knidos within the framework of archaeotourism is crucial not only for the preservation of cultural heritage but also for fostering local development and formulating alternative tourism strategies.

In light of the information presented, the following recommendations are proposed:

- **Visitor Management and Accessibility Planning:** Solutions should be developed to ease access to Knidos, such as regular maritime transportation during the summer season and scheduled guided land transport services.
- **Enhanced Promotional Activities:** Promotional efforts should be strengthened; mythological elements tied to Knidos's maritime past should be supported with thematic tours, and digital promotional materials (virtual tours, interactive maps) should be produced.
- **Integrated Diving and Yacht Tourism Programs:** Special diving routes and educational programs should be created for groups interested in underwater archaeology, integrating them with yachting activities.
- **Balancing Conservation and Use:** Carrying capacity analyses should be conducted, and site usage should be planned based on visitor density while maintaining the conservation–utilization balance.
- **Community Involvement:** The participation of local residents should be encouraged. Activities such as guiding, handicrafts, and thematic workshops should be developed to economically integrate the local population into tourism.
- **Academic Collaboration and Excavation Support:** Academic partnerships and support for excavations should be increased. Structures that provide visitors with access to scientific content (e.g., outdoor panels, mini visitor centers) should be developed at excavation sites.
- **Impact Assessment of Archaeotourism Practices:** Evaluations should be conducted using both quantitative and qualitative data, focusing on visitor experience, local community involvement, and economic impacts.
- **Use of Digital Technologies:** Experimental research based on field applications in Knidos should be conducted on the use of digital technologies (VR, augmented reality, mobile apps) in archaeotourism.
- **Development of Thematic Archaeotourism Routes:** Thematic archaeotourism routes encompassing Knidos should be developed, and destination management-oriented studies should be carried out on their marketability at national and international levels.

- Comparative Analysis for Underwater Heritage and Diving Tourism Management: Knidos and similar ancient port cities should be comparatively analyzed concerning the protection of underwater cultural heritage and management of diving tourism, with roadmaps developed for the implementation of sustainable tourism policies.

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