

@touristrecommenderbot  
 Development of a Chatbot  
 for Tourist Recommendations

About the Chatbot

- @touristrecommenderbot on the instant messaging app *Telegram*
- Recommends points of interest based on data from *OpenStreetMap* and *Foursquare*
- The recommendations are based on the user’s interests and current location

Technical Specification

- Java Spark Web Application
- Multitier Architecture
- Runs in the Platform-as-a-Service *Heroku*
- Integration of external services: REST-like HTTP API endpoints and Webhook

Conversational Interface

- The Natural Language Understanding Platform *API.AI* interprets the user input.
- The conversation flow is modeled using the NLU concepts intents, entities and contexts.

Recommender System

- Combines the recommender system approaches collaborative filtering and content-based filtering
- Applies and adapts algorithms from the machine learning library *Apache Mahout*

Geographic Information Processing

- Geographic data from *OpenStreetMap* is stored in a *PostGIS* database
- The data is interpreted and converted into *Points of Interest* that are used in the recommendation process

