# FACTORS AFFECTING TOURISTS' RETURN INTENTION TOWARDS DANANG CITY

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### **Abstract:**

The objective of the study is to evaluate the factors affecting the intention to return to a tourist destination in Da Nang, Vietnam. The study conducted a survey for 2 months, from April to June 2022, and the results were 586 valid questionnaires. The data was analyzed using SmartPLS 3.3 software. The results show that destination image has a positive impact on tourists' perception of value and quality. At the same time, the destination image and the perception of quality and value create visitor satisfaction. In addition, visitor satisfaction has a positive effect on tourists' intention to return to Danang. Finally, the income modifier is statistically significant in the relationship between visitor satisfaction and the intention to return to Da Nang. From there, the study makes recommendations for tourism businesses and tourism management agencies in Da Nang to be able to attract more new tourists and encourage tourists who have been to Da Nang to return to Da Nang.

Keywords: Return intention, Tourism, Da Nang, Destination image, Satisfaction

## 1. Introduction

Tourism is a significant sector of the economy in various nations, as well as a vehicle for job creation and economic growth, in light of the globalization of the modern era. In addition, the tourist business is one of the first among service industries to be able to grow worldwide (Fourie & Santana-Gallego, 2011). According to Li et al. (2008), tourism is defined as a novel experience, distinct from the everyday experiences of locals. As a result, tourism is an essential component that is increasingly becoming a global leader. This is a result of the beneficial social, cultural, and economic benefits of these industry-driven nations as a result of their provision of platforms and infrastructure conducive to tourism and satisfaction of visitors' requirements (Aghdaie & Momeni, 2011). Tourism is a key source of commerce, revenue, employment, and foreign exchange possibilities for many nations (Haber & Lerner, 1998). Indeed, many nations earn enormous yearly income from this business, and tourism's potential is unbounded. Some studies refer to this business as "clean industry" owing to its low levels of pollution and harmful effects (Wang et al., 2010; Edelstein, 2007). As a result of the success of many nations in the tourist sector, it has become more apparent that the tourism industry must flourish in many countries. However, in order for visitors to reap the advantages of this business, it is crucial to establish the proper infrastructure that caters to their demands and offers the proper facilities (Batra & Kaur,

1996). In addition, several studies have shown that tourism is one of the fastest-growing tourist businesses in the world (Gratton & Taylor, 2000; Jago et al., 2003) and boasts a substantial economic capability (Mester et al., 2008). One of the expanding industries of the global travel and tourist business is tourism (Moon et al., 2011). It is a phenomena on economic, social, political, and cultural levels (Weed & Bull, 2009). Therefore, tourist sector research is more important than ever.

One of the elements influencing visitor return is travelers' perceptions of the destination's image, quality, and value (Chen & Tsai, 2007; Quintal & Polczynski, 2010). Therefore, these elements must be developed to encourage visitors to return to the site. Perceived quality and customer happiness have been identified as the two most important elements influencing the probability of a visitor returning to a certain site (Baker & Crompton, 2000; Petrick, 2004; Petrick & Backman, 2002; Zabkar et al., 2010). It is often assumed that a strong destination's image, quality, perceived value, and customer happiness will result in favorable word-of-mouth, as well as increased customer visits and return visits (Chen, 2011). Indeed, tourist return is contingent upon their happiness with the place (Guntoro & Hui, 2013). Studying the elements that impact the return of visitors to tourist locations might result in measures to boost tourist attractiveness and the economic growth of tourist destinations. Due to the importance of the aforementioned criteria, this research investigates the link between a tourist destination's image, perceived quality, perceived value, satisfaction, and desire to return. These factors have not been investigated as part of a complete model for Danang as a tourist destination until now.

#### 2. Theoretical background

#### 2.1. Tourist's return intention

The concept of return intention is derived from the theory of planned behavior and is defined as an intended/expected behavior in the future (Fishbein & Ajzen, 1975; Swan, 1981). It has become an important measure and tool for understanding and predicting social behaviors (Ajzen, 1991; Fishbein & Manfredo, 1992). Tourist destinations have always encouraged scholars to measure visitors' intention to return for a variety of reasons (Aasaker et al., 2011; Yun et al., 2007), among which believe that intention to return can predict a visitor's tendency to return to an actual destination (Hong et al., 2009). This belief is confirmed in the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) and in the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA), which argues that there is a relationship between service quality, satisfaction, and future behavioral intentions (Brencic & Dmitrovic, 2010; Chi & Qu, 2008; March & Woodside, 2005; Yoon & Uysal, 2005). Prayag (2009) states that studies of intended behavior in tourism have reached a high consensus that when tourists are satisfied, they will return and will recommend to others about their pleasant experience. Sutton (1998) espoused this normative conclusion and argued that without intention one would not act at all.

In the leisure and tourism sector, intention to return is the visitor's consideration of the likelihood of returning to visit an entertainment or tourist destination. However, a tourist destination is seen as a special product consisting of natural resources and resources (Kim, 2008). Tourist intention to return is a prominent subject of study in several tourist locations and has been cited as a key behavioral intention (Jani & Han, 2011). Tourist behavior will consist of actions such as selecting a place, assessing it, and promoting future behavioral goals (Chen & Tsai, 2007). Numerous studies have also shown that the elements of appraising the value that visitors perceive

and their level of satisfaction influence their propensity to return. In addition, future behavioral intention refers to the propensity to revisit a tourist site and to suggest it to others (Hume et al., 2007; Ryu et al., 2010; Som et al., 2012). According to Marinkovic et al., (2014), the desire of visitors to return will have a good word-of-mouth effect, therefore encouraging tourism and increasing an essential source of revenue for the tourism locale.

## 2.2. Factors impact on tourist's return intention

## 2.2.1. Destination image

Destination image is one of the significant aspects that might influence travelers' choice of vacation spot. This was determined by Beerli and Martín (2004a). Most prior definitions of destination image pertain to a person or group's impression of a location (Jenkins, 1999). According to Tasci & Gartner (2007), a destination's image is a system of interactions between ideas, views, emotions, visualizations, and goals. It not only demonstrates the several elements (cognitive, emotive, visual) of this structure, but also emphasizes their impact on the choice of a tourist location. Consequently, an overall impression of a tourist area will result from the interplay of these elements (Gartner, 1993; Lin et al., 2007). Indeed, a destination's image, as determined by its resources and appealing qualities (Stabler, 1995), encourages tourists to return (Beerli & Martín, 2004b; Govers & Go, 2005). In conclusion, destination image is a factor that influences visitors' return decisions (Bigne et al., 2001; Alcaniz et al., 2005; Phau et al., 2010).

According to Oliver (1997), the performance of customers on quality is contingent upon their expectations and perceptions of service excellence. Consumer anticipations influence their estimation of future quality (Olson & Dover, 1979). Therefore, photos of visitors have an effect on how their quality is evaluated. Prior to a visit, a destination's image affects visitors' perceptions of the quality of its offerings (Font, 1997; Phelps, 1986; Bigne et al., 2001). From a marketing perspective, a destination's image influences the quality of an individual's vacation (Lee et al., 2005; Chen & Tsai, 2007).

It is evident from a review of the existing research that the link between destination image and perceived value has not been thoroughly investigated. In their research, Lai et al. (2009) discovered that consumers' impression of the company's image influences their opinion of value. Indeed, several researches have shown that destination image affects visitors' perceived value (Ryu et al., 2008; Kazemi et al., 2011; Jin et al., 2013).

Previous research in the realm of tourism has examined the reasons why people go and return to certain locations based on the calendar. Authors that have studied tourist behavior have concluded that the image of a tourist site is crucial (Chon, 1990), and this impression has a direct effect on visitor satisfaction (Prayag & Ryan, 2012; Veasna et al., 2013). Therefore, it may be said that destination image influences visitor satisfaction positively. This was also supported by Bigne et al.'s (2001) and Chen's (2001) research (2011).

The first four hypotheses, therefore, would be:

Q1. Destination image of tourism has a positive effect on tourists' perceived quality of the destination.

*Q2.* Destination image of tourism has a positive effect on tourists' perceived value of the destination.

Q3. Destination image of tourism has a positive effect on tourists' satisfaction of visiting

### that Da Nang destination.

*Q4. Destination image of tourism has a positive effect on tourists' intention to revisit the destination.* 

### 2.2.2. Perceived quality

In the last two decades, perceived quality (PQ) has been the focus of substantial research (Quintal & Polczynski, 2010). Gronroos (1984) proposed that there are two components to service quality: technical and operational. Technical scale relates to service outputs (what consumers get); operational scale refers to the process of service delivery (who are the customers who receive these services). Therefore, perceived service quality may be described as the succession of client perspectives on technical and operational components of a service package. Notably, operational quality cannot be quantified in the same manner as engineering quality. SEROUAL, developed in the 1980s, is the most used paradigm for assessing service quality (Parasuraman et al., 1988). SERVQUAL has now been adopted by several service sectors (Armstrong et al., 1997; Atilgan et al., 2003; Hsieh et al., 2008; Lee et al., 2011; Hui et al., 2007). SERVQUAL evaluates five service dimensions: dependability, certainty, empathy, responsiveness, and tangibles (Parasuraman et al., 1988). However, when it is used alone to assess tourist services, key aspects of the destination's service, such as cultural values, entertainment, etc., are overlooked. Therefore, the majority of tourism research uses service product characteristics to evaluate the quality of tourist goods. Baker & Crompton (2000), for instance, employed four categories to gauge the quality of a festival, including overall festival characteristics, specialized entertainment characteristics, information resources, and an amenities roof. At the destination level, Lee et al. (2007) contend that the tourist product is a combination of comfort facilities, transportation, food, and entertainment, etc.

In the past, several research have explored the relationship between quality and consumers' perceptions of value (Chen & Chen, 2010; Yoon et al., 2010). Multiple research have shown that quality is a precursor to perceived worth (Baker et al., 2002; Petrick & Backman, 2002). Researchers have established that among several aspects, service quality has a substantial impact on customer satisfaction (Kim et al., 2013). According to Clemes et al. (2011), perceived quality is a significant component influencing satisfaction and behavioral intention, and tourist destination management should pay particular attention to this. Lai & Chen concur (2011). Numerous academics argue that perceived quality might be regarded a pleasure precursor (Heung & Cheng, 2000; Kozak & Rimmington, 2000; Caruana et al., 2000; Baker & Crompton, 2000; Marinkovic et al., 2014). Numerous studies have shown that quality has a favorable influence on behavioral intention (Petrick, 2004). Specifically, enhanced service quality will considerably influence visitors' propensity to return (Petrick et al., 2001). If the expectations of visitors are satisfied and they experience superior treatment, they are more inclined to return (Atilgan et al., 2003; Kim et al., 2013; Quintal & Polczynski, 2010).

The fifth hypothesis, therefore, would be:

Q5. Quality perceived by tourists has a positive effect on their satisfaction from the destination.

### 2.2.3. Perceived value

Perceived value is the customer's total evaluation of the usefulness of a product or service based on the perception of what the customer gets and what the customer must pay (Zeithaml, 1988), i.e., the tradeoff between perceived advantages and perceived costs (Lovelock, 2000). Prior research has shown that assessing customer happiness and perceived value may be utilized together (Oh, 2000; Woodruff, 1997). Recently, it has been shown that customer behavior is simpler to comprehend when evaluated by perceived value (Heskett et al., 1997). In other words, marketing practitioners and scholars have addressed and researched perceived value as one of the key variables (Cronin et al., 2000), notably in the service business. Holbrook (1999) developed a sort of value based on three factors: self-directed vs. other, positive vs. reactive, and extrinsic vs. intrinsic.

Reviewing prior research, it is evident that perceived value may be a significant determinant of consumer satisfaction (McDoughall & Levesque, 2000; Cronin et al, 2000; Dmitrovic et al, 2009). Lee et al. (2011) observed a correlation between visitors' sense of value and their pleasure in their study. Indeed, several scholars concur that perceived value has a substantial impact on visitors' behavioral intentions (Jin et al, 2013). Additionally, Quintal and Polczynski (2010) found that perceived value influences visitors' propensity to return. In accordance with this notion, studies have shown that when perceived value is high, it influences both future purchase intent and behavior (Baker et al, 2002; Grewal et al, 1998). Buzzell & Gale (1987) concur that the perceived value of a product or service influences customer behavior and is the most accurate predictor of competitive success in the tourist sector.

The sixth hypothesis, therefore, would be:

Q6. Value perceived by tourists has a positive effect on their satisfaction from the destination.

## 2.2.4. Tourists' satisfaction

The philosophy of customer satisfaction may be divided into three distinct categories: (1) expectation - disconfirmation, (2) equity, and (3) attribution (Athiyaman, 2004). The disconfirming hypothesis contends that customer happiness is proportional to the magnitude and direction of the disconfirming experience that results from comparing service delivery to customer expectations. When performance falls short of expectations, discontent ensues (Oliver, 1980b). Consequently, the amount of satisfaction corresponds to the intensity of a person's pleasant sensory experience (Rust & Oliver, 1994). If customers think that a service's performance exceeds their expectations, they will be happy with the product or service. In other words, if a person perceives that the performance of a product or service falls short of their expectations, they will be unsatisfied. Thus, it seems that contentment is an emotive reaction that results from the use of a product or service (Oliver, 1980a). Second, equity theory states that the rate of production among the participants in a transaction must be constant (Oliver & Swan, 1989). According to the attribution model, customers are seen as rational information processors who seek explanations for a purchase result (Folkes, 1984; Bitner, 1990). In addition, researchers have produced other customer satisfaction theories, such as the Value-Percept, Comparison Level, Evaluation Congruity, and Person-Situation-Fit model (Yuksel & Yuksel, 2008). In the context of tourism, contentment is often described in terms of pre-trip and post-trip expectations. This indicates that when visitors encounter positive emotions, they will feel pleased, and when they experience negative emotions, they will not (Reisinger & Turner, 2003). Tourist satisfaction is a behavioral phenomenon, generated by emotional and cognitive aspects about tourism activities and the appraisal of destination features and forms.

The total satisfaction of visitors is determined by their evaluation of the destination's qualities in light of their expectations. In addition to being the most influential element in a tourist's decision to return to a place, it is believed that their pleasure with their prior visit to the destination is equally crucial (Guntoro & Hui, 2013). A tourist's opinion of a location covers the destination's qualities from their perspective (Alegre and Garau, 2010). Numerous prior studies have shown that contentment influences tourist locations' repeat visits (Chen, 2008; De Rojas & Camarero, 2008; Chen & Tsai, 2007; Zabkar et al, 2010). For instance, pleased visitors may return to a location, suggest it to other travelers, and have favorable sentiments of it. On the other side, dissatisfied visitors may not return and may not suggest a place to others. Or, even worse, they may have a bad opinion of the tourism site, creating reputational harm (Reisinger & Turner, 2003).

The seventh hypothesis, therefore, would be:

Q7. Tourists' satisfaction from a tourism destination has a positive effect on their intention to revisit the destination.

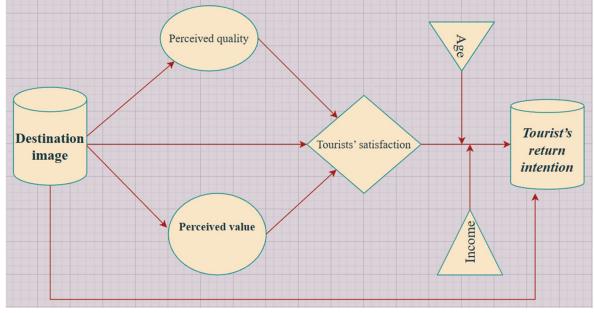
## Moderating role of income and age

The age and income of tourists will be the moderators of the relationship between tourist satisfaction and tourists' intention to return to the destination. The younger the tourists, the higher the intention to return to the destination with the older tourists. At the same time, the higher the tourist income, the higher the intention to return to the destination because they are able to pay the service fees at the tourist destination. In contrast, tourists with lower incomes have less intention to return to the destination. Because for low-income people, they come to travel just to explore, but have little intention of resorting.

Therefore, we propose the last hypothesis:

*Q8. Traveler's age and income have a role in regulating the relationship between traveler satisfaction and the intention to return to the destination.* 

Based on theoretical background, the research model is developed (see Figure 1).



#### 2.3. Research model

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# Picture 1. Research model

# 3. Method

A questionnaire survey was employed to acquire empirical data. In 2022, the statistical population included visitors who visited Danang Province as a tourist destination.

The study conducted a survey for 2 months, from April to June 2022, and the results were 586 valid questionnaires. The data was analyzed using SmartPLS 3.3 software.

# 4. Results

Research results are analyzed using Smart PLS software, by evaluating measurement models and structural models.

The results of the measurement model evaluation are as follows:

The aggregate reliability assessment is as follows:

Table 1

Construct Reliability and Validity

	Cronbach's Alpha	rho_A	Composite Reliability	Average Variance Extracted (AVE)
Destination image	0.785	0.785	0.785	0.549
Perceived quality	0.792	0.792	0.792	0.559
Tourists' satisfaction	0.859	0.861	0.859	0.549
Tourist's return intention	0.893	0.895	0.894	0.678
_Perceived value	0.810	0.811	0.810	0.587

# Table 2

Discriminant Validity

Fornell-Larcker Criterion

	Destination image	Perceived quality	Tourists' satisfaction	Tourist's return intention	_Perceived value
Destination image	0.741				
Perceived quality	1.024	0.748			
Tourists' satisfaction	0.532	0.550	0.741		
Tourist's return	0.443	0.464	0.625	0.823	

intention					
_Perceived value	1.019	0.960	0.459	0.431	0.766

Table 3

R Square

	R Square	R Square Adjusted
Perceived quality	1.048	1.048
Tourists' satisfaction	0.364	0.361
Tourist's return intention	0.408	0.406
_Perceived value	1.038	1.038

Table 4

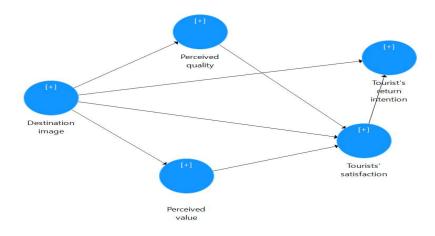
Model\_Fit

Fit Summary

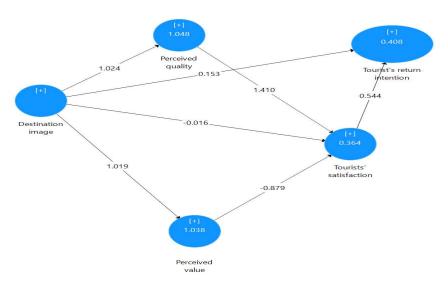
	Saturated Model	Estimated Model
SRMR	0.026	0.053
d_ULS	0.119	0.478
d_G	0.089	0.155
Chi-Square	265.695	469.973
NFI	0.956	0.921

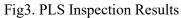
The results of the evaluation of the measurement model showed that all research variables were satisfied to carry out further tests.

4.2. Evaluation of the structural model



### Fig. 2. Research model in Smart PLS software





The results of the PLS test show the impact factor of the variables in the study model. To test the research hypotheses, the author examines bootstrap as follows:

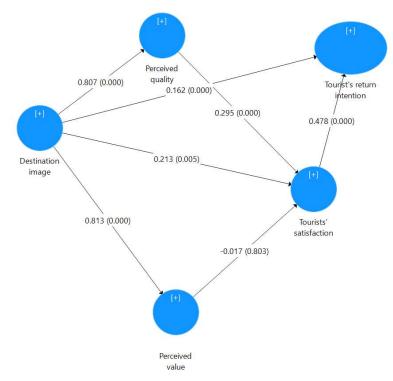


Fig. 4. Test results without regulatory variables

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The results of the study hypothesis testing showed that all hypotheses were accepted except for the hypothesis of the impact of value perception on tourist satisfaction. That means that if they haven't experienced it, they're just aware of the value, tourists aren't satisfied. Therefore, tourist attractions should add more experiential activities to increase customer satisfaction. The results of the study showed that the destination image had a positive impact on the intention of returning to the destination of tourists with an impact factor of 0.162 with a significance of 1% (P\_value = 0.000). Similarly, visitor satisfaction has a strong impact on travelers' intention to return with an impact factor of 0.478 at a meaningful 1% (P\_value = 0.000). Although value perception did not have a statistically significant impact on visitor satisfaction, quality perception had a positive effect on visitor satisfaction with an impact factor of 0.295 at a significant 1% (P\_value = 0.000). Finally, destination imagery has a positive impact on value perception, quality perception and tourist satisfaction with impact coefficients of 0.813, 0.907 and 0.213 respectively at the same meaning level of 1% (P\_value = 0.000).

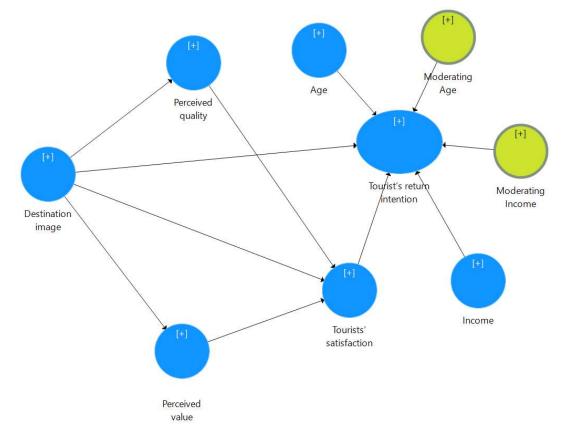


Fig.5. Model Accreditation of the regulatory role of age and income of visitors

The bootstrap test results are as follows:

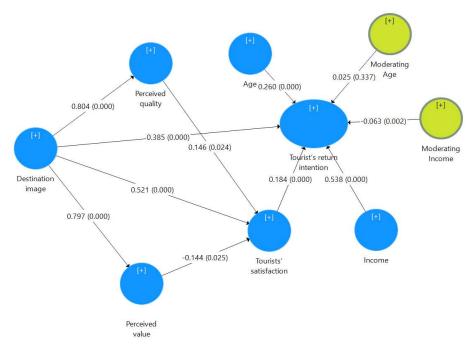


Fig. 6. Test results when there are Age and Income regulatory variables

The results of the regulatory role test showed that only income variables had a statistically significant regulatory role in the relationship between visitor satisfaction and visitor intent to return. The higher the traveler, the more satisfied they are, the greater the intention to return to the destination and vice versa. Therefore, tourist attractions can exploit the right customers for better business efficiency and improved income for local people.

## 5. Discussion and conclusion

This research demonstrates the link between Da Nang's destination image, perceived quality, perceived value, satisfaction, and visitors' desire to return. According to the study, the destination picture, perceived quality, and perceived worth all stem from the cognitive part of activity. The amount of tourist pleasure will be affected by the individual's assessment of this conduct. The findings of this study indicate that destination image, perceived quality, perceived value, and degree of satisfaction have a favorable effect on visitors' inclination to return to Da Nang. This study's model combines destination image, perceived quality, perceived value, and tourist pleasure while visiting a tourist site, and it may explain their desire to return. From there, it is feasible to demonstrate the model's conformity with reality. Chen and Tsai (2007), in contrast to this research, shown that quality did not directly influence satisfaction level and behavioral intention. This research has established and validated the hypothesis about the effect of perceived quality on the likelihood of a tourist's return.

Service researchers and tourist sector managers have benefited from both theoretical and practical contributions made by the study findings. The findings provide management with a deeper understanding of the destination's image, perceived quality, perceived value, and satisfaction, as well as their impact on visitors' desire to return. Managers may use these techniques to boost visitors' support, empathy, and efficacy, as well as their enjoyment and commitment to the place. In addition, it has been shown that visitor feedback has a significant influence in enhancing service quality in that location. To be able to expand further, tourist locations like Da Nang must have activities that adhere to a market-oriented attitude and provide services of a better quality than other destinations. In a tourism site, tourists are the most significant component, hence it is essential to attract and satisfy them. This promotes rivalry among tourist locations, and those that can provide visitors with more pleasure will be more successful. On the other hand, while the calendar makes visitors more attentive to on-site services, it should be noted that they are continually requesting better and more specialized services. Daily change in the tourist business necessitates that resort managers research and evaluate service quality. From there, we may assess our strengths and shortcomings in order to satisfy the demands of an expanding tourist population. Therefore, tourism managers and authorities in Da Nang City must respect the long-term connection with visitors in order to enhance the destination's image, quality, and value and increase the rate of returning tourists. The tourism sector in Da Nang necessitates a distinct marketing strategy for each location of the tourist destination; the administrators of this locale should pay more attention to this matter in order to develop effective advertising strategies. The demands of visitors should be honored, and their anticipations should be given due consideration. In addition, the purpose of cultural heritage and tourism managers should be to enhance the quality of the visitor experience. Thus guaranteeing that this encounter would provide travelers with delight. Experience as a customer is a crucial notion in tourism marketing, since it often determines visitor satisfaction. To satisfy the expectations of travelers and give a high-quality experience, tourism management should depend on the elements that impact return intention. On the basis of established hypotheses, it is possible to infer that tourism management agencies in Danang should take the necessary steps to boost visitor satisfaction and return intent in relation to destination image, perceived quality, and perceived value.

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