

## Background

Travelling means to go from one place to another. Man by nature is a travelling/mobile being, and has the inborn habit and interest to know the unknown, see the unseen.

People travel for different reasons, Some reasons for traveling as seeing on [Wikipedia](#) include recreation, tourism, vacationing, research, visiting people, business, trade amongst others.

For the purpose of this project, the focus will be on tourism.

Oxford English Dictionary defines tourism as “travel for pleasure or business; also the theory and practice of touring, the business of attracting, accommodating, and entertaining tourists, and the business of operating tours.”

The World Tourism Organization defines tourism as comprising “the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.”

People go on tours to have experiences outside their normal day-to-day lives, meet new people, learn about different cultures and destinations, to do business amongst others.

Touring, though it has its benefits, often requires a lot of planning to ensure they get the best of it and enjoy their time. This plan entails tourists take into consideration how much time they have planned, their budget, their personal preferences and other details that make the tour enjoyable.

Thankfully, there are solutions available today to automate this planning processes for the tourist. These solutions range from booking flights, hotels, planning itinerary to as far as suggesting locations and spots to tourists in their city or location of interest.

For the purpose of this project, the focus is on when the tourist has made it to the city, and tries to answer the question of what can they do, where can they go and how can they enjoy their time in the location of interest.

Also, there are solutions to this challenge available in different forms. Google trip shows a user things to do and daily plans they can follow in their location of interest.

TripAdvisor shows its users most popular activities, most visited spots, also for their selected locations.

While these solutions are helpful, they leave out a very important aspect of tourism, which is customization and user preference

Showing most popular activities to users based on location alone, does not take into account the users preferences, their budget neither does it consider the time they have planned for their visit.

This lack of personalized listings is the primary reason experts believe that almost half of all travel bookings still come through offline channels.

These solutions do not consider what is important to the user while showing the listings and activities in their location of interest.

Due to the generic listings and solutions provided by these platforms, tourist often have to make plans to meet their personal needs.

Devising an enjoyable tour involves making a lot of choices, where do I want to go, How long do I have for each stop, what can I eat while on the tour amongst others.

This process of making this decisions can be daunting considering how much time one has, and ensuring they enjoy their time as much as possible.

Another consideration to this planning is finances, travellers want to get the value of their money, and that often means different things. Here it will be taken to mean that the traveller enjoyed the tour and it was worth the time and effort.

In this project, City tour planner, will Devise a one-day city tour that allows the user to best enjoy their time on their tour according to their preferences, interests and time.

This will involve getting the user preferences and time constraints, mapping these to various open APIs and providing the user an enriched tour plan for their location of interest. The user can alter this plan by adding other options of interest and adjusting time.

This will avail the user a customized tour, that will then make their experience enjoyable as it is tailored to their personal needs. No need to go see a most popular event if the user won't enjoy it and other similar activities.

## **Motivation**

The internet host a rich amount of open APIs that provide different set of data. The tourism industry is getting bigger by the day and there are tons of solutions and services available to automate processes involved in planning a tour and taking the challenge off the tourist.

Still, there is more to be done in customizing these available data in tourism to create a personal experience for tourists.

Using this available data on open APIs and getting more details about the tourist, City tour planner can create a personalized one-day tour for the tourists. This tour will meet the restrictions defined by user profile, start and end locations, time, their dietary preferences, showing them what they can eat where while on their tour.

With this solution, users should be able to embrace the web platform in planning their tours as they no longer have to use offline consultations, or spend time planning personalized tours.

This project will also develop to learn more about the user, based on their interaction with the initial provided tours, thereby using their data as they go on multiple tours to plan tours for them in future.

## **Aims and Objectives**

The aim of this project is to develop an Android application that will enable a person to easily plan a one-day city tour, that allows her to best utilise her time, according to her interests.

For the application to achieve this, it should be able to do the following:

- Allow a user to sign up/login
- Get user preferences from their profile and settings
- Retrieve data from open APIs with the users preference
- Create a time plan that includes the users start and end points for the tour
- Create a tour based on user preference that states time for each tour, how to get there and also cost (if any) to visiting the places listed
- Allow the user to make changes to the created tour
- Monitor the users progress on the journey and provide real time updates if any
- Store the user and trip data to provide better experience and recommendations for future tours
- The tours must be bound in time to 24 hours
- Output the plan to the user

## **Scope**

The scope of the work being carried by this project is limited to building an android application creates a 24-hour city tour plan for a user using their preferences, time.

This project does not cater for group tours, where more than one person is touring a location. It can be extended in the future for this behavior but that is not in the current scope.

This project employs open and free APIs for its data collection, and the language of content and communication on the app will be the English language.

While applications should be built for accessibility and wide user reach, the scope of this project does not allow for it to cater to people with certain disabilities such as blindness, as it does not have the resources needed for users with such conditions to enter or read information

## **References:**

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- <https://kaptio.com/blog/five-challenges-tour-operators-2017/>
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