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Perceptions of Tourists on the Tourism Sites in Siargao Island

Lady Zhanine U. Cabadongga[1], Hiezel Mae G. Trazona[1], Rusannit G. Abadiez[1], Joann C. Opon[1], Mejean D. Noguerra[1], Maria Lelanie A. Goyonan, PhD[2]

[1]*Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management, Siargao Island Institute of Technology, Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte, Philippines*

[2]*Research Adviser, Siargao Island Institute of Technology, Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte, Philippines*

Email of Corresponding Author: ladyzhaninecabadongga@gmail.com

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Abstract

This study assessed tourists' perceptions of tourism sites in Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte, Philippines, focusing on tourist attractions, facilities and amenities, accessibility, environmental condition, and service quality, and examined differences across demographic characteristics. A descriptive quantitative design was employed involving 200 domestic and international tourists selected through purposive sampling. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire and analyzed through descriptive statistics, Kruskal–Wallis tests, Mann–Whitney U tests, and pairwise comparisons. Findings revealed favorable perceptions, with service quality receiving the highest rating (M = 3.63), followed by environmental condition (M = 3.54) and tourist attractions (M = 3.53). Facilities and amenities (M = 3.38) and accessibility (M = 3.37) received comparatively lower ratings. Significant differences existed among the five perception factors ($p < .001$). Age significantly differentiated four perception dimensions, while travel frequency differentiated perceptions of attractions; sex, civil status, and nationality showed no significant differences. The study concluded that Siargao's tourism strengths centered on service quality, environmental conditions, and attractions, while infrastructure-related improvements remained necessary. Tourism stakeholders should prioritize accessibility, visitor facilities, environmental protection, and consistent service standards. Findings were limited by purposive sampling, selected tourism sites, and the March–April 2026 collection period. The study provides evidence for destination management aligned with Sustainable Development Goals 8, 11, and 12, supporting responsible tourism, community development, and environmental sustainability.

Keywords: Destination Management; Environmental Sustainability; Service Quality; Siargao Island; Sustainable Tourism; Tourist Perceptions; Tourism Accessibility

1. Introduction

Tourism plays an important role in economic development, employment generation, cultural preservation, and environmental sustainability. In the Philippines, island destinations contribute significantly to the country's tourism industry and international reputation (Philippine Department of Tourism [DOT], 2025). Siargao Island, located in Surigao del Norte, has gained international recognition for its surfing destinations, natural attractions, and distinctive island culture. Its recognition as "Asia's Greatest Island" further strengthened its global appeal (Tek-Ing, 2022). However, the continued growth of tourism requires an understanding of how visitors evaluate destination attributes, particularly attractions, facilities, accessibility, environmental conditions, and service quality. Tourist perceptions influence satisfaction, destination image, and future travel intentions (Cahigas et al.,

2023; Wang et al., 2021). Understanding these evaluations is therefore essential for improving tourism experiences and supporting sustainable destination management.

Related literature establishes tourist perception as a multidimensional concept influenced by physical destination attributes, emotional experiences, and service interactions. Studies have identified accessibility and hospitality as important determinants of tourist evaluations (Athar, 2022), while infrastructure and environmental management contribute to destination image (Zhang and Li, 2022). Service quality and safety influence visitor satisfaction (Sharma and Kumar, 2023), whereas cultural authenticity and emotional engagement strengthen destination experiences (Smith and Henderson, 2021). Meaningful interactions between tourists and residents also promote emotional attachment and favorable perceptions (Stylidis et al., 2022). Furthermore, destination awareness, digital marketing, and online content shape expectations before travel (Sriboonlue, 2023). These findings demonstrate that positive tourist experiences depend not only on scenic attractions but also on accessible infrastructure, environmental preservation, reliable services, and meaningful visitor engagement.

The five destination attributes examined in this study are consistently emphasized in tourism literature. The uniqueness and preservation of attractions contribute to destination appeal (Lee & Hwang, 2022), while the availability and maintenance of facilities improve visitor comfort and convenience (Ramsey & Everitt, 2023; Agyeiwaah et al., 2022). Accessibility, including transportation, road conditions, and signage, influences destination competitiveness and travel experiences (Prideaux et al., 2021; Kattan et al., 2023). Environmental cleanliness and natural-resource protection contribute to positive emotional responses, safety, and destination reputation (Han et al., 2022; Bui et al., 2023). Similarly, service reliability, responsiveness, assurance, and empathy influence satisfaction and loyalty (Wu et al., 2022; Alrawadieh et al., 2021). These interconnected factors provide a comprehensive basis for evaluating tourism sites and identifying areas requiring improvement.

Globally, tourist perception has become increasingly important in maintaining destination competitiveness and resilience. In the Philippines, established destinations such as Boracay, Palawan, Cebu, and Bohol demonstrate the importance of tourism infrastructure, environmental management, and visitor services (Dela Cruz and Santos, 2025). Santos and Cruz (2026) reported that major island destinations accounted for a substantial proportion of international visitor arrivals, highlighting their economic significance. National tourism initiatives, including the "Love the Philippines" campaign, also emphasize natural attractions, hospitality, and cultural heritage (Philippine Department of Tourism, 2023). Growing preferences for authentic and less-commercialized destinations further support opportunities for sustainable island tourism (Department of Tourism, 2024). Within Siargao, tourism sites such as Cloud 9, Magpupungko Rock Pools, Pasikon Beach, and Alegria Beach offer distinct visitor experiences. Local research indicates that ecotourism branding, perceived value, and destination attributes influence tourists' evaluations of Siargao (Buca, 2024), while cognitive and affective perceptions contribute to satisfaction within the Caraga Region (Pitogo, Rico, and Cosgapa, 2025).

The study was anchored in Destination Image Theory and the Cognitive-Affective-Conative Model, which explain how tourists form perceptions through knowledge, emotional responses, and behavioral intentions (Gunn; Echtner & Ritchie; Prayag & Ryan, 2023; Hosany & Prayag, 2023). Cognitive and affective evaluations collectively influence destination impressions (Agapito et al., 2013), while Expectation Confirmation Theory explains how satisfaction develops when actual experiences meet or exceed expectations (Rather et al., 2021). The Experience Quality perspective emphasizes the influence of activities, environmental conditions, and services on visitor evaluations (Kim, Ritchie & McCormick, 2024). Digital Destination Image highlights the influence of online information on pre-visit expectations (Gretzel, 2023). Demographic characteristics may also shape evaluations. Age influences travel preferences (Li et al. (2022), while gender, civil status, and nationality may affect expectations concerning safety, facilities, and hospitality (Marques and Reis (2023); Pennington-Gray and Holden (2021); Kozak and Decrop (2022a)). Travel experience also contributes to differences in destination assessments, as frequent visitors may develop more critical expectations (Rather et al., 2021; Wu et al., 2023).

Although existing studies have examined destination image, tourist satisfaction, and individual tourism attributes, a need remains for an integrated assessment of tourists' perceptions across specific tourism sites in Siargao Island. Previous research has emphasized ecotourism branding and perceived value (Buca (2024a)) and the relationship between cognitive-affective evaluations and satisfaction (Pitogo, Rico, and Cosgapa (2025)). However, these perspectives do not fully address how tourists evaluate the combined dimensions of attractions, facilities and amenities, accessibility, environmental condition, and service quality across selected sites. Accordingly, this study assessed tourists' perceptions of tourism sites in Siargao Island and examined whether evaluations differed across the five factors and according to age, sex, civil status, nationality, and frequency of travel. The findings were intended to provide evidence-based recommendations for improving destination management, visitor experiences, and tourism services.

The study aligns with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, particularly through its relevance to sustainable tourism and local economic opportunities; SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and

Communities, through improved accessibility, tourism infrastructure, and responsible destination management; and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, through environmentally responsible tourism practices and natural-resource preservation. These goals reflect the importance of balancing tourism development with environmental protection, community welfare, and long-term destination competitiveness.

From a multidisciplinary sustainability perspective, the study contributes to environmental, socio-economic, community, and institutional sustainability by providing information that may guide tourism planning and management. Assessing environmental conditions supports conservation-oriented practices, while examining facilities, accessibility, and service quality identifies opportunities to improve visitor experiences and tourism-related services. The findings may assist tourism authorities, local government units, and business operators in developing coordinated strategies that protect natural attractions, strengthen service delivery, and promote responsible tourism. Ultimately, understanding tourists' perceptions provides a foundation for maintaining Siargao Island's attractiveness while supporting sustainable tourism development and the long-term well-being of local communities.

2. Material and methods

2.1 Research Design

The study utilized a descriptive quantitative research design to examine tourists' perceptions of selected tourism sites in Siargao Island. This approach enabled the systematic collection and analysis of numerical data describing respondents' demographic characteristics and evaluations of tourist attractions, facilities and amenities, accessibility, environmental condition, and service quality. The design was appropriate for identifying patterns and differences in tourists' perceptions without manipulating variables or establishing causal relationships.

2.2 Locale of the Study

The study was conducted in Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte, Philippines, particularly at Cloud 9 in General Luna, Magpupungko Rock Pools in Pilar, Pasikon Beach in Burgos, and Alegria Beach in Santa Monica. These locations represented various tourism experiences, including surfing, adventure activities, and natural attractions. Additional data were collected at Dapa Port to reach departing tourists. The selected locations provided opportunities to assess visitors' experiences across different tourism environments on the island.

2.3 Respondents of the Study

The respondents consisted of 200 domestic and international tourists who had personally visited tourism sites in Siargao Island. The participants represented different age groups, sexes, civil statuses, nationalities, and frequencies of travel. Their firsthand experiences provided relevant information regarding the island's attractions, facilities, accessibility, environmental conditions, and services. The respondents were selected based on their direct exposure to the tourism sites, ensuring that their evaluations reflected actual travel experiences.

2.4 Sample and Sampling Procedure

The study employed purposive sampling to select 200 tourists with firsthand experience of Siargao Island's tourism destinations. The planned sampling distribution consisted of 100 domestic and 100 international tourists, with an intended allocation of 50 male and 50 female respondents in each group. However, the final recorded responses consisted of 102 males and 98 females. Participants were recruited from selected tourism sites and other relevant locations, including Dapa Port. Purposive sampling was appropriate because the study required respondents who could provide informed evaluations based on their actual visits to the island.

2.5 Research Instrument

A self-administered structured questionnaire served as the primary research instrument. It consisted of two components: respondents' demographic profiles, including age, sex, civil status, nationality, and frequency of travel, and their perceptions of tourist attractions, facilities and amenities, accessibility of the sites, environmental condition, and quality of services offered. The perception items were measured using a four-point Likert scale, with scores ranging from 1 to 4. Mean scores of 3.50–4.00 were interpreted as Strongly Agree or Highly Perceived; 2.50–3.49 as Agree or Perceived; 1.50–2.49 as Disagree or Moderately Perceived; and 1.00–1.49 as Strongly Disagree or Not Perceived. This measurement system provided a standardized basis for evaluating tourists' perceptions across the five dimensions.

2.6 Data Gathering Procedure

Before data collection, the researchers secured the necessary permissions and approvals from the appropriate authorities and tourism site management. Domestic and international tourists who had visited the selected destinations were approached and informed about the study's purpose, procedures, and voluntary nature. After obtaining informed consent, the researchers distributed the structured questionnaires and allowed participants to provide their responses. Completed questionnaires were collected and reviewed for completeness and clarity, with unclear responses clarified when necessary and possible. The researchers also conducted on-site observations to

obtain contextual information about tourism facilities, environmental conditions, site operations, and interactions between tourists and service providers. Relevant local tourism reports and related documents were reviewed when available to supplement the survey information.

2.7 Data Analysis Techniques

The collected data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. Frequency counts and percentage distributions described respondents' demographic characteristics, while means and standard deviations measured their perceptions across the five tourism-related factors. The Kruskal–Wallis test determined significant differences among the perception factors and across respondent groups classified by age, civil status, nationality, and frequency of travel. When significant differences were identified, the Dwass–Steel–Critchlow–Fligner (DSCF) pairwise comparison procedure was applied to determine which perception factors differed significantly. The Mann–Whitney U test examined differences in tourists' perceptions when grouped according to sex. These statistical procedures supported the comparative assessment of tourist perceptions across the selected tourism dimensions and demographic variables.

2.8 Ethical Considerations

The researchers observed established ethical principles to protect participants' rights, dignity, privacy, and welfare. Necessary permissions were obtained before data collection, and all respondents provided informed consent after receiving information about the study's objectives and procedures. Participation was voluntary, and respondents could withdraw at any time without penalty. Confidentiality and anonymity were maintained by avoiding unnecessary personal identifiers and restricting access to collected information. Electronic records were stored on password-protected devices, while printed materials were secured in accordance with institutional policies and the Data Privacy Act of 2012. The researchers also ensured that survey questions were nonintrusive and culturally appropriate, respected local customs, and avoided disrupting tourism activities. All information was used exclusively for academic purposes, and the findings were presented accurately without fabrication or manipulation.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Demographic Profile of the Respondents

3.1.1 Age

The findings showed that most respondents were young adults. Tourists aged 20–23 years comprised the largest group (27.5%), followed by those aged 24–26 years (26.0%), 27–29 years (20.5%), and 30 years and above (16.0%). Respondents aged 18–20 years represented the smallest group (10.0%). These results indicated that tourists aged 20–29 years constituted the majority of the respondents. The predominance of young adults reflected Siargao Island's appeal as a destination for surfing, adventure, and recreational activities. This finding was consistent with Cahigas et al. (2023), who identified young adults as a major segment of Siargao's tourist population. Similarly, Li et al. (2022) explained that younger travelers generally preferred adventure and unique experiences, whereas older tourists placed greater importance on comfort, accessibility, and safety.

3.1.2 Sex

The respondents consisted of 102 males (51.0%) and 98 females (49.0%), indicating a nearly equal distribution between the two groups. The slight difference suggested that both male and female tourists were well represented in the study. The balanced distribution reflected the broad appeal of Siargao's tourism activities, including surfing, island hopping, and nature exploration. This finding supported Buca (2024a), who reported equal representation of male and female tourists in a Siargao-related study. Although Marques and Reis (2023) identified gender-related differences in travel preferences, destinations offering diverse recreational opportunities could attract both groups.

3.1.3 Civil Status

Most respondents were single, accounting for 152 tourists (76.0%), followed by 45 married respondents (22.5%). Single parents represented 1.0%, while separated or divorced respondents accounted for 0.5%. These findings indicated that single individuals constituted the largest proportion of surveyed tourists. The predominance of single tourists was consistent with the relatively young respondent population and the island's adventure-oriented attractions. Cahigas et al. (2023) similarly reported that 83.66% of their Siargao tourism respondents were single. The findings suggested that recreational activities, social experiences, and flexible travel opportunities contributed to the destination's appeal among unmarried travelers.

3.1.4 Nationality

Filipino tourists comprised the largest group, with 79 respondents (39.5%), followed by Asian tourists (23.0%), European tourists (17.5%), North American tourists (13.5%), Australian tourists (4.5%), and South American tourists (2.0%). The distribution demonstrated the participation of both domestic and international visitors. The prominence of Filipino respondents reflected the importance of domestic tourism, while international participation

demonstrated Siargao's global appeal. The SIBOL Project (2024) visitor report similarly identified Filipino visitors as a major segment of recorded tourist arrivals. Kozak and Decrop (2022a) emphasized that cultural backgrounds influenced travel expectations, although destinations with strong natural attractions could receive favorable evaluations from diverse visitor groups.

3.1.5 Frequency of Travel

The findings revealed that 127 respondents (63.5%) had visited Siargao Island two to three times, while 53 respondents (26.5%) had visited four to five times. The remaining 20 respondents (10.0%) reported visiting more than five times. These results indicated that most participants had previous experience visiting the island. The presence of returning tourists suggested that Siargao continued to attract visitors through its tourism offerings. Descarten (2023) identified attractions, accessibility, amenities, activities, and accommodation as important destination attributes in Siargao. Similarly, Wu et al. (2023) explained that repeat visitors tended to evaluate destinations based on previous experiences and perceived improvements, while first-time visitors were more influenced by novelty and initial impressions.

3.2 Level of Tourists' Perceptions of Tourism Sites

3.2.1 Perceptions Across the Five Tourism Factors

The findings revealed generally favorable perceptions across all five tourism factors. Quality of services offered obtained the highest mean ($M = 3.63$, $SD = 0.337$), followed by environmental condition ($M = 3.54$, $SD = 0.378$) and tourist attractions ($M = 3.53$, $SD = 0.336$), all interpreted as highly perceived. Facilities and amenities ($M = 3.38$, $SD = 0.340$) and accessibility of the sites ($M = 3.37$, $SD = 0.355$) received slightly lower ratings, both interpreted as perceived. The results indicated that service quality, environmental condition, and natural attractions were the most positively evaluated aspects of Siargao's tourism sites. However, facilities and accessibility remained areas for improvement. Descarten (2023) similarly identified the importance of destination attributes, particularly amenities and activities, in influencing tourist satisfaction. These findings emphasized the need to maintain service and environmental standards while improving tourism infrastructure and accessibility.

3.3 Significant Differences Among Tourists' Perception Factors

3.3.1 Overall Differences Among the Five Factors

The Kruskal–Wallis test revealed a statistically significant difference among the five perception factors ($\chi^2 = 84.20$, $df = 4$, $p < .001$). This indicated that tourists did not evaluate attractions, facilities and amenities, accessibility, environmental condition, and service quality equally. The significant variation suggested that tourists distinguished between the island's physical infrastructure and its environmental and service-related attributes. Descarten (2023) similarly found that the Tourism 5A components contributed differently to tourist satisfaction, particularly amenities and activities. The findings highlighted the importance of addressing lower-rated tourism dimensions while maintaining positively evaluated destination features.

3.3.2 Pairwise Differences Among Perception Factors

The Dwass–Steel–Critchlow–Fligner comparisons identified significant differences between accessibility and environmental condition ($p < .001$), service quality ($p < .001$), and tourist attractions ($p < .001$). Facilities and amenities also differed significantly from environmental condition ($p < .001$), service quality ($p < .001$), and tourist attractions ($p < .001$). Service quality differed significantly from tourist attractions ($p = .012$). However, no significant differences were found between accessibility and facilities ($p = .997$), environmental condition and service quality ($p = .062$), or environmental condition and tourist attractions ($p = .979$). These findings indicated that tourists evaluated infrastructure-related factors differently from environmental and service-related attributes. Buca (2024a) similarly identified transportation and infrastructure as areas of concern while reporting favorable perceptions of Siargao's attractions, scenery, activities, food, and accommodation. The results suggested that improving accessibility and facilities could help strengthen the overall tourism experience.

3.4 Differences in Tourists' Perceptions According to Demographic Profile

3.4.1 Differences According to Age

The Kruskal–Wallis test revealed significant differences in tourists' perceptions when grouped according to age for tourist attractions ($\chi^2 = 20.28$, $p < .001$), facilities and amenities ($\chi^2 = 18.07$, $p = .001$), accessibility ($\chi^2 = 25.67$, $p < .001$), and quality of services offered ($\chi^2 = 11.88$, $p = .018$). However, environmental condition showed no significant difference ($\chi^2 = 9.23$, $p = .056$). These findings indicated that age was associated with differences in four of the five perception factors. The results suggested that tourists from different age groups had varying expectations regarding attractions, infrastructure, accessibility, and services, while their perceptions of environmental conditions remained relatively consistent. Buca (2024a) identified several destination attributes influencing tourists' perceptions of Siargao, including activities, scenery, accommodation, infrastructure, transportation, and safety. These findings emphasized the importance of providing tourism facilities and services that accommodate different age groups.

3.4.2 Differences According to Sex

The Mann–Whitney U test revealed no significant differences in tourists' perceptions when grouped according to sex. The results were nonsignificant for tourist attractions ($U = 4928$, $p = .861$), facilities and amenities ($U = 4550$, $p = .263$), accessibility ($U = 4925$, $p = .856$), environmental condition ($U = 4771$, $p = .571$), and quality of services offered ($U = 4968$, $p = .941$). All p-values exceeded the .05 significance level. These findings indicated that male and female tourists evaluated Siargao's tourism attributes similarly. This result was consistent with Jevtić et al. (2020), who reported no significant gender differences in evaluations of tourism-related experiences. The findings suggested that maintaining consistent standards of facilities, accessibility, environmental management, and service quality could benefit both male and female visitors.

3.4.3 Differences According to Civil Status

The Kruskal–Wallis test showed no significant differences in tourists' perceptions when grouped according to civil status. Tourist attractions ($\chi^2 = 5.11$, $p = .164$), facilities and amenities ($\chi^2 = 2.11$, $p = .550$), accessibility ($\chi^2 = 3.32$, $p = .345$), environmental condition ($\chi^2 = 2.82$, $p = .421$), and quality of services offered ($\chi^2 = 3.66$, $p = .301$) all yielded p-values greater than .05. The findings suggested that civil status did not significantly differentiate tourists' evaluations of Siargao's tourism sites. This result agreed with Buladaco (2020), who reported no significant differences in tourist satisfaction according to civil status. Similarly, Dagohoy et al. (2023) found no significant differences in guests' perceptions of amenities, service quality, and environmental settings across civil-status groups. These findings emphasized the importance of maintaining consistent tourism standards regardless of visitors' marital status.

3.4.4 Differences According to Nationality

The Kruskal–Wallis test revealed no significant differences in tourists' perceptions when grouped according to nationality. The results were nonsignificant for tourist attractions ($\chi^2 = 2.03$, $p = .845$), facilities and amenities ($\chi^2 = 7.34$, $p = .197$), accessibility ($\chi^2 = 1.13$, $p = .952$), environmental condition ($\chi^2 = 3.16$, $p = .675$), and quality of services offered ($\chi^2 = 7.58$, $p = .181$). These findings indicated that respondents from different nationalities generally evaluated the tourism factors similarly. The absence of significant differences suggested that domestic and international tourists shared comparable perceptions of Siargao's tourism offerings. This finding was consistent with Alcuaz (2017), who reported no significant differences between local and foreign tourists' general destination assessments. Similarly, Wong (2025) found nonsignificant differences in perceptions of amenities, natural environments, and services when grouped according to place of origin. The results highlighted the importance of maintaining tourism services and environmental standards that accommodate visitors from diverse cultural backgrounds.

3.4.5 Differences According to Frequency of Travel

The Kruskal–Wallis test revealed a significant difference in perceptions of tourist attractions when respondents were grouped according to frequency of travel ($\chi^2 = 10.70$, $p = .005$). However, no significant differences were observed for facilities and amenities ($\chi^2 = 4.88$, $p = .087$), accessibility ($\chi^2 = 2.34$, $p = .311$), environmental condition ($\chi^2 = 1.47$, $p = .481$), and quality of services offered ($\chi^2 = 5.71$, $p = .058$). These findings indicated that frequency of travel was associated with differences in perceptions of attractions but not the other four tourism factors. The significant difference in tourist attractions suggested that previous travel experiences influenced how visitors evaluated Siargao's destinations. Rather et al. (2021) reported differences between first-time and repeat tourists in engagement, travel experiences, and revisit intentions. Similarly, Stylidis et al. (2022) emphasized the influence of attractions on destination image and satisfaction. Neuburger & Egger (2021) explained that repeat visitors tended to reassess attractions more critically based on previous experiences. Consistent with Neuburger & Egger (2021), the findings highlighted the importance of maintaining and diversifying tourism attractions to sustain visitor interest and encourage repeat visits.

4. Conclusion & Recommendations

The study concluded that tourists generally held favorable perceptions of tourism sites in Siargao Island, particularly regarding service quality, environmental condition, and tourist attractions. However, facilities and amenities and site accessibility received comparatively lower evaluations, indicating areas requiring improvement. Significant differences among the five perception factors demonstrated that tourists evaluated destination attributes differently. Age was associated with significant differences in perceptions of attractions, facilities and amenities, accessibility, and service quality, while frequency of travel was associated with differences in perceptions of tourist attractions. Conversely, sex, civil status, and nationality showed no significant differences across the evaluated factors. These findings indicated that tourists' perceptions were influenced by specific destination attributes and varied across certain visitor characteristics. Overall, the study provided useful evidence for understanding tourists' experiences and identifying priorities for improving destination management, maintaining tourism quality, and supporting sustainable tourism development in Siargao Island.

Tourism authorities, local government units, and tourism site administrators should prioritize improvements in accessibility and facilities and amenities, as these received the lowest evaluations. Recommended actions include maintaining access roads, improving transportation arrangements, providing clear directional signage, and upgrading essential visitor facilities. Tourism operators and service providers should sustain the favorable quality of hospitality services through consistent service standards, staff development, and responsiveness to tourists' needs. Environmental management should remain a priority through regular site maintenance, proper waste management, and continued protection of natural attractions. Since perceptions differed across age groups, tourism planners should consider the accessibility, comfort, and recreational preferences of different visitors when improving facilities and services. Tourism operators should also maintain and diversify attractions to sustain the interest of returning tourists. Future researchers may examine tourists' perceptions across additional tourism sites and visitor groups to provide broader evidence for sustainable destination planning.

The study was limited to 200 domestic and international tourists selected through purposive sampling from selected tourism sites in Siargao Island, including Cloud 9, Magpupungko Rock Pools, Pasikon Beach, and Alegria Beach. Data were collected from March to April 2026, and the findings might not reflect tourists' perceptions during other seasons. The study relied primarily on self-reported questionnaire responses, whose accuracy depended on participants' understanding, sincerity, and cooperation. Moreover, it focused exclusively on tourists' perspectives and excluded local residents, tourism employees, government officials, and business owners. Consequently, the findings may not represent all visitors or tourism stakeholders. Future studies may include broader samples, additional sites, different collection periods, and other stakeholder perspectives.

5. Compliance with ethical standards

The authors affirm that no conflicts of interest exist in relation to this study. The research involved domestic and international tourists visiting selected tourism sites in Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte, Philippines, with the necessary permissions obtained from appropriate authorities and tourism site management. Participation was voluntary, informed consent was secured, and respondents were informed of their right to withdraw without penalty; data were collected through non-invasive questionnaires and on-site observations. Respondents' privacy, anonymity, and confidentiality were protected by avoiding unnecessary personal identifiers, using codes or pseudonyms when necessary, and securely storing collected information in accordance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

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