



# SSTD 2026

## VIII Spring Symposium on Tourism Development

June 18th and 19th, 2026,  
**LANZAROTE** ISLAND / SPAIN

**Tourism and Residents Well-being**

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**Dr. Héctor Fernández Manchado**, University School of Tourism of Lanzarote affiliated with ULPGC, Spain



We are delighted to announce that the **8th International Spring Symposium in Tourism Development** (VIII SSTD 2026) annual Conference will be hosted by the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in **Lanzarote island** (Spain), during **18th and 19th June 2026**. This SSTD 2026 is an International Conference organized by Tides, the Institute of Tourism and Sustainable Economic Development that belongs to the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Our University is the 35 in the world in the Global Shanghai Ranking 2024 by academic subjects in Hospitality and Tourism Management. We are also the first best university in Tourism studies in Spain and we are in the top 3 in the European Union. The VIII SSTD 2026 Conference will be held **in the Hotel Arrecife Gran Hotel & Spa**. Delegates can expect true Spanish hospitality! Some of our distinguished keynote speakers include **Professor Robert Steiger from the University of Innsbruck (Austria), Professor Hai Nguyen from the University of Greenwich (London, UK) and Jacques Bulchand, Full Professor from the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain)**. We will also have an industry pannel with relevant actors and experts in Tourism and Hospitality from the public and the private sector.



## Some of the Conference Keynote Speakers



### **Robert Steiger**

University of Innsbruck  
(Austria)

Robert Steiger is an Associate Professor at the Department of Public Finance, University of Innsbruck, Austria. He has extensive experience in climate change adaptation and sustainable development in tourism, with over 100 academic publications. He is also very involved in knowledge transfer, e.g., as coordinating lead author of the Austrian Climate Change Assessment Reports 2014 and 2025, and of the 2021 Special Report on Tourism and Climate Change, but also in the context of regular appearances in the media and public lectures. He is the study coordinator of a tourism bachelor's program, and a master's program in sustainable regional development, and deputy speaker of the Doctoral program "Tourism and Leisure in Mountain Regions".







**Hai Nguyen**

University of Greenwich  
(UK)

Dr Hai Nguyen is an Associate Professor of Tourism and Events at the University of Greenwich, UK. She has an extensive international academic background, having studied and worked at Hue University (Vietnam), the School of Travel Industry Management (US), Breda University of Applied Sciences (The Netherlands), the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and Macau University of Science and Technology (China). Her current research interests include tourist behaviour, resident studies, destination management, heritage tourism, and special events and festivals.



**Jacques Bulchand**

University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria  
(Spain)

Jacques Bulchand-Gidumal is a Full Professor of Business Organization at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, specializing in Digital Business and Digital Tourism. He holds a degree in Computer Science and a PhD in Economics and Business. He frequently gives talks on strategies for social media, future technological trends, entrepreneurship opportunities in the digital sector, and innovation in the tourism industry. He is a regular contributor to various media outlets. He has published over 100 articles, including articles in international journals, book chapters, and conference papers. His research focuses on startups and digital tourism, with special emphasis on artificial intelligence, robotics, automation, and the transformative power of technology in organizations. He is a collaborator and mentor in various startups, as well as a small-scale investor in some of them. He currently serves as the President of the International Federation for Information Technologies and Travel & Tourism (IFITT).





# Industry Panel

## Nayra Valls Cabrera



Nayra Valls Cabrera leads the financial and administrative management of the Cabrera Medina business group, a position she combines with her role as Treasurer and member of the Plenary and Executive Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of Lanzarote and La Graciosa. Her professional career demonstrates her strong leadership and problem-solving skills, reinforced by a broad and distinguished academic background.

## Jacques Bulchand Gidumal



Professor of Digital Business specializing in the tourism sector. President of IFITT (International Federation for IT and Travel & Tourism). His research focuses on digital technologies and artificial intelligence in the tourism sector and entrepreneurship, with four recognized six-year research periods (three in research and one in knowledge transfer). He holds a degree in Computer Science and a PhD in Economics and Business.

## Hector Fernández Manchado



Héctor Fernández Manchado is the SPEL - Lanzarote Tourism board manager, whose career has been dedicated to the sustainable development of Lanzarote. Currently, he has the honor of serving as Delegate Island Councilor for Tourism, in Lanzarote. Thanks to his academic training and experience in environmental management, he has promoted various initiatives to promote sustainable and responsible tourism on the island.

## Ignacio Poladura de Armas



Ignacio Poladura de Armas is Managing Director of Viajes Insular and President of the Canary Islands Association of Travel Agencies and Tour Operators (ACAVyT). With over 15 years of international experience in companies such as Deloitte and Lastminute.com, he specializes in tourism innovation, digital transformation, and strategic leadership.



## José Alba



General Manager of the Hotel Division at the Lopesan Group and a member of its Board of Directors. With over 20 years of experience in the hotel industry, he has managed Marketing and Sales departments at an international level. He holds a degree in Business Management and several master's degrees. Lopesan is a leader in the Canary Islands with 22 hotels in several countries.

## Teresa Aguiar Quintana



Teresa Aguiar Quintana is a Full Professor at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and Director of Transfer and Scientific Dissemination at the Tides Institute. She has published books with Síntesis Editorial, as well as with Routledge and Cambridge Scholars Publishing, and more than 30 chapters, in addition to articles in scientific journals such as *Tourism Management* and *International Journal of Hospitality*.

## José Juan Lorenzo



Managing Director of Tourism for the Canary Islands, he holds a degree in Industrial Engineering from the Polytechnic University of Madrid. With over 30 years of experience, he has led projects in sectors such as tourism, artificial intelligence, smart cities, and energy efficiency. He is currently driving a more resilient and climate-neutral tourism strategy for the Canary Islands.

## Yasmina Valiente



Co-founder and director of development at Turismark, a company that markets and manages 22 tourist establishments in the Canary Islands and Tunisia. She has 25 years of experience in tourism, having held senior positions at iconic 5 star hotels such as Arrecife Gran Hotel and Meliá Salinas. She holds a degree in Hotel Management from the Santa Brígida Hotel School and has led strategic projects at Turismark for 13 years. In 2023, she was recognised with the Distinguished Tourism Award for her innovation in the marketing of tourist accommodation.

## Conference venue

The Conference registration will take place on Thursday 18th of June in the **Hotel Arrecife Gran Hotel & Spa**. The opening ceremony will be held on the 18th of June with the participation of the Canary islands's Tourism Vice-councilor, José Sanabria Díaz, the President of The SPEL- Tourism of Lanzarote island, Héctor Fernández Manchado and the Chancellor of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Lluís Serra Majem. Parallel sessions of paper presentation will take place thereafter. After the day's presentations, the delegates will take a walking tour. Expect to enjoy the famous Lanzarote biosphere reserve with incredible landscapes. During 18th and 19th of June 2026, keynote speakers, an industry panel discussion, as well as research presentations sessions will take place during the day. On 20th of June, there will be a guided tour to **El Grifo Winery in La Geria, The Wine area in Lanzarote**.

***Welcome to this beautiful island!!***



## What does the SSTD 2026 fee include?

Conference fees include conference keynote and parallel sessions and industry panel session in the **Arrecife Gran Hotel & Spa** on the 18th and 19th of June, the guided tour to Lanzarote biosphere reserve spots like Los Jameos del Agua and the tour to El Grifo Winery and to Timanfaya National Park on the 20th of June. Also the tapas lunch in the hotel conference venue for 18th and 19th June and the winery degustation and visits on the 20th of June 2026.

Would you like to stay at the Arrecife Gran Hotel & Spa? We have negotiated very competitive prices with accommodation and half board without drinks in this luxury hotel in Lanzarote- The price will be €80 per person per night in a double room (half board without drinks).

### **To stay at the Arrecife Gran Hotel & Spa and explore other accommodation options offered by TURISMARK:**

**TURISMARK** - Promo code: **SSTD2026** (10% discount on the standard rate for stays between June 16 and 21, 2026. Minimum stay of 2 nights.)

### **Other available accommodation options:**

**ROSA GROUP (Hotel Fariones 5\*)** - Promo code: **ULPGC2026** (10% discount on the standard rate for stays between June 16 and 21, 2026. Minimum stay of 2 nights.)

Looking forward to Welcome you in Lanzarote island! - Don't miss this opportunity to participate in this international scientific conference in Canary islands paradise!!

### **To learn more about Canary Islands, please visit:**

**<https://www.hellocanaryislands.com/>**





## Important dates and deadlines

**17th March 2026**      **Extended Abstract deadline** (500 words)  
for publishing in the conference proceedings book  
(Please, submit it to **tides@ulpgc.es**)

**28th March 2026**      **Decision Notification**

Note: all the accepted abstract papers can be presented at the conference.

**7th April 2026**      **Deadline for early registration**

## Prices

**PUBLIC**

**150€**

Before 07/04/2026: **120€**

**STUDENT**

**75€**

Before 07/04/2026: **60€**

**Registration for SSTD2026**

**More information** about the SSTD2026 Conference at:  
**[tides.ulpgc.es/congreso-sstd](https://tides.ulpgc.es/congreso-sstd)**

## Conference topics

Under the theme **“Tourism and Residents’ Well-being”**, the conference will examine how tourism can enhance the economic, social, and emotional well-being of local communities. In the face of climate change, digitalization, and the need for fairer development models, discussions will focus on inclusive policies, territorial planning, and responsible business practices that prioritize residents’ quality of life.

To this end, a series of topics of great interest and relevance for tourism and society will be addressed. These are:

**Resident well-being and quality of life in tourist destinations**

**Participatory governance and inclusive management models**

**Tourism, housing, and social cohesion**

**Sustainable economic development and quality employment**

**Tourism, transport, and responsible mobility**

**Artificial intelligence and digital technologies applied to local well-being**

**Education, training, and skills development in tourism**

**Urban tourism, public spaces, and citizen coexistence**

**Overtourism and carrying capacity**

**Case studies of destinations that integrate tourism and community well-being**

**Tourism, health, and physical and emotional well-being**

**Neurotourism and resident perception**

**Educational innovation: methodologies applied to teaching in tourism management**

**Tourism and Sustainable Development Goals**

**Gender and managing diversity**



We look forward  
**to welcoming you**  
to Lanzarote





Cátedra de Turismo  
de las Islas Canarias  
de Sostenibilidad  
e Inteligencia de Datos



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