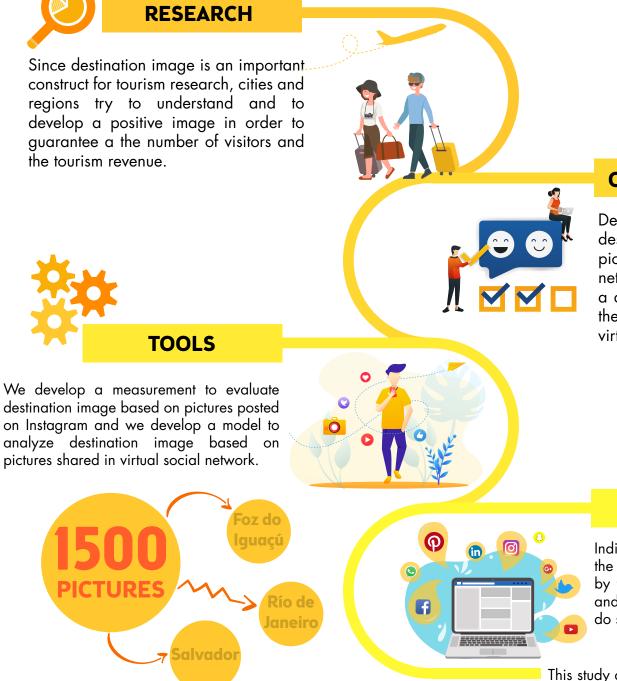


DESTINATION IMAGE IN VIRTUAL SOCIAL NETWORKS

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OBJECTIVE

Develop a model of evaluation of destination image through the use of pictures shared in virtual social networks. We propose that the image of a destination can be analyzed through the way tourists picture the destination in virtual social networks

RESULTS

Indicating that it is possible to determine the main characteristics of a destination by the pictures in virtual social networks and by providing a 5-dimension model to do so.

This study also contributes to practitioners and public policy in tourism by showing which characteristics of a destination image are more prominent to the destination image based on virtual social networks. .







