1 Article

The Impact of COVID-19 Outbreak on the Tourism Needs of Algerian Population

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Abstract: This research aims to understand the vision and the reaction of the population towards tourism and holidays during this period of the COVID-19 pandemic. It investigates also the tourist needs of the Algorian nonvelation after the closure of international horders.

14 needs of the Algerian population after the closure of international borders.

Methods: The data were collected using mixed quantitative and qualitative methods through a questionnaire applied to 203 people in different regions of Algeria (a North African country) from 17 1st June to 13 July 2020.

- 18 Results: The needs of Algerian tourists are characterized by a great need for leisure to relieve
- 19 psychological stress caused by COVID-19 (M = 25.33) among the study sample (p < 0.05). The results 20 also show an average need to rationalize the costs of tourist services (M = 5.26) according to the
- also show an average need to rationalize the costs of tourist services (M = 5.26) according to the respondents (p < 0.01). This is in addition to the great need (M = 7.75) among respondents (p < 0.05)
- of the awareness that the tourism sector can contribute to the economic recovery in Algeria after the
- confinement period. About 75.86% of respondents demand the cleanliness of tourist sites, while
- 24 69.95% recommend improving safety because of the size of tourist sites in the Algerian territory and
- also measures related to social distancing. The results show that 53.69% of respondents preferred
- the month of August to go on vacation, 29.06% chose the month of September, and 17.25% would
- prefer the months of October, November and December since they expect a reduction in the risks ofthe COVID-19 pandemic.
- 29 Conclusions: The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the tourism needs of the Algerian population,
- 30 which has become increasingly aware of the consequences of the pandemic in relation to their health
- 31 and on the country's economy. These results can help the authorities of the tourism sector to better
- 32 understand and identify the tourism needs of this population in the current period and after the
- 33 COVID-19 pandemic.

34 **Keywords:** COVID-19, pandemic, tourism, tourist behavior, tourism sustainability

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37 1. Introduction

Countries all over the world continue to suffer the negative consequences following the COVIDin Specific Coving pandemic. It continues to spread in countries around the world since it first emerged in Wuhan, China on December 31, 2019 [1], and the declaration of the World Health Organization (WHO), January 26, 2020, on the high risk of the epidemic in China and in the whole world [2]. Citizens continued to travel from high-risk areas and were able to freely cross major airports without medical examinations. Aviation services operated for more than a month after the rapid spread of COVID-19 with a minimum health control at international borders [3].

45 The number of people tested positive continues to increase by August 9, 2020, and it had reached 46 19,462,112 in many countries, which also recorded 722,285 deaths [4]. Preventive measures related to 47 social distancing and the application of total or partial confinement have been applied in several 48 countries. This is after the release of the report of the National Health Commission of China which 49 indicated on January 27, 2020, that the people carrying the virus can infect others through respiratory 50 droplets as well as through direct contact [1, 5]. In addition, some patients with COVID-19 who do 51 not have fever or radiological abnormalities complicate the diagnosis and make social interactions 52 very dangerous. This implies that individual behavior is crucial in controlling the spread of COVID-53 19 [6, 7]. This situation has caused the closure of schools on March 18, 2020. The United Nations 54 scientific and cultural organization estimated that 107 countries had closed national schools, targeting 55 862 million children and young people, i.e. half of the global student population. This number 56 subsequently increased and other institutions had the same fate, which forced the introduction of 57 telework [8, 9]. 58 The imposed confinement has, thus, provoked a rapid increase in fear, anxiety, the appearance of

59 behavioral disorders, and other significant psychological and psychiatric effects. with the loss of 60 freedom due to confinement, still people separated from loved ones, and also negative impacts on 61 many sectors of the economy, which could trigger social unrest that could last for years [10, 11, 12, 62 13, 14]. This can harm the stability and development of countries. Indeed, the industrial production 63 fell in China due to COVID-19 at the start of the pandemic by around 13.5%, retail sales fell by 21%, 64 and some sectors almost collapsed [15]. So, the world has experienced a number of epidemics over 65 the past 40 years, but none have had similar implications for the global economy as the COVID-19 66 pandemic [16]. Many countries found themselves in a difficult situation, and this prompted the 67 World Bank group to devote up to \$ 160 billion for actions to help more than 100 countries during 68 the next 15 months, in order to recover their economy [17]. According to the evaluation of the French 69 Observatory of Economic Conjunctures (OFCE) in April 2020, world GDP fell by 19% while world 70

trade fell by 25%. At the world level, the added value of the accommodation and food services sector
was the most affected and is said to have fallen by 47% [18].

72 Subsequently, these negative impacts on the world economy forced many countries to start thinking 73 about effective gradual exit strategies to return to normal life, in order to revive trade and economy. 74 The populations, for their part, also needed to regain their freedom, change their surroundings, relax

75 and get out of the lifestyle imposed inside their homes. Knowing that on a psychosocial level, leisure 76 is essential for psychological balance [19]. It is thus noted that the strategies for exiting containment 77 following COVID-19 have experienced difficulties when meeting the needs of the populations on

following COVID-19 have experienced difficulties when meeting the needs of the populations onvacation and tourism at this time of the year, or the tourism sector was completely at a standstill in

79 many countries around the world. About 1.5 billion tourists travel internationally each year and this

80 can be an effective means of spreading a virus [20]. As a result of this situation, tourists have a very 81 limited ability to travel or return to their country of origin, and the right to travel and benefit from

81 limited ability to travel or return to their country of origin, and the right to travel and benefit from
82 the services of hotel and tourism operators has been restricted by the impact of COVID-19 on the

closure of international borders [21]. As part of this, estimates from the World Tourism Organization

84 (UNWTO) say that international tourist arrivals are expected to drop by 78%, thus causing a loss of

85 US \$ 1.2 trillion in revenue and 120 million cutbacks in direct jobs in tourism [22]. The resumption

86 of activity in the tourism sector requires the monitoring of prevention protocols specific to each 87 country.

88 Algeria, this North African country which is also affected by this pandemic in several economic

89 sectors, has recorded since the appearance of the virus in the country 34,214 infected people and 1,302

deaths by COVID-19 on August 9, 2020 [23]. The strategy to exit partial containment which was

91 imposed to reduce the spread of the pandemic has been gradual. The ban on vehicle traffic between

92 29 regions of the country was lifted on August 9, 2020, by the government, which was accompanied

93 by the gradual reopening of places of worship, beaches and places of relaxation. This decision aims

94 to limit the psychological impacts of COVID-19 on the Algerian population who have lived for more

95 than 5 months in tight partial confinement and sometimes a little lightened in certain regions of the

96 country. This has caused stress, anxiety and feelings of bad humor in a large part of the Algerian

97 population [24]. So, a large part of the population, not to say the whole of it, intends to go on vacation

- 98 to relax, but this must be done inside the country because of the closure of the Algerian borders. This
- 99 prompted officials from the tourism sector in Algeria to validate and implement their prevention
- 100 protocol against COVID-19 in collaboration with the Ministry of Health [25] from August 15, 2020,
- 101 onwards. It is important now to know the impact of COVID-19 on the behavior of the Algerian
- 102 population towards tourism, particularly during holidays in the pandemic when the risk of
- 103 contamination by the virus is still present. Tourist needs mean the tourist wishes that the citizen
- 104 wants to be realized by the actors of the tourist sector in all their forms.
- 105 The objective of our study aims to know how the population will react to spend their holidays, and
- 106 how they see tourism during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also intend to shed light on the proposals
- 107 that could improve the tourism sector in Algeria, which were largely ceased in March 2020 just like
- 108 anywhere in the world [16], and should resume its activity according to new visions of operation.
- 109 COVID-19 has changed the world forever and nothing will be the same as before the pandemic in 110 various sectors including tourism which remains a warry consisting sector.
- 110 various sectors including tourism, which remains a very sensitive sector.

111 2. Materials and Methods

- We adopted a survey plan to assess the leisure needs of COVID-19 in Algerian society, using an anonymous online questionnaire of impacts of the COVID-19 on the needs of tourists with total
- 114 freedom to answer questions. The time of the current study was extended from June 1st to July 13th,
- 115 2020. Indeed, our sampling was based on a snowball because of home confinement. The study sample
- 116 consisted of 203 individuals, including 56, 7% males and 43, 3% females.
- 117 The questionnaire of our study included 23 questions covering several dimensions:
- 118 (1) The need for psychological recreation 10 items;
- 119 (2) The need for tourist information 7 items;
- 120 (3) The need to rationalize tourism costs 3 items;
- 121 (4) The need for the contribution of tourism in the economic recovery 3 items.
- 122 The coefficient of reliability of the alpha Cronbach questionnaire has been calculated which equals
- 123 0.748, and this means a high reliability in the results of the questionnaire.
- 124 We used the mixed method by open qualitative questions to respondents regarding their 125 identification of tourism-related procedures and needs from their point of view.
- 126 Descriptive statistics were calculated for the socio-demographic characteristics, and the dimensions
- 127 of the questionnaire. We used the chi-square test, one-sample and two-sample t test, with a level of
- 128 significance of (p < 0.05). Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS Statistic 22.0

129 .3. Results

130 Table 1. Distribution of the participants sociodemographic features (n = 203).

Variables	n (203)	%
Gender		
Male	115	56,7
Female	115	43,3
Age		
(18 – 30)	68	33,5
(31 – 45)	83	40,9
(46 – 65)	52	25,6
Favorite month for vacation		
August	109	53,69
September	59	29,06
October	18	08,86

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November	3	01,47
Decembre	14	06,89

131 Table 1 shows that the study sample is composed of 203 people, 56.7% men and 43.3% women, while

their age varied in between 18 - 30 years with a percentage of 33.5%, 31 - 45 years with a percentage

133 of 40.9 %, and 46 – 65 years with a percentage of 25.6%.

Regarding the preferred month to spend summer vacation after the lifting of the confinement, we found that 53,69% of the respondents preferred the month of August, as it is the best month for rest

and leisure for Algerians because it is a month of vacation for most economic and service sectors.

137 While a percentage of 29.06% of respondents were in favor of spending the summer holidays

especially with the spread of the coronavirus in September. They perhaps wanted to delay ensuring

139 the stability of the health situation in the country before venturing into various tourist spots.

140 As for the remaining 17.25% of respondents, they preferred to postpone this year's summer vacation

141 to October, November and December to ensure the stability of the health situation in the country.

142 3.1 Impact of COVID-19 on the needs of Algerian tourists during partial confinement.

143 Table 2. Levels score of the questionnaire of tourism needs

The need for psychological recreation The need for tourist information		rmation			
10 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 30	7 – 10,5	10,5 - 17,5	17,5 - 21
weak	average	high	weak	average	high
The need to	rationalize tour	rism costs	The need for the	he contribution of	f tourism in the
			re	ecovery of econon	ny
3 – 4,5	4,5 – 7,5	7,5 - 9	3 – 4,5	4,5 –7,5	7,5 - 9
weak	average	high	weak	average	high

144

145 **Table 3**. T test for the single sample of the impact of COVID-19 on the needs of tourists during partial

146 confinement in Algeria (n = 203)

Variables	Test	М	SD	t	P-Value	Level
	value					of needs
The need for psychological recreation	25	25,33	2,205	2,100	0,037	high
The need for tourist information	10,5	11,12	2,800	3,146	0,002	average
The need to rationalize tourism costs	4,5	5,26	,706	15,260	0,001	average
The need for the contribution of	7,5	7,75	1,589	2,230	0,027	high
tourism in the economic recovery						

147 Table 3 shows that there is a great need for recreation to relieve psychological stress (M = 25.33)

among the study sample (p < 0.05). The consequences of the long period of home confinement due to

149 coronavirus include routine, confluences of family interactions, limited space in the house, fear of the

150 negative development of the coronavirus epidemic.

151 All of these behaviors put the individual under psychological pressure throughout the day for a long

152 period, resulting in a great need to get out of the house for relief and to seek emotional stability. The

153 same goes for all cases, social groups, men, women, children and even the elderly.

- 154 The table also shows the existence of an average need for tourist information (M = 11.12) (p < 0.01). In
- 155 fact, people prefer to obtain adequate information on preferred tourist places and the services they
- 156 contain to move for short holidays with more comfort, especially with the closure of tourist areas in
- 157 Algeria for a period of approximately six months. This has make the tourist information necessary 158
- for individuals to make a clear decision for the tourist choice, especially with the low level of tourism 159 marketing online, and the requirements for the implementation of preventive measures against
- 160 infection with the coronavirus.
- 161 The results also indicate that there is an average need to rationalize the costs of tourist services (M =
- 162 5.26) in Algeria (p <0.01), because the latter is the greatest concern of Algerian citizens, especially with
- 163 the increase in hotel services, catering and all associated services. Therefore, it is difficult to have a
- 164 tourist vacation for an average family of four persons with average income.
- 165 The table shows that there is a great need (M = 7.75) (p < 0.05) and an awareness in which the tourism
- 166 sector can contribute to the economic recovery after the period of effective containment due to the
- 167 coronavirus. Indeed, this sector can create direct jobs and revive the economy towards restoring the
- 168 income balance of families which are affected by the suspension of economic activities for a long
- 169 period that has extended to several months.
- 170 Table 4. Association of socio-demographic variables (gender, age) and the COVID-19 impact on tourism needs 171
- in Algeria (n = 203).

Variables			Sex			Age	2	
	All	Males	Females	P -Value	(18 - 30)	(31 - 45)	(46 - 65)	Р-
	(<i>n</i> =203)	(<i>n</i> = 115)	(<i>n</i> = 88)		(<i>n</i> = 68)	(<i>n</i> = 83)	(<i>n</i> = 52)	Value
Avoid tourist places during	T							
the confinement period								
Yes	164 (80,8)	92 (45,3)	72 (35,5)	0,74	59 (29,1)	59 (29,1)	46 (22,7)	0.014
No	39 (19,2)	23 (11,3)	16 (7,9)		9 (4,4)	24 (11,8)	6 (3,0)	0,014
Favorite place to spend the	2							
vacation after the lifting of	f							
confinement								
Sea	126 (62,0)	65 (32,0)	61 (30,0)		48 (23,6)	51 (25,1)	27 (13,3)	
Mountains and forests	28 (13,8)	17 (8,4)	11 (5,4)	0,28	8 (3,9)	14 (6,9)	6 (3,0)	0,27
Mineral baths	18 (8,9)	12 (5,9)	06 (3,0)		5 (2,5)	6 (3,0)	7 (3,4)	
Stay at home	31 (15,3)	21 (10,3)	10 (4,9)		7 (3,4)	12 (5,9)	12 (5,9)	

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- 173 Table 4 shows that men (45.3%) and women (35.5%) are aware of the need to avoid tourist places 174 during the period of partial containment, due to the widespread nature of the infection with 175 coronavirus. Even with the lifting of confinement, caution remains by taking social distancing 176 measures and ensuring hand hygiene and the wearing of masks.
- 177 From the results of the table, all age groups in the study sample [18 - 30] (29.1%) and [31 - 45] (29.1%)
- 178 are aware of the need to avoid tourist places during the period of the gradual lifting of containment.

179 This indicates an awareness of the importance of caution and compliance with preventive 180 instructions to avoid infection with the coronavirus.

181 As for the preferred tourist places after the lifting of the confinement, the results in Table 3 indicate

182 that (62%) of the responses, among them (32%) men and (30%), women prefer to spend their holidays

183 by the sea. Therefore, it is considered a favorite place for Algerians to spend their holidays and have

- 184 fun, and this is what we see through the strong presence of families on the beaches after the gradual
- 185 lifting of confinement.
- 186 The results show that (15.3%) of the respondents emphasized on the preference to stay at home and
- 187 avoid tourist places entirely this year, perhaps because they fear the repercussions of the coronavirus
- 188 infection or are not convinced of preventive health measures in tourist places. Therefore, the decision
- 189 to stay at home is seen as a safe solution for them in order to preserve their life and that of their
- 190 family.
- 191 Some prefer to spend their holidays in nature and forests (13.8%) to enjoy calm and psychological 192 comfort. Others prefer mineral baths (8.9%) to spend their vacations after the confinement was lifted,
- 193 especially those suffering from health problems requiring to go to mineral baths.
- 194 The results of the Table show that all age groups in the study sample [18 - 30] (23.6%) [31 - 45] (25.1%)
- 195 [46 - 65] (13, 3%) prefer to spend their holidays by the sea. This means that the sea is the preferred
- 196 destination for leisure activities for all age groups in the Algerian community, after the confinement
- 197 has been lifted.
- 198 Table 5. The different impacts of the coronavirus (COVID) -19 on tourism needs between men and women in 199
- Algeria (n = 203).

Men (115)	Wome	en (88)		
M SD	М	SD	Т	P-Value
5,54 2,233	25,05	2,149	1,586	,114
),83 2,76 5	11,49	2,816	-1,656	,099
,17 ,620	5,38	,792	-2,049	,042
.78 1,690	7,70	1,456	,346	,730
	Men (115) <u>M SD</u> ,54 2,233 ,83 2,765 17 ,620 78 1,690	Men (115) Wome <u>M SD M</u> ,54 2,233 25,05 ,83 2,765 11,49 17 ,620 5,38 78 1,690 7,70	Men (115) Women (88) M SD M SD ,54 2,233 25,05 2,149 ,83 2,765 11,49 2,816 17 ,620 5,38 ,792 78 1,690 7,70 1,456	Men (115) Women (88) M SD M SD T A SD M SD Z A 2,233 25,05 2,149 1,586 ,83 2,765 11,49 2,816 -1,656 17 ,620 5,38 ,792 -2,049 78 1,690 7,70 1,456 ,346

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201 The data in Table 5 indicate that there is no significant difference between men and women in the 202 mean scores of the need for psychological recreation of the COVID-19 pandemic in Algeria (p = 0,114) 203 and the need for tourist information (p = 0.09), in addition to the need for the contribution of tourism 204 in the economic recovery (p = 0.73).

205 On the other hand, the Table shows the existence of a statistically significant difference between men 206 (M = 5.17) and women (M = 5.38) in regard to the need to rationalize the costs of tourism in favor of 207 women (p < 0.05), and this result means that women are more aware of the high costs of tourism 208 services in Algeria. They often think of spending the holidays with all the members of their family, 209 and this is why women have been affected by the high costs of services in tourist places.

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215	Table 6. Measures identified b	y respondents t	o develop the tourism	n sector after the	COVID-19 pandemic in
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216 Algeria (n = 203).

Measures	n	%
Reduce the cost of hotels and services in tourist areas	188	92,61
Developing tourist culture	166	81,77
Ensure the cleanliness of tourist sites	154	75,86
Ensure security in tourist areas	142	69,95
The construction of tourist complexes with all the necessary services	110	54,18
The state must develop domestic tourism	83	40,88

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218 Table 6 presents the results of the qualitative analysis of the opinions of the sample of the study 219 concerning the measures to be taken after the Covid-19 pandemic for the development of tourism in 220 Algeria. These results show that 92.61% of respondents advocate reducing the cost of hotels and 221 services in tourist areas in order to allow a large part of the population classified as middle and low 222 class income to spend a decent vacation. It is also noted that 81.77% of respondents ask for the 223 development of tourist culture among the population to get used to the different types of tourism. 224 The cleanliness of tourist sites is one of the requirements of the Algerian population as 75.86% of 225 respondents demand it. Among other things, improving safety in tourist areas is requested by 69.95% 226 of the study sample. This is mainly linked to the size of the tourist sites and also of the Algerian 227 territory which requires more measures to ensure security in various tourist places. Since tourism 228 potential is not all well exploited, 54.18% of respondents see the construction of tourist complexes 229 with all the necessary services as a way of developing tourism. Regarding the development of 230 domestic tourism, 40.88% of respondents see that the state must get involved in this aspect.

231 4. Discussion

The holiday period is very important for all populations of the world especially after the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The sample of the Algerian population studied found that 53.69% of respondents preferred the month of August to go on vacation. Usually, in this country it is the preferred month of the holidays since it also coincides with the children's school holidays and the favorable weather conditions. In addition, it is ideal for people living with families.

237 The results also show that 29.06% of respondents chose the month of September to go on vacation 238 and 17.25% prefer the months of October, November and December. This shows that these people 239 are free to choose their vacation because of the absence of family responsibilities including school age 240 children. The closure of borders in many countries of the world imposed for the prevention against 241 COVID-19 pandemic for several months [16] has forced many people to schedule their holidays 242 during these three months at the end of 2020. They believe that the epidemiological situation is 243 stabilized with the reduction or disappearance of the severity of the disease, and the reopening of the 244 borders is carried out, as COVID-19 has raised public concerns regarding general cleanliness, hygiene 245 and accessibility of health care [26].

- 246 During this period of confinement of the COVID-19 pandemic, the results show that the needs of 247 Algerian tourists are characterized by a great need for leisure to relieve psychological stress (M =
- 248 25.33) among the study sample (p<0.05). This stress causes adverse effects on the physical and mental
- health of all people including children [27], due to the long period of home confinement, routine and
- 250 limited space in houses. The fear of being infected with the virus has also had negative effects and
- 251 psychological pressure on people of different ages.
- 252 It is noted, according to the responses of the respondents, the existence of an average need for tourist
- 253 information (M = 11.12) (p <0.01). In fact, citizens prefer to obtain information on tourist places and
- the services offered, especially after the closure of tourist areas and travel agencies in Algeria for a
- 255 period of about 6 months. Tourist information is therefore necessary to enable citizens to choose their
- 256 destination wisely, and make a decision regarding the prevention requirements imposed for each

type of tourism. Accordingly, COVID-19 has changed the world forever and also the functioning ofall sectors including tourism [28]. Charters and also health protocols in the tourism sector will play

an important role in the decisions of tourists.

An average need to rationalize the costs of tourist services (M = 5.26) is observed according to the respondents (p <0.01). This is a concern of Algerian citizens particularly for large families and those with average income. This includes increase in the prices of hotel services, restaurants and other associated services that may occur in order to compensate for the losses recorded during the months of closures. Unlike other sectors of activity, some tourism revenues are lost permanently because the unsold capacity in accommodation cannot be marketed in the following years, with corresponding implications for employment in the sector [16, 29].

267 With other things, there is a great need (M = 7.75) among respondents (p < 0.05) of an awareness that 268 the tourism sector can contribute to the economic recovery in Algeria after the confinement period.

269 Domestic tourism will be the most sought after because of the great potential of Algeria, and the 270 closure of borders. Thus, this sector can create temporary jobs that can help many families cope with

the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is of a much higher magnitude than previous crises

- due to its global scale and the general closure of travel, business and life activities [30, 31]. COVID-
- 273 19 has, thus, imposed changes and transformations on the tourism sector that will not be very clear
- for some time and including attempts to revive it [32]. Among other things, the measures identified
- by the respondents to develop the tourism sector after the COVID-19 pandemic in Algeria indicate that 92.61% of the respondents recommend the reduction in the cost of hotels and services in tourist
- that 92.61% of the respondents recommend the reduction in the cost of hotels and services in tourist areas. This is due to the prices which are considered somewhat high compared to other countries.
- The reduction in prices will allow the recovery of the tourism industry after COVID-19 and will be linked in the short term to the rate of global economic recovery [32]. The tourist's income plays an
- 280 important role in the selection of hotels and the services to be offered.

Most of the respondents 81.77% call for the development of a tourist culture among the population to get used to the different types of tourism and to know the behavior that tourists should take to protect themselves against the pandemic. It is noted that 75.86% of respondents demand cleanliness of tourist sites since COVID-19 has raised public concerns regarding general cleanliness, cleaning and disinfection as well as hygiene and accessibility of health care [33, 26, 34].

286 About 69.95% demand the improvement of security because of the size of the tourist sites and the 287 Algerian territory as well as measures related to social distancing for tourism employees and other 288 customers in order to avoid the risk of contamination [22]. In addition, 54.18% of respondents see the 289 construction of tourist complexes with the necessary services as a way to develop tourism in the post-290 COVID-19 period. The challenge is to take measures to adapt the new tourist structures to grant more 291 protection for forms of mobility and similar crises [34]. The development of domestic tourism should 292 be done with the support of the state according to the vision of 40.88% of respondents. This is logical 293 especially as the tourism potential of this country is very important and requires the involvement of 294 the state and measures to be taken such as lifting or fixing visa regulations that countries around the

- world must also take to stimulate tourist flow [33].
- 296 This study, which has shown the impact of COVID-19 on the tourist needs of the Algerian population,
- 297 has limitations linked to the sampling strategy and the number of respondents, with the inability to
- 298 generalize the results of the current study, Hence, this study will provide a vision for the authorities
- concerning the acknowledgment that the psychological impact of the confinement of COVID-19 had
- a considerable influence. As a result, a large part of the population was not in suitable conditions toparticipate in the investigation and complete the online questionnaire.
- 302

303 5. Conclusions

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a very negative impact on people, on the economies of countries and particularly on the tourism sector. Our study assessed the tourist needs of the Algerian population who were in a period of confinement. The results showed a great need for leisure and relaxation (M = 25.33) among the study sample (p <0.05) which is necessary to relieve psychological stress that caused adverse effects on physical and mental health of all people including

- 309 children during the COVID-19 lockdown period. A great need and awareness (M = 7.75) among
- 310 respondents (p < 0.05) that the tourism sector can contribute to the economic recovery in Algeria after
- the period of confinement. As domestic tourism will be the most in demand because of the closure of
- the borders and the tourist potential of Algeria.
- 313 The results also show that 53.69% of respondents prefer the month of August to go on vacation, 29.06%
- 314 prefer the month of September and 17.25% prefer the months of October, November and December.
- 315 The results of the quantitative analysis show that 92.61% of respondents recommend reducing the
- 316 cost of hotels and services in tourist areas. About 75.86% ask for the cleanliness and disinfection of
- 317 tourist sites. On the other hand, 69.95% of respondents call for improved safety and measures of
- 318 distancing between tourism employees and customers.
- 319 Among other things, 54.18% of respondents ask for the construction of tourist complexes which
- should be equipped with services and prevention measures. 40.88% see that the state must interveneto help the development of the tourism sector.
- Thus, we see that the COVID-19 pandemic has influenced the tourist needs of the Algerian population, which is becoming more and more aware of the consequences of the pandemic on their
- 323 population, which is becoming more and more aware of the consequences of the pandemic on their 324 health and on the country's economy. These results can help the authorities in the tourism sector to
- health and on the country's economy. These results can help the authorities in the tourism sector to better understand and identify the tourism needs of the population. This will also help to develop
- the potential of domestic tourism and prepare the Algerian tourist destination through effective
- 327 measures in the post-pandemic period.
- 328 Perspectives from this study may focus on changes in tourism behavior after the COVID-19 lifting
- 329 confinement, state tourism strategies, and as well the attitudes towards internal and external tourism
- after the lifting confinement COVID-19.
- 331

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