

# Exploring the Role of Place Dependence, Identity, and Positive Experiences in Domestic Tourists' Revisit Intention

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## Abstract

**Objective:** This study investigates the role of place dependence and place identity in shaping domestic tourists' intentions to revisit beach destinations, focusing on the mediating effect of positive emotional experiences.

**Design/Methods/Approach:** This study used a quantitative methodology with 314 respondents through an online questionnaire to collect data, which were then analyzed using PLS-SEM with SmartPLS 4.

**Findings:** The findings indicate a significant positive influence of both place dependence and place identity on the intention to return, which is mediated by positive emotional experiences.

**Originality:** In accordance with place attachment theory, this study highlights the significance of understanding the interconnection between place dependence and identity in building tourists' sense of attachment to specific destinations.

**Practical/Policy implication:** To encourage repeat visits, it is crucial for stakeholders to preserve the destination's unique attributes and enhance the tourist experience through quality facilities, cultural events, and culinary and leisure activities. By offering exceptional experiences and high-quality services, stakeholders can foster long-term relationships with tourists and enhance a destination's appeal for future visits.

**Keywords:** Place dependence; Place identity, Positive emotional experience, Revisit intention

**JEL Classification:** M42, M48



## 1. Introduction

It is beneficial to recognize the economic value of tourism in any country. A country can be developed in a multitude of ways (Karalim, 2024). A country's total prosperity can be enhanced by the potential for tourism to act as a catalyst for growth in other areas. Destinations with distinctive physical characteristics, natural beauty, and iconic landscapes frequently attract travelers (Ruiz-Real et al., 2020). Many natural resources, including land, lakes, oceans, and mineral waters, are used by the tourism sector, and in most situations, this is what makes a place so appealing. The sustainability of a destination's tourism offering is dependent on the preservation of its natural landscape, which is its primary resource (Öztüren et al., 2021). For many, visiting the beach has become a fundamental aspect of their well-being, offering them a place for relaxation, recovery, and recreation (Diop et al., 2023). In addition, tourism is an important industry that is central to global and local sustainable development (McNaughton et al., 2020). Over the years, the many benefits of tourism have been used as an instrument for reducing poverty and bridging income gaps in different economic areas (Sarjana & Pitana, 2024). According to data from the World Tourism Organization (WTO), international tourist arrivals exhibit robust growth during the initial nine months of 2024. This surge can be attributed to several factors, including the sustained post-pandemic demand observed in Europe, the substantial performance of major source markets on a global scale, and destinations in the Asia-Pacific region recovered. The enhancement of air connectivity and the streamlining of visa processes have also contributed to promoting international travel (WTO, 2024). Consequently, the sustainable utilization of natural resources in tourism fosters long-term development and loyalty by reinforcing tourists' attachment to destinations and catalyzing economic growth.

The present study focuses on domestic tourists as the subject of research because of their considerable contribution to local tourism, particularly in beach destinations. This contribution is evident in the support provided to local businesses, including accommodations, food services, and tourist activities. Moreover, domestic tourists exhibit strong emotional and cultural attachments to domestic destinations (Lei & Suntrayuth, 2023). This aspect renders it pertinent to examine the role of place attachment in supporting sustainable beach management. The high potential for repeat visits among domestic tourists, attributable to factors such as proximity, cost-effectiveness, and cultural connection (Lebrun et al., 2021), is a salient reason for this. Moreover, the diverse social, economic, and cultural backgrounds of domestic tourists enable the comprehensive identification of factors that influence the tourist experience (Wendt et al., 2022). This, in turn, provides relevant empirical data to support national policies aimed at enhancing the attractiveness of coastal destinations and strengthening tourism as a pivotal economic sector.

The extant literature suggests that place attachment not only increases traveler satisfaction and loyalty but also fosters stronger identification with the destination, thereby contributing to sustainable development. This concept is applicable to a number of disciplines, including sociology, psychology, and geography. This makes it important to understand how tourists behave, including how likely they are to revisit the same destination (Sop & Kervankiran, 2023; Zhang et al., 2021). The decision of travelers to return to a place is indicative of an increased appreciation of its grandeur and the variety of factors that influence those plans (Leou & Wang, 2023). In the meantime, according to Karakuş (2023), travelers base future decisions on their past experiences. Additionally, travelers who derive pleasure from their experiences are more likely to consider revisiting the same destinations in the future (Raja et al., 2023). Therefore, it is crucial for destination management organizations (DMOs) to gain a comprehensive understanding of the factors that influence tourists' decisions to return to a particular destination. As elucidated by Back et al. (2020), this desire reflects tourists' aspiration to derive enjoyment from their experience and indicates that they are gratified and content with the offerings of the destination. These results are consistent with those of Chen et al. (2021), which indicate that a destination where tourists have had a particularly positive travel experience is more likely to be visited again.

Prior research has addressed the positive impact of place attachment on revisit intention. For instance, Jin et al. (2020) investigated the impact of place attachment on revisit intention in Guilin, China, while Ispas et al. (2021) investigated the same phenomenon in the Black Sea Coastal region. Similarly, Dada et al. (2021) explored the connection between place attachment and revisit intention, which was investigated in Lagos, Nigeria, situated along the Atlantic Ocean. However, most of these studies examine place attachment as a single concept without separating it into two distinct variables, namely place dependence and place identity (Baah et al., 2024; Zhang et al., 2024). Therefore, this study addresses a gap in the current literature by examining place attachment separately as place dependence and place identity and examining their impact on revisit intention in beach destinations. In addition, earlier studies predominantly examined visitor behavior in urban or non-coastal settings. Hence, this study contributes to the existing literature by providing a new perspective on topics with distinctive cultural and natural characteristics. Furthermore, the study examines the role of positive emotional experiences as a mediating factor in this relationship, a topic that has not been sufficiently explored in existing research, as these experiences have been shown to increase tourists' overall satisfaction and build their emotional connection to a destination, thereby fostering loyalty and influencing revisit intention, it is important to study positive emotional experiences. Doing so helps bridge place attachment by revealing how place dependence and place identity influence actionable behaviors, such as the decision to revisit.

The aim of this study is to examine the nexus between place dependence, place identity, positive emotional experiences, and revisit intention for beach destinations. Furthermore, the study explores the influence of place dependence and place identity on revisit intention, with positive emotional experiences serving as a mediation variable

in this relationship. This study employs the framework of place attachment theory. The theory of place attachment (PAT) holds that an individual's emotional link with a certain area may be characterized (Gao et al., (2022).

This study makes a significant contribution to the existing body of knowledge regarding the motivations of domestic tourists to return to beach destinations. It does so by exploring place attachment using its dimensionality namely place dependence and place identity in shaping positive emotional experiences and revisit intention, a topic that has been largely overlooked in the context of beach tourism. This study offers novel insights into tourists' mobility and decision-making by integrating place dependence—defined as the extent to which tourists rely on a specific location to satisfy their needs and expectations—and place identity, which refers to the emotional attachment and sense of belonging to a particular location. A partial least squares structural equation model was utilized to assess the proposed model, which is a reliable approach for elucidating intricate relationships between variables. From a managerial perspective, these findings offer strategic insights for destination managers. Understanding the importance of emotional factors in travelers' decision to return can help in designing more effective strategies. For example, managers can strengthen place identity through local community engagement, cultural promotion, and creation of authentic experiences that reflect destination's uniqueness. In addition, marketing campaigns can emphasize emotional and personal aspects, such as featuring stories of previous travelers' experiences or highlighting cultural elements that evoke a sense of belonging.

The following section of the study is dedicated to an in-depth examination of the methodology employed, findings obtained, and analytical techniques utilized. Furthermore, it examines the implications, limitations, and potential for future research, including the examination of varied tourist demographics and the incorporation of social and cultural variables.

## **2. Literature Review and Hypotheses Development**

### **2.1 Place Attachment Theory**

The concept of place attachment proposed that people's behavioral inclination in a particular physical setting is profoundly shaped by their emotional bond with that place (Inalhan et al., 2021). This attachment is correlated with a sense of identity and belonging to a specific location and with a feeling of social connectedness that is formed through interactions within that place (Wang et al., 2021). According to Dang and Weiss, (2021), in tourism, the place attachment theory highlights the significance of emotional attachment to a particular place as a key factor influencing tourists' intention to return. Hospitality and tourism experts frequently emphasize the significance of this attachment in motivating repeat visits. Singh et al. (2023) identified two main types of place attachment such as place dependence and place identity. Place dependence refers to the extent to which a place enables an individual to achieve their objectives and engage in activities. On the other hand, place identity develops over time, leading to a stronger connection and a sense of belonging to the place (Boley et al., 2021). The interconnection of these two aspects gives rise to a profound attachment, which in turn motivates the intention to return to the place.

Furthermore, these poignant moments and profound attachments evoke sentimental emotions and a strong desire to encourage others to visit such locations (Cho, 2021). This relationship has been further explored in several studies that apply place attachment theory. For example, Luong (2023) researched on eco-destinations in Da Lat City, while Wohl and Blit Cohen (2024) examined how individuals residing in a Jerusalem neighborhood undergoing a demographic transition perceived their place and sense of community. Existing research has consistently applied place attachment theory to investigate how place dependence and place identity influence positive emotional experiences and intentions to revisit.

### **2.2 Place Dependence and Place Identity**

The topic of attachment to place has been extensively examined in tourism studies as a social science field. This analysis has concentrated on the function of place attachment in developing a unique destination image, promoting visitor engagement, and reinforcing destination loyalty (Liu et al., 2020). The results of previous research suggest that attachment plays an important role in influencing behavioral intentions. Guo et al. (2022) found such intentions are often categorized as pre- and post-visit. It is important to consider these intentions when attempting to forecast tourists' prospective destination choices along with their planned future activities (Afshardoost & Daravi, 2020). As of now, a considerable proportion of behavioral intention research is concerned with examining the relatedness between visitor attachment and post-visit intentions, such as the desire to return (Zhou et al., 2023). Previous research has demonstrated that attachment to place exerts a positive impact on post-visit behavioral intentions, including the desire to return (Isa et al., 2019). The dimensions of place attachment have been repeatedly validated by both theoretical and empirical research in recent years (Hosany et al., 2019). Thus, understanding attachment and its dimensions can provide valuable insights in evaluating tourists' behavioral intentions after a visit.

According to Alrobaee and Al-Kinani (2019), place dependence is defined as the strength of an individual's emotional attachment to a specific location. This attachment is formed by the perception of an area's uniqueness and preference over other potential locations. Furthermore, place dependency is determined by the depth to which a place

is perceived to meet the needs and goals of visitors, as well as how it is perceived in terms of location, engagement, distinctiveness, and other functional dependencies (Dwyer et al., 2019).

Place identity refers to a variety of deep meanings, experiences, and connections that can help shape the sense of place that endures (Pohlmann et al., 2023). The concept of place identity has been employed in academic literature since the late 1970s (Isa et al., 2022). Strandberg and Ek Styvén (2021) posit that the concept of place identity can be approached from two distinct perspectives. The first is the object identity perspective, which considers places as locations imbued with diverse content. The second is the subject identity perspective, which examines how social and personal identity perspectives are reflected in the descriptions of place images.

### 2.3 Positive Emotional Experiences

A traveler's emotional attachment to the destinations that they visit is a significant factor influencing their motivation, assessment, and behavioral intentions following their stay (Pestana et al., 2020). Extensive research has explored the causes and effects of emotional tourism experiences on tourists' psychological states and behaviors (Kim et al., 2021). For instance, a series of studies by Godovykh and Tasci (2021) showed that various emotional cues presented after a visit can influence several aspects of destination loyalty, such as tourists' intention to revisit, willingness to recommend the destination to others, willingness to pay higher prices, and overall satisfaction with the destination. Furthermore, as seen in the context of red tourism (Wang et al., 2023), previous research has also found that positive emotional experiences significantly influence tourists' behavioral intentions (Nazarian et al., 2024; Sari & Burhanudin, 2023).

### 2.4 Revisit Intention

The concept of revisit intention, which originated from the idea of intention to repurchase (Agnihotri et al., 2022), was first introduced in the field of tourism in 1989 (Chen et al., 2022). It refers to an individual's behavior that is influenced by expectations within a specific context (Wardi & Trinanda, 2022). This concept signifies a strong commitment to returning to a particular place, despite environmental factors or marketing efforts that might encourage a change in destination. The intention to return to a location is driven by positive feelings toward it (Hasan & Rahman, 2023). According to Çevik (2020), it was found that retaining existing customers is a more cost-effective strategy than attracting new ones. In the context of tourism, the strategy of attracting returning tourists has proven to be very effective. The intention of tourists to return to a destination is important, as it can provide significant economic benefits to tourist destinations by fostering positive feelings and emotional attachment to the destination (Zhang et al., 2020). Additionally, the probability of tourists returning to a destination is often considered an important element in measuring the success of a destination (Mai et al., 2019).

### 2.5 Place Dependence, Place Identity, Revisit Intention

Place dependence is described as a physical and behavioral attachment to a particular place, whereas place identification is stated as ideas and symbolic meanings unique to a place (Ganji et al., 2021). According to Aleshinloye and Joo (2024), people and place bonding highlights how people relate to their surroundings. The growth of tourism significantly affects a region's physical attributes, cultural significance, and social interactions. Zhan et al. (2020) identified two-dimensional constructs of place attachment, encompassing place dependence and place identity. It is widely acknowledged that the management of tourist destinations has a responsibility to maintain visitor loyalty and retain tourists (Damanik & Yusuf, 2022; Li et al., 2023). Previous studies by Palacios-Florencio et al. (2021) and Rasoolimanesh et al. (2021) have demonstrated that the desire of tourists to visit or return to a destination must be evaluated and modified in light of the necessity to facilitate the destination's sustainable growth.

Participating in local recreational activities develops a sense of belonging by enhancing individuals' connections to the location and its community, which molds self-identity and supports personal growth to integrate with the environment (Liu et al., 2016). Empirical research has demonstrated that the role of place identity and place dependence in shaping visitor behavior may vary. There is a lack of research examining the aspects of place dependence and identity in isolation (Liu et al., 2023). Therefore, it indicates the necessity for further investigation into the isolation of these aspects. In their study, Tasci et al. (2022) examined the impact of place attachment on destination loyalty in Antalya, Turkey. Their findings indicated that place identity exerted a more significant influence on past loyalty, whereas place dependence emerged as a more pronounced factor in shaping future loyalty. This phenomenon can be rationalized by considering the concept of place identity, which reflects an individual's comprehensive connection to a specific location. By contrast, place dependence is more closely associated with future intentions and activities within a particular locale.

Individuals who develop a strong connection with a particular destination are more likely to return to that destination to reinforce their attachment. This increased connection often leads to a higher inclination to revisit or choose a destination as a tourist spot (Qu et al., 2021). According to Souza et al. (2020), people develop a stronger sense of place identification when they feel that a place allows them greater freedom to express themselves. Numerous studies have examined how place identity and location reliance affect the intention to return in a range of situations. For instance, Islamiyati and Chairy (2021) investigated revisit intention to Malioboro, while Kamenidou and Stavrianea

(2022) examined revisit intention in the context of a tourist monastery. Furthermore, Luo et al. (2021) explored the intention to revisit Macau from the perspective of its customers. Consequently, it can be inferred that tourists visit a place more frequently if they have a greater attachment to it (Song et al., 2017). Therefore, this study investigates the influence of place dependence and place identity on tourists' intention to revisit beach destinations. Based on previous findings, we propose the following hypotheses:

**H1:** Place Dependence has a positive and significant impact on Revisit Intention

**H2:** Place Identity has a positive and significant impact on Revisit Intention

## 2.6 Place Dependence, Place Identity, Positive Emotional Experience

The positive perceptions of a destination held by visitors have been demonstrated to enhance their overall experience (Suntikul et al., 2020; Widjaja et al., 2020). One factor that influences this perception is place dependence, which refers to the need for a particular location for factors such as comfort, community, security, and economy (Kuryk et al., 2023). This dependency reflects the capacity of a place to facilitate visitors' desired activities (Ispas et al., 2021), and is established when the place successfully fulfills the needs of its residents (Prayitno et al., 2021). Moreover, the concept of place identity, which is intrinsic to the formation of self-identity, is also of significant importance. The formation of this identity is contingent upon the individual's daily experiences with their surrounding environment. These experiences serve to cultivate an emotional bond and imbue a sense of purpose and belonging to a particular place (Dlamini et al., 2021; Jiang, 2020).

According to Nyamekye et al. (2023), place attachment is a concept that can be understood as an aspect of human emotionality. The experience of positive emotions facilitates the development of a sense of affinity towards a particular location. It constitutes an essential element of place attachment, along with place dependence and social ties. Maricchiolo et al. (2021) empirically demonstrated that place identity is positively correlated with individual and interdependent happiness. It is reasonable to hypothesize that place dependence and identity have a significant impact on positive emotional experiences. The presence of both functional satisfaction and profound emotional resonance contributes to the heightened emotional response observed in individuals who feel a strong connection with a particular destination. The experience becomes particularly positive and memorable when the needs of travelers are met and the destination becomes an integral part of their personal identity. Therefore, this study aims to examine the impact of place dependence and place identity on positive emotional experiences:

**H3:** Place Dependence has a positive and significant impact on Positive Emotional Experience

**H4:** Place Identity has a positive and significant impact on Positive Emotional Experience

## 2.7 Positive Emotional Experiences on Revisit Intention

Positive emotional experiences are typically associated with positive valence and arousal, resulting in increased engagement and motivation (Segaran et al., 2021). Such experiences are shown to be highly influential on the intention to revisit a destination. Individuals with positive experiences have a greater probability of returning, as evidenced by several studies that have shown that lasting and memorable experiences strongly influence revisit intention (Sari & Burhanudin, 2023). Furthermore, research indicates that emotions are essential in creating memorable experiences and affect satisfaction, destination attachment, and loyalty (Nazarian et al., 2024).

Tourism experiences encompass all facets of a traveler's journey, including interactions, psychological states, emotions, impressions, and services encountered at a destination. Thus, the tourism experience is not limited to physical aspects alone; it also includes psychological, emotional, and spiritual elements that can significantly influence the intention to revisit (Ratih & Noer, 2024). This is consistent with Hussain and Omar's (2016) finding that interactions with the surroundings, staff, and other visitors shape the visitor experience. The traveler's willingness to return and the experience's overall rating is determined by these encounters.

In essence, the positive emotional experiences a traveler encounters during a visit can profoundly influence their desire to return to a destination. These experiences, when deeply felt, engender a strong and memorable impression of the destination, fostering a sense of emotional attachment, enhancing satisfaction, and cultivating loyalty. Consequently, travelers are more inclined to seek out and repeat enjoyable experiences. Moreover, research indicates that pleasant experiences can also impact the perceived value of a destination, thereby reinforcing their intentions to return. Consequently, the greater the number of positive emotional experiences, the more pronounced the traveler's desire to revisit the destination. Therefore, we propose the following hypotheses:

**H5:** Positive Emotional Experience has a positive and significant impact on Revisit Intention

## 2.8 The Mediating Role of Positive Emotional Experience on Place Dependence, Place Identity, and Revisit Intention

There has been growing interest in the connection between feeling connected to a place and positive feelings (Io, 2018). Yan and Halpenny, (2022) discussed that place attachment may increase positive emotional experiences through a deeper connection to the place, thereby encouraging tourists to enjoy their emotions, which ultimately leads to sustained enjoyment and a richer journey experience. Positive emotional experiences in tourism, such as feelings of joy, love, and positive amazement (Tiwari et al., 2023), have been demonstrated to significantly contribute to tourist

satisfaction, revisit intention, and recommendation intention (Riptiono et al., 2023). The emotional experiences of tourists are similarly affected by the emotional labor of the local population. When residents engage in sincere deep acting, it has been shown to create positive experiences for tourists, enhancing their place attachment to the destination (Shi et al., 2021). Moreover, a positive evaluation of the experience during and after the trip strengthens their attachment to the place and leads to satisfaction and a higher probability of revisit intention (Tili & Amara, 2016). Several studies have used the mediating effect of pleasant feelings and memories created to explain how positive experiences affect the likelihood of returning to a particular place (Tsai, 2016), including in the context of cultural heritage tourism (Ramadan & Ahmed, 2023; Richards, 2018). In conclusion, travel experiences are a key factor in determining the willingness of tourists to return to their destination (Delvi & Saroyini, 2023).

Place identity is a part of self-identification and consists of daily and cognitive encounters with the surroundings that serve as a mediator between attachment and a place. These feelings and experiences contribute to symbolic place attachment, which gives meaning to life and helps people define their relationships and sense of belonging. Positive emotional experiences play a crucial role in affective commitment, which involves emotional attachment to a group or place and is one of the three forms of place identity (Dlamini et al., 2021). These experiences have a significant implication for the travelers' cultural identity and behaviors, for instance in the conservation of heritage (Yang et al., 2023), and mediate the relationship between place identity (Wang et al., 2022). Following an assessment of the relevant literature, the following hypotheses are offered:

**H6:** Positive Emotional Experience positively and significantly mediates the effect of Place Dependence and Revisit Intention

**H7:** Positive Emotional Experience positively and significantly mediates the effect of Place Identity and Revisit Intention

The literature review informed the development of a hypothetical model (Figure 1) and research hypotheses.

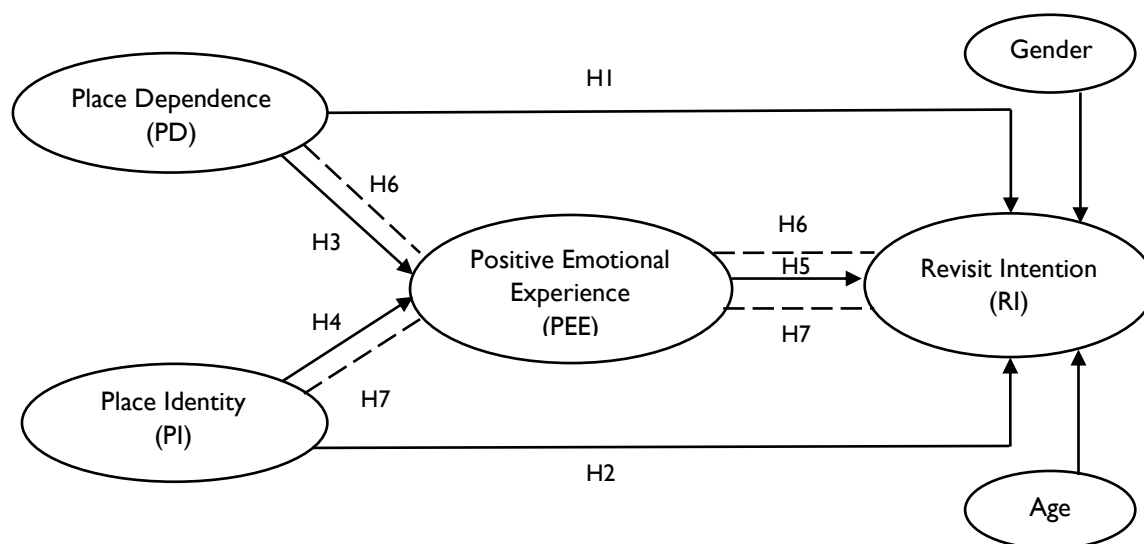


Figure 1. Hypothetical Model

### 3. Method

#### 3.1. Overview of Research Environment

Beach destinations in Bali, Indonesia, were chosen as the suitable research environment for our study. Indonesia is home to numerous noteworthy tourist attractions, with Bali as a prime example. Bali's appealing natural beauty is a major tourist attraction (Listiani et al., 2024). Renowned for its distinct identity, Bali has earned global recognition as a premier tourist destination (Purwanto et al., 2022). Bali has retained its status as a popular tourist destination due to its capacity to continually captivate visitors with magnificent scenery, notably its beaches, which are renowned for their mesmerizing sunsets, recreational options, and rich cultural attractions. One of the most appealing aspects of a visit to Bali is the opportunity to unwind from the beach (Indonesia Travel, 2023). Bali plays a pivotal role in Indonesia's tourism and economy, by attracting visitors from both domestic and international markets (Sugita & Wisnawa, 2021).

According to the Bali Provincial Tourism Office, domestic tourist arrival data to Bali in 2024 show a total of 9,179,649 tourists by the end of the year, with the month with the highest number of visits being April, with 1,124,781 tourists, reflecting the popularity of Bali as a tourist destination during that period. In addition, June and July also showed

a high number of visits, with 898,335 and 926,975 tourists, respectively, indicating an increase in tourist interest during the mid-year holiday season; however, the number of domestic tourist arrivals in 2024 decreased by 7.07% compared to 2023, which recorded a total of 9,877,911 domestic tourist visits (Dinas Pariwisata Provinsi Bali, 2025). In contrast, destination managers are attempting to cultivate long-term loyalty among passengers by enhancing their overall experience (Mallick et al., 2022).

Some of Bali's beaches, including Nusa Dua, Sanur, Kuta, and Tanah Lot, are popular tourist destinations, and the southern part of the island has a thriving tourism sector. In addition, the Balinese Hindu community places high priority on beaches (Putro & Lee, 2020). According to Suadnyana (2024), Nusa Dua Beach, under the administration of the Indonesia Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), is a distinguished destination characterized by its pristine sandy shores and family beaches, including Samuh, Geger, and Mengiat. In contrast, Kuta Beach offers a blend of serene beach days, exhilarating surf, and vibrant nightlife, making it a highly recommended destination. For those seeking tranquility and sunrises of exceptional beauty, Sanur Beach provides a serene retreat with convenient access to the idyllic islands of Nusa Penida and Nusa Lembongan. Meanwhile, Tanah Lot Beach is distinguished by its spiritual charm, featuring the iconic Tanah Lot Temple and stunning sunset views that attract visitors from around the world.

### 3.2 Data Collection and Questionnaire Design

A quantitative approach using PLS-SEM was employed in this study. The purpose of this research is to investigate the relationships between place dependence (PD) and place identity (PI) as independent variables, positive emotional experiences (PE) as a mediating variable, and revisit intention (RI) as a dependent variable. Age and gender were used as the control variables. This study's respondents were domestic tourists who had visited Bali's beaches. Data were collected using purposive sampling, which is an excellent way to select a sample based on specific aspects connected to the study aims. In this study, participants were selected based on the following criteria: (1) domestic tourists who had visited Bali's beaches at least once in the past three years, (2) individuals aged 18 years or older, and (3) all genders were eligible to participate. In this process, the data were obtained by distributing online questionnaires via Google Forms. Subsequently, the author distributed the questionnaire link through social media to the participants who met the inclusion criteria. This enables researchers to gather information that is more specific and relevant to the research objectives (Bougie & Sekaran, 2019).

Furthermore, the number of indicators was multiplied by five or ten to determine the minimum representative sample size (Hair et al., 2022). This yielded a representative sample of 314 respondents. This study includes 27 indicators. Each measurement was made using a five-point Likert scale (1 being strongly disagree and 5 being highly agree), with each construct being taken from previous research and considerably altered for this particular study. The items measuring place dependence (12 items) and the place identity (6 items) were adopted from Dada et al. (2021). The scales for positive emotional experiences (5 items) were adopted from Huang et al. (2023). The four-item revisit intention construct was adapted from Kusumawati et al. (2023). The last section looked at the sample's socio-demographic and travel characteristics (gender, age, educational background, occupation, frequency of travel, and the purpose of travel). PLS-SEM was performed using SmartPLS4 (Ringle et al., 2024). The PLS-SEM approach was the optimal choice for this investigation due to its suitability for models with (multiple constructs and indicators) and larger samples (Hair et al., 2022). In line with the guidelines provided by Hair et al. (2023), a one-tailed test was conducted.

Table 1. Definition and Measurement

Variable	Operational Definition	Variable Measurement	Source
<b>Place Dependence</b>	The connotations people associate with beaches based on their experiences	PD1: The beach is more crucial for what I do than anywhere else PD2: The beach makes me tell people about the things that happen here PD3: The beach is the ideal place for what I enjoy doing PD4: The beach contributes to a strong sense of belonging to its facilities PD5: The beach makes me have a special connection with the people here PD6: The beach fulfills my needs better than other places	(Dada et al., 2021)

Variable	Operational Definition	Variable Measurement	Source
		PD7: I love the way this beach facility is organized PD8: I have an emotional bond with the beach PD9: The beach seems to be an integral part of who I am PD10: This beach is a big part of why I feel at home. PD11: For me, this beach is incredibly special PD12: I find that going to this beach gives me more happiness than going somewhere else	
<b>Place Identity</b>	The importance of a place in making people feel and connect with each other in a way that gives meaning and purpose to their lives	PI1: I discovered a lot about myself while I spent the day at the beach  PI2: I considered visiting the beach a lot PI3: I associate closely with the beach PI4: I always feel at ease on this beach PI5: The sensation of playing with beach sand is pleasant PI6: I miss the activities of the beach when I am away from it for too long a time	(Dada et al., 2021)
<b>Positive Emotional Experiences</b>	It boosts people's mood and energy, increasing their interest and motivation in their activities	PEE1: The beach makes me feel happy  PEE2: The beach makes me feel relaxed PEE3: The beach makes me feel cheerful PEE4: The beach makes me feel good PEE5: The beach makes me feel a sense of familiarity	(Huang et al., 2023)
<b>Revisit Intention</b>	A person's intention to return to a visited destination in the future because the destination managed to provide an unforgettable experience	RI1: I intend to visit the beach again  RI2: I am willing to visit the beach again RI3: I will try to revisit the beach RI4: I am willing to spend time to visit the beach again	(Kusumawati et al., 2023)



## 4. Result and Discussion

### 4.1. Respondent's Characteristics

The 314 respondents were categorized into six categories based on their gender, age, occupation, education, frequency of visits, and purpose of travel. As illustrated in Table 1, the 314 respondents included 132 males (42.04%) and 182 females (57.96%). The data demonstrate a preponderance of female respondents in the gender classification. The majority of respondents, comprising 184 individuals (58.60%), were between the ages of 18 and 25. Concerning occupational status, the largest percentage of respondents were students, with 157 respondents (50.00%) identifying themselves as such. This suggests that the majority of participants are likely to be young adults who are still engaged in higher education. In regard to the respondents' educational background, 124 (39.49%) had completed senior high school, making it the most represented category. Furthermore, most of the respondents 154 (49.04%) had visited the beach on two or three occasions. Lastly, the primary purpose of their travel is for vacation, with 218 (69.43%) of respondents indicating this as their main reason.

Table 2. Respondents' Characteristics

Characteristics	Classification	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	132	42.04%
	Female	182	57.96%
Age	18 – 25	184	58.60%
	26 – 35	70	22.29%
	36 – 45	49	15.61%
	46 – 55	8	2.55%
	>55	3	0.96%
Occupation	Students	157	50.00%
	Private Employees	62	19.75%
	Entrepreneur	26	8.28%
	Civil Servant	31	9.87%
	Others	38	12.10%
Education	Senior High School	124	39.49%
	Diploma Degree	44	14.01%
	Bachelor Degree	110	35.03%
	Master Degree	22	7.01%
	Others	14	4.46%
Frequency of Visits	1	84	26.75%
	2 – 3	154	49.04%
	>3	76	24.20%
Purpose of Travel	Vacation	218	69.43%
	Business Travel	34	10.83%
	Adventure	21	6.69%
	Relaxation	41	13.06%

### 4.2. Construct Validity and Common Method Bias Assessment

As posited in Bougie and Sekaran (2019), the process of validating the outer model entails an examination of the data's validity and dependability. Table 3 indicates that the data indicators are valid and show a strong correlation (Hair et al., 2022). Furthermore, the Cronbach's alpha and composite reliability values in Table 3 exceed the 0.6 and 0.7 thresholds, respectively, indicating that the data are deemed reliable and consistent in measuring the variables.

In addition, this research uses the variance inflation factor (VIF) to assess indicator-formative collinearity. A VIF value of 3.3 or above is indicative of pathological collinearity among indicators of a formatively measured construct (Kock, 2015). The VIF value for the variables place dependence and place identity with positive emotional experiences was 2.334. Furthermore, the VIF values for age, gender, and positive emotional experience in relation to revisit intention were 1.028, 1.022, and 1.007, respectively. Based on the VIF values being less than 3.3, the analysis concluded that no collinearity issues existed.

Table 3. Convergent validity and Internal Consistency

Construct	Item Code	Outer Loading	Cronbach's alpha	AVE
Place Dependence (PD)	PD1	0.691	0.862	0.508
	PD2	0.679		
	PD4	0.711		
	PD7	0.725		
	PD8	0.73		
	PD9	0.713		
	PD10	0.745		
	PD11	0.705		
Place Identity (PI)	PI1	0.722	0.808	0.509
	PI2	0.732		
	PI3	0.699		
	PI4	0.74		
	PI5	0.688		
	PI6	0.699		
Positive Emotional Experiences (PEE)	PEE1	0.771	0.836	0.604
	PEE2	0.775		
	PEE3	0.745		
	PEE4	0.818		
	PEE5	0.775		
Revisit Intention (RI)	RI1	0.791	0.835	0.668
	RI2	0.831		
	RI3	0.842		
	RI4	0.806		

#### 4.3 Discriminant Validity

The level of significance at which a construct under study is not significantly associated with other constructs is referred to as discriminant validity (Bougie & Sekaran, 2019). The heterotrait-monotrait ratio (HTMT) is employed to determine the level of discriminant validity; values less than 0.90 indicate an ideal level of discriminant validity (Hair et al., 2022). All of the HTMT values in Table 4 have values less than 0.90, indicating valid and uncorrelated constructs (Hair et al., 2022).

Table 4. Results of the Heterotrait-Monotrait Ratio Statistics, Which Assess the Discriminant Validity of the Variables.

	PD	PEE	PI	RI
PD				
PEE	0.724			
PI	0.896	0.855		
RI	0.610	0.819	0.771	

#### 4.4 Structural Model Assessment: Hypotheses Testing

The inner model needs to be measured after the outside model assessment is completed to ensure that it satisfies the requirements. As described by Hair et al. (2019), inner model measurement is the assessment of structural measurements, with the objective of determining the importance of predicting correlations between variables or constructs. In this stage, the SmartPLS 4 bootstrapping technique is employed to validate the present hypotheses, as it produces path coefficients and t-values. A t-value greater than 1.645 on a one-tailed test indicates a significant association between the constructs (Hair et al., 2023). The findings of the hypotheses testing are displayed in Table 5. The t-values for hypotheses 1 to 7 were as follows 3.051, 7.091, 3.212, 9.074, 14.497, 3.051, and 7.091, respectively. These values

are above 1.645, indicating that the proposed hypotheses are accepted. Meanwhile, the effect of age and gender as control variables has t-values less than 1.645, indicating that the control variables are not significant in our model.

Table 5. Summary of the Results of Hypotheses Testing

Hypotheses	Path	Std. Beta	Std. Error	t- values	Bias	Confidence Interval		Decision
						5.00%	95.00%	
H1	PD → RI	0.142	0.047	3.051	0.000	0.068	0.221	Supported
H2	PI → RI	0.385	0.054	7.091	0.002	0.293	0.472	Supported
H3	PD → PEE	0.207	0.064	3.212	-0.000	0.101	0.310	Supported
H4	PI → PEE	0.559	0.062	9.074	0.002	0.450	0.655	Supported
H5	PEE → RI	0.689	0.048	14.497	0.002	0.450	0.655	Supported
H6	PD → PEE → RI	0.142	0.047	3.051	0.000	0.068	0.221	Supported
H7	PI → PEE → RI	0.385	0.054	7.091	0.002	0.293	0.472	Supported
Control Variables	Age → RI	-0.014	0.036	0.377	-0.002	-0.072	0.047	Not Supported
	Gender → RI	0.055	0.086	0.638	-0.000	-0.091	0.191	Not Supported

Note: PD (Place Dependence), PI (Place Identity), PEE (Positive Emotional Experience), RI (Revisit Intention)

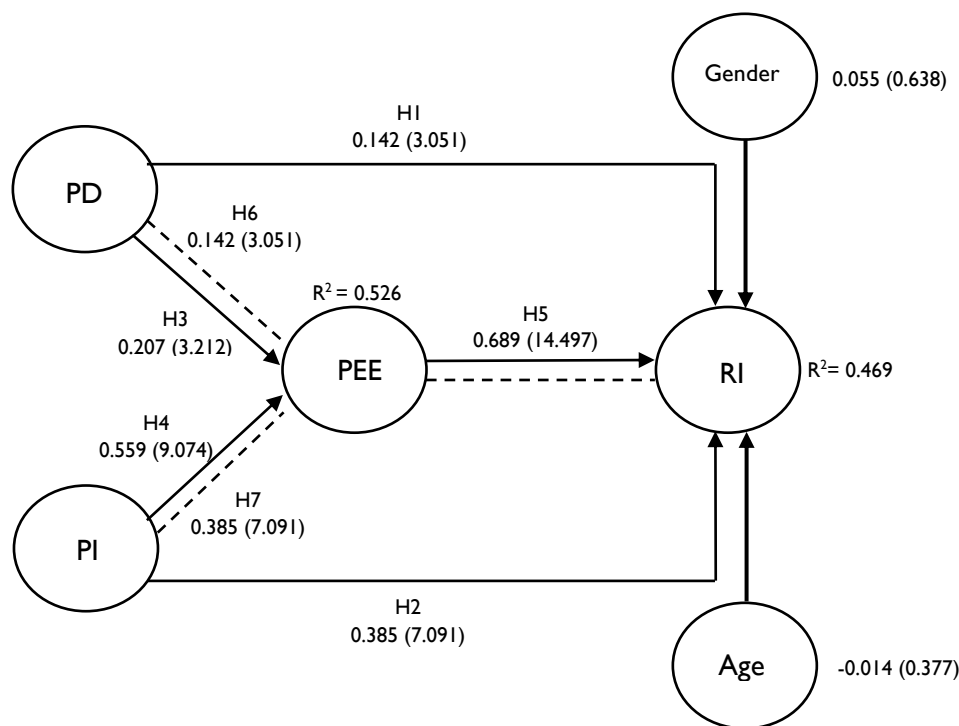


Figure 2. Structural Model Assessment Results

#### 4.5 Coefficient of Determination ( $R^2$ Value)

The inner model is evaluated by the  $R^2$  value of the exogenous constructs and their influence on the endogenous constructs. Hair et al. (2022) proposed that  $R^2$  values between 0.25, 0.50, and 0.75 are indicative of weak, medium, or strong classification of models, respectively. The adjusted R-squared value obtained indicates the extent to which the model explains the variability in the variable under study. The adjusted  $R^2$  value of 0.526 for PEE suggests that the model is capable of explaining 52.6% of the variability in PEE, which falls within the moderate category. Meanwhile, the adjusted value of  $R^2$  for RI is 0.469, implying that the model was able to explain 46.9% of the variability in RI, which also falls into the moderate category. Following the criteria established by Hair et al. (2022), these two values suggest that the model provides a moderate degree of explanation for the observed variability in the two variables.

#### 4.6 Effect Size ( $f^2$ Value)

According to Hair et al. (2022), an exogenous construct has a small, medium, or large influence on the endogenous construct if its  $f^2$  values are 0.02, 0.15, and 0.35, respectively. The analysis results show that the effect sizes vary among the relationships between the variables. The effect size of place dependence and positive emotional experiences were 0.039, which means that the influence of place dependence on positive emotional experiences was small. In contrast, the effect size between place identity and positive emotional experience was 0.284, indicating a moderate but significant influence of place identity on positive emotional experience. Additionally, the size of the effect for the relationship between revisit intention and age, gender, and positive emotional experience were 0.000, 0.001, and 0.896, respectively. This indicates that age and gender have a very small influence, while positive emotional experience has a very large influence on return visit intention.

#### 4.7 The Results of Importance – Performance Analysis (IPMA)

Based on Ringle and Sarstedt (2016), construct predictability was gauged using IPMA to ascertain how one construct influences another. This highlights the significance of the IPMA in pinpointing areas that require enhancement. The IPMA results indicate that the dependent variable of revisit intention is most strongly predicted by positive emotional experience (0.689), followed by place identity (0.385), place dependence (0.142), age (-0.014), and gender (0.055). This means that the importance-performance map (IPMA) indicates that the variables of age and gender are of minimal importance and performance. In contrast, the variables associated with place dependence (PD) are of medium importance and demonstrate relatively high performance, indicating that although these variables contribute to the outcome, they are not the most significant factors. In conclusion, the variables of positive emotional experience (PEE) and place identity (PI) are of greater importance, exhibiting excellent importance and performance.

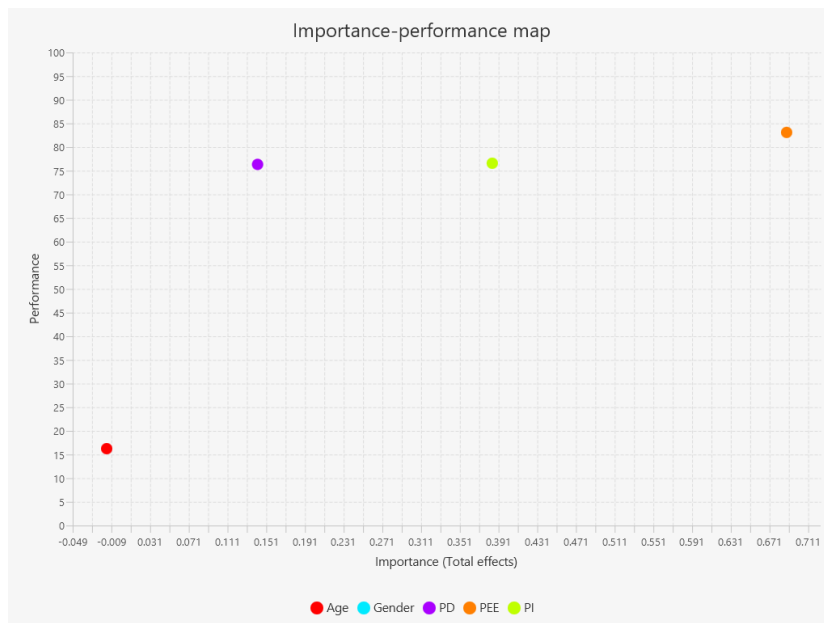


Figure 3. Importance-performance map (constructs)

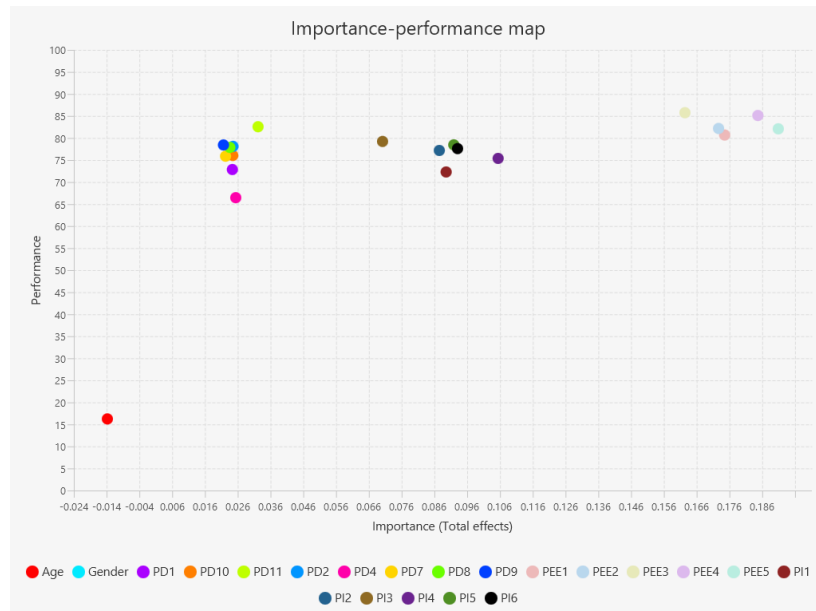


Figure 4. Importance-performance map (indicators)

## 4.8 Discussion

The researchers employed place attachment—conceptualized as comprising two distinct aspects: dependence and identity (Singh et al., 2023)—to investigate the influence of these on intentions to revisit beach destinations. For a deeper understanding, the researchers examined place dependence and place identity separately. The influence of revisit intention among domestic tourists is the focus of this study. The research is based on place attachment theory, which states that attachment is an important factor connected with revisit intention.

The research findings show that place dependence has a positive and significant direct effect on revisit intention (hypotheses 1), and place identity has a positive and significant direct effect on revisit intention (hypothesis 2) for beach tourist destinations. Thus, it can be concluded that the level of place dependence and place identity influence the intention to return domestic tourists. The findings further suggested that the greater tourists' dependence on these beaches and the stronger their identity associated with these places, the greater their intention to revisit. The results of this study support the findings of earlier studies that have shown a relationship between place dependence, place identity, and revisit intention (Islamiyati & Chairy, 2021; Kamenidou & Stavrianea, 2022; Luo et al., 2021). Specifically, place dependence is the degree of importance tourists place on beaches to satisfy their needs or preferences. On the other hand, place identity represents the extent to which tourists associate their identity with these places (Ispas et al., 2021). In conclusion, an awareness of the concepts of place dependence and place identity is of considerable value in promoting tourist visits to beaches.

The fundamental objective of leisure travel is to acquire experiences and emotions. Upon returning home, memories and sentiments are essentially stored in the memory of the individual (Serra-Cantallops et al., 2018). It's important for businesses to understand that experience is one of the best ways of reaching and maintaining customers. For this reason, businesses use this strategy to give their customers a positive experience with their brand (Akin & Gürbüz, 2024). In addition, the results show that place dependence has a positive and significant influence on positive emotional experiences (hypothesis 3), while place identity also has a positive and significant positive and significant influence on positive emotional experiences. Therefore, this research has supported hypothesis 4. These results are consistent with those of the previous research (Aleshinloye et al., 2020; Maricchiolo et al., 2021; Yan & Halpenny, 2022). This emotional bond makes tourists more likely to return. When a destination aligns with tourists' identity, cultural values, or meaningful experiences, they are more likely to desire a subsequent visit (Pohlmann et al., 2023).

On the other hand, positive emotional experiences were positively linked with revisit intention (hypothesis 5). These results align with earlier research demonstrating the impact of experiential bonds on plans to revisit (Nazarian et al., 2024; Sari & Burhanudin, 2023). For businesses, enhancing repeat customers' intentions to revisit is vital for profitability, as repeat business represents a substantial source of revenue (Scarpi et al., 2019). As a multifaceted notion, experience should be viewed from an integrated perspective that includes both the services rendered and the emotional bonds created throughout a destination tour (Santos et al., 2022). Suhartanto et al. (2020) state that a traveler's overall

satisfaction and willingness to return to a destination are significantly affected by the quality of their experience, namely the emotions it evokes.

In addition, positive emotional experiences were found to mediate positively and significantly between place dependence and revisit intention (hypothesis 6), and between place identity and revisit intention (hypothesis 7). It supports previous studies (Tlili & Amara, 2016; Tsai, 2016; Yan & Halpenny, 2022). Therefore, the positive emotional experience of tourists not only enhances their attachment to the place but also plays a mediating factor that bridges the influence of place dependence and place identity on Bali beach revisit intention. For instance, study by Richards (2018) and Ramadan and Ahmed, (2023) indicated that the authenticity of heritage has a favorable impact on the experience of tourists. When it comes to tourists' location attachment and intention to return, the experience then serves as a mediator. In other words, visitors who have an authentic experience at a cultural site are more likely to feel an emotional connection to the location, which in turn makes them more likely to return in the future.

## 5. Conclusion

### 5.1 Theoretical Implication

Seven hypotheses were proposed to investigate the direct and indirect correlations of place dependence, place identity, and positive emotional experiences to revisit intention. Furthermore, the role of positive emotional experiences as mediators of the relationship between place dependence and return visit intentions and between place identity and revisit intention will be investigated. The results found that place dependence and place identity directly impact positive emotional experiences and revisit intention. In addition, positive emotional experiences act as a mediator in the relationship. Moreover, there was no discernible impact of age or gender as controlling variables on the intention to revisit.

The study's findings highlight the theoretical contribution of the tourist industry by examining place attachment as a multidimensional concept consisting of two main elements, namely place dependence and place identity. The separation of the two variables highlights the unique role of each factor in shaping positive emotional experiences and revisit intentions. Thus, this study provides new insights for the study of tourism and tourist behavior by deepening the understanding of tourist attachment to destinations.

Emotional experiences play a key role in promoting traveler loyalty by acting as an intervening variable among place dependence, place identity, and revisit intention. These findings enhance our understanding of the psychological variables that shape traveler behavior and are consistent with previous studies linking place attachment to revisit intention (Kuryk et al., 2023; Maricchiolo et al., 2021; Nyamekye et al., 2023). According to the IPMA investigation, one of the key elements motivating a visitor to return to a place is a positive emotional experience.

### 5.2 Managerial Implication

A destination's ability to remain competitive and attract tourists depends on the quality of its experiences. A positive experience often fosters a favorable attitude toward the destination, including its products and services (Karim et al., 2023). We find that both place identity and place dependence are significant factors in influencing travelers' intentions to return. Place identity impacts emotional attachment, while place dependence strengthens functional and behavioral connections to the destination.

In particular, we find that the formation of place identity is also a crucial factor in increasing the frequency of visits. The interactions of beach visitors with the elements of the tourist destination can significantly influence their enjoyment and intention to revisit, as they typically dedicate the majority of their time to exploring the local culture, cuisine, and leisure activities (Cong, 2016; Sangpikul, 2018). In conclusion, to enhance place identity, the introduction of local seafood-based dishes from the local community will increase the emotional appeal for the visitors, allowing them to experience the unique culture embedded within the destination as well as the natural beauty of the beach. In order to capitalize on these insights, stakeholders should develop marketing plans that emphasize the emotional connections that travelers have with Bali's beaches. Furthermore, they should utilize personal narratives and cultural values to attract repeat business. Moreover, it would be prudent for destination managers to concentrate on developing and advertising experiences such as customized services and local cultural events that resonate with visitors on an emotional level.

To further enhance visitor propensity to return, it is also crucial to prioritize the intensification of place dependency. Augmenting place dependency by optimizing the functional attributes and comprehensive utility of the destination can reinforce the emotional connection and identity factors, culminating in a more comprehensive strategy to increase return visits (Ispas et al., 2021). Destination managers can develop experiences that are more closely aligned with tourists' needs and preferences such as snorkeling, surfing, and wellness tourism. The provision of well-maintained infrastructure, including shaded rest areas, walking paths, and convenient transportation, has been demonstrated to enhance accessibility and convenience, thereby increasing the desirability of a destination for visitors. In addition, the collaboration with local communities such as the making of beach handicrafts, is a strategy that gives tourists a memorable experience. This insight allows for the development of more effective promotional strategies and relevant tourism products, which can enhance tourists' emotional connection and satisfaction.

Consequently, this comprehension not only facilitates the attraction of new visitors but also encourages the development of brand loyalty, thereby promoting repeat visits to beaches. By integrating tourists' perspectives, feedback mechanisms can be constructed to enhance place identification and dependency. Providing hospitality training to locals will augment their capacity to contribute to the overall tourist experience, whereas including locals in tourism development will increase place identification and cultural preservation. Organizations should strive to establish enduring relationships with clients by offering exceptional experiences and high-quality service while collaborating with regional partners to develop travel offerings that authentically capture Bali's distinctive character.

### 5.3 Limitation and Future Research

This research was limited to variables such as place dependence and place identity as independent variables, revisit intention as a dependent variable, and positive emotional experiences as a mediating variable, which can also function as a dependent variable. Although the effects of age and gender have been previously demonstrated (Clark et al., 2024; Solarevi et al., 2023), other potential factors influencing revisit intentions have not been considered. Such factors may include socioeconomic status (Tegambwage, 2023), travel experience (Rasoolimanesh et al., 2022; Rather & Hollebeek, 2021), and personal preferences (Yang et al., 2022). Additionally, this study focuses on domestic tourists as respondents, thereby limiting the generalizability of its conclusions to travelers from other countries. The outcomes may vary owing to differences in cultural backgrounds, travel goals, and expectations among domestic and overseas tourists.

For future research, the study can expand its scope to include additional factors and more respondents or include alternative variables such as tourist perception of risk (Bhati et al., 2021; Wen et al., 2020), price perception (Cakici et al., 2019; Lai et al., 2020), and destination image (Zulfiqar et al., 2024) more appropriate to the existing dataset. Furthermore, the implementation of this study's framework in other coastal destinations exhibiting similar characteristics would facilitate the acquisition of invaluable cross-cultural insights and contribute to the enhancement of the robustness theoretical model. In light of the increasing prevalence of social media and digital marketing, future research endeavors should explore the impact of internet representations of places on emotional experiences and revisit intentions among travelers. In addition, by investigating how interactions with residents can impact overall tourist experiences and loyalty, future research should examine how local community engagement can strengthen visitors' emotional ties to destinations.

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### Author Contribution

Author 1: conceptualization, writing original draft, data curation, formal analysis, investigation, methodology. Author 2: review and editing, writing review and editing, supervision, validation, visualization.

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### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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