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Impacts of Socioeconomic Characteristics and Landscape Elements on Users' Preferences in Nigerian Tourist Centres

Olusola Makinde [1*] **, *Olubukunmi Makinde*** [2] **, *Isidore Ezeme*** [3] **, *Olabode Oludayo Akangbe*** [1]

[1] *Department of Architecture, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso 210214, Nigeria*

[2] *Department of Estate Management, Osun State University, Osogbo 230261, Nigeria*

[3] *Department of Architecture, Lagos State University, Ojo 102101, Nigeria*

ABSTRACT

There is a notable gap in empirical research focusing on the impacts of socioeconomic characteristics and quality of landscape elements (LEs) on users' preferences and experiences, particularly in Nigerian tourist centres. Six tourist hotels were carefully chosen, one from each state in South-West Nigeria. Accidental sampling method was used for questionnaire administration. Descriptive statistics techniques that comprised mean, frequency count, and relative importance index (RII) were used for analysis. The results of visitors' purpose of visitation to tourist centres indicated that 54.3% visited because of leisure, while education had 31.2% and adventure had 14.5%. The results of users' assessments of the LEs show that the majority of landscape features were positively rated as good, including vegetation (63.7%), water features (58.7%), and pathways and walkways (63.7%). The majority of respondents (85.1%) indicated that they strongly agree that the quality of LEs impacts their choice of tourist destination. The result on the importance of LEs to visitors' preference index (ILEVPI) showed that 12 out of 21 acknowledged variables had an ILEVPI above the average of 3.88. The results showed a noteworthy relationship between variables of socioeconomic characteristics and users' preferences, with *p*-values that were significant at the 0.05 level. These comprised gender, age, occupation and education qualification, marital status, and monthly income with *p*-values of 0.014, 0.000, 0.000, 0.050, 0.010, and 0.020, respectively. The study concluded that the

*CORRESPONDING AUTHOR:

Olusola Makinde, Department of Architecture, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso 210214, Nigeria;
Email: makindeolusola2012@yahoo.com

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impacts of LEs and socioeconomic characteristics of users are high and they are strong factors that determined users' preferences for tourists' centre.

Keywords: Landscape Elements; Socioeconomic Characteristics; Preferences; Experiences; Tourist Centres

1. Introduction

Despite extensive research on tourist centre users globally, there is a significant gap in understanding the socioeconomic characteristics of users and LE quality in tourist centres in Southwest Nigeria. Studies such as Ahmad et al.[1] focused on landscape maintenance and perception, respectively, but have not adequately addressed socioeconomic characteristics. Therefore, this research aims to fill this gap by exploring the demographic composition of tourists in Southwest Nigeria, which is essential for developing targeted strategies and enhancing visitor experiences. Existing literature by Deng et al.[2] highlights the importance of understanding the socioeconomic characteristics of users in LE management and urban ecosystem services. However, there is limited synthesis of these interactions. Additionally, socioeconomic status significantly influences participation in leisure-time physical activity[3, 4].

Assessing the quality of existing LEs, such as vegetation, water features, architectural design, and their incorporation into the natural environment, is vital for understanding their functional and aesthetic contributions to visitor experiences[5]. While some studies discuss general landscape features, there is a lack of detailed methodologies for systematically assessing the quality of these elements within the Nigerian tourist centres, particularly those near natural landmarks like Owu Falls. The current state of landscape quality in Nigerian tourist centres remains largely unknown, with limited studies addressing this area[6, 7]. Sadiq et al.[7] explored the impact of landscape on tourism development through a case study of Abuja, while Dorcas[8] examined initiatives for enhancing Nigeria's tourist attractions through landscaping. However, there is a significant gap in research specifically identifying and assessing the quality of LEs in Southwest Nigeria.

In the context of landscape quality, various scholars, including Omon, Bodunde et al., Emmanuel, and Jessel[9–12], have extensively explored various aspects of landscape and tourism. Their research ranges from addressing the cost of landscape practices to maintaining conventional plant landscapes. However, there is a notable gap in empirical research focusing on the quality of LEs and their impact on user experiences, particularly in Nigerian tourist centres near natural landmarks. While some studies touch upon the broader aspects of landscape quality or aesthetics, there is a lack of detailed methodologies for systematically assessing the quality of LEs, such as vegetation, water features, and architectural design. This is vital for understanding their functional, behavioural and aesthetic contributions to visitor practices and experiences.

Existing research has explored the influence of various factors on user preferences and experiences in tourist centres, such as the perception of landscape and its implications in tourism. For example, Terkenli et al.[13] conducted a comparative study on locals' and visitors' perceptions of tourist landscapes in selected destinations in Poland and Greece. Simon[14] assessed users' perceptions of campus landscapes at the University of Texas at Arlington. Additionally, Sadiq et al.[7] studied the impact of landscape on tourism development with a case study of Millennium Park in Abuja. While several factors influence user preferences and experiences, there is a notable gap in the existing literature regarding the specific role of LE quality in shaping these preferences and experiences. There is a lack of detailed methodologies for systematically assessing the quality of LEs, such as vegetation, water features, and architectural design, within the context of Nigerian tourist centres.

Suggesting design considerations and thoughts for a well-standard landscape requires integrating insights from user preferences, landscape assessments, and sustainable tourism principles. Existing guidelines often lack specificity for designing hospitality facilities that harmonise with natural landscapes while meeting visitor expectations and environmental sustainability goals[15, 16]. Developing design frameworks will provide practical guidance for developers to create sustainable and aesthetically pleasing accommodations that enhance the overall tourism experience. Therefore, the study answered the following research question: What

are the socioeconomic characteristics of users at the selected tourist centres in the study areas? What LEs are present in the study areas, and how can they be assessed? How do users perceive the quality of LEs in the study areas? In what ways does the quality of LE influence users' preferences in the study areas? What design considerations should be proposed for a well-standard landscape hotel?

The insights derived from this research will influence tourism development, facilitating planning decisions that prioritise high-quality LEs and sustainable tourism development. The study will also contribute insights into users' perceptions, an underexplored area, and lay the groundwork for future research in similar contexts, increasing interest in the research subject. Furthermore, the study fills a gap by examining the specific correlation between LE quality and user perceptions in a tourist centre. This enhances the theoretical foundations of tourism studies and environmental psychology and provides practical implications for hotel design.

2. Literature Review

2.1. The Connection between Tourism and Landscape Quality

Landscape quality is a critical factor in determining the appeal of a tourist destination. Whether natural or man-made, landscapes contribute to the visual, emotional, and functional experiences of visitors. High-quality landscapes not only offer scenic beauty but also provide a sense of place and identity, making destinations more memorable[17]. Often, the landscape itself becomes a primary attraction, as seen with landmarks like the Grand Canyon in the United States or the fjords in Norway. These impacts include:

Aesthetic Value: Aesthetic appeal is a primary reason tourists are drawn to certain destinations. The arrangement of natural elements, such as mountains, rivers, and forests, along with man-made features, such as pathways and lighting, creates a compelling visual experience. Research indicates that destinations with well-preserved natural beauty and thoughtfully designed landscapes are more likely to attract visitors seeking an escape from the everyday and a connection to the sublime[18, 19].

Cultural Significance: Landscapes often carry cultural, historical, and symbolic meanings that enhance the tourism experience. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites like Machu Picchu and the rice terraces of the Philippines are valued not only for their physical beauty but also for their cultural significance[20]. The quality of a landscape is closely tied to its cultural narratives, traditions, and history, making it an integral part of the tourism product[16].

Economic Impact: High-quality landscapes can significantly boost local economies by attracting tourists and generating revenue from entrance fees, lodging, dining, and other tourism-related activities. Well-maintained landscapes enhance property values, increase business opportunities, and support a thriving tourism industry[21].

2.2. Impact of Landscape Design on the Visitor Experience

The design of a landscape greatly influences how visitors interact with and perceive a destination. A well-designed landscape enhances functionality, accessibility, and comfort, contributing to a more enjoyable and immersive visitor experience[22, 23].

Comfort and Usability: Thoughtfully designed landscapes cater to the needs and preferences of diverse users. Features such as pathways, seating areas, shaded spots, and restrooms play a crucial role in making a space user-friendly. Visitors are more likely to linger, relax, and enjoy a destination when they feel comfortable, safe, and well-catered for[24].

Over-Tourism: Over-tourism, where a destination becomes overcrowded with visitors, can lead to the deterioration of both natural and man-made LEs. High foot traffic can damage vegetation, erode soil, and cause littering. Managing visitor numbers through ticketing systems, restricting access to sensitive areas, and promoting off-peak tourism can help mitigate these effects[25].

Emotional and Psychological Impact: Landscapes can profoundly affect human emotions and psychology. Natural environments, in particular, reduce stress, improve mood, and foster a sense of well-being. Destinations that incorporate natural elements such as greenery, water features, and open spaces can evoke feelings of tranquility, awe, or inspiration, enhancing overall visitor satisfaction. This emotional connection often results in positive reviews, repeat visits, and word-of-mouth recommendations[26].

Sense of Place: A well-designed landscape creates a

strong sense of place by reflecting the unique character of its location. This can be achieved using native vegetation, local materials, and architectural styles that resonate with the region's history and culture. An authentic landscape design enhances visitors' immersion and connection to the destination [27].

2.3. Sustainable Tourism Practices

Sustainable tourism practices are essential for balancing visitor demand with the need to preserve landscape quality. Over-tourism, where too many visitors overwhelm a destination, can lead to environmental degradation, resource depletion, and a reduced visitor experience [28, 29]. To address this, destinations must implement strategies such as visitor quotas, controlled access to sensitive areas, and promoting off-peak travel. Effective tourism management helps protect landscapes and ensures their continued appeal in the long term [3, 6, 18]. Engaging local communities in the maintenance and preservation of LEs is crucial for long-term tourism success. Communities that take pride in their landscapes are more likely to participate in conservation efforts, promote sustainable tourism practices, and contribute to the upkeep of public spaces [6, 20, 30]. Community-led initiatives, such as volunteer clean-up programmes and eco-friendly tourism projects, have significantly contributed to preserving the natural and cultural integrity of landscapes [24].

Landscape design is critical in shaping the appeal, functionality, and sustainability of tourist destinations. A well-designed landscape enhances the aesthetic beauty of a location, provides comfort and accessibility for visitors, and ensures the preservation of both natural and man-made elements [31]. Effective landscape design involves balancing the natural environment with architectural structures to create spaces that attract tourists and offer meaningful experiences. This section explores best practices in landscape design, presents case studies of successful tourist centres, discusses the integration of natural and architectural features, and examines the challenges in maintaining landscape quality [32].

2.4. Best Practices in Landscape Design for Tourist Destinations

Best practices in landscape design for tourist destinations focus on sustainability, accessibility, aesthetic appeal, and visitor engagement. Implementing these practices ensures that tourist centres remain attractive, functional, and environmentally responsible [33]. Sustainable Design: Sustainability is a key consideration in modern landscape design, especially for tourist destinations with high foot traffic. Designers should prioritise eco-friendly materials, renewable energy sources, and water-efficient systems [34]. Native vegetation, which requires less maintenance, conserves water, and supports local biodiversity, should be preferred over non-native species. Sustainable design also involves minimising environmental impacts during construction and promoting practices such as recycling and waste reduction [35]. Visitor-Centric Approach: Landscape design should address the needs of visitors by providing accessible pathways, shaded seating areas, clear signage, and well-designed rest spots. Ensuring that all visitors, including those with disabilities, can comfortably navigate the site is essential. Features such as smooth and wide pathways, ramps, and railings enhance accessibility. Designers should also create spaces that promote relaxation, recreation, and engagement with the environment, thereby improving the overall visitor experience [36].

Integration with Local Culture and Heritage: Landscape design should reflect the cultural and historical context of the destination. Incorporating traditional building techniques, local materials, and design elements that symbolise and echo the region's heritage adds authenticity and strengthens the connection between the site and its surroundings [37]. For example, using local stone, wood, or traditional craftsmanship can help establish a strong sense of place and identity [17, 20]. Preservation of Natural Features: Where possible, natural landscape features such as rivers, forests, or rock formations should be preserved and integrated into the design [38]. These natural elements often serve as primary attractions and provide ecological benefits, such as habitat preservation and stormwater management. Carefully integrating natural features into the overall design helps maintain environmental integrity while enhancing aesthetic appeal [3]. Adaptive Use of Space: Flexibility in landscape design allows tourist centres to adapt to changing conditions, visitor patterns, and environmental challenges [4]. This can be achieved through modular design elements, such as movable seating or temporary installations, and creating multifunctional spaces that can accommodate a variety of activities, from outdoor concerts to quiet relaxation.

3. Research Methodology

3.1. Study Area

The study was executed at numerous selected tourist centres in South-West Nigeria, which include: Osun, Oyo, Ondo, Ekiti, Lagos, and Ogun State. **Figure 1** shows the map of South-Western Nigeria.

3.2. Sample Frame

The sampling frame used encompasses of all tourist centre that have and possess natural attractions, for example, beaches, waterfalls, gardens, rocks, and rivers in the south-west geopolitical area and with the existence and presence of a hotel building. There are thirty-nine (39) identified and recognised tourist centres that comprise and form the population of the sample. The sample size was obtained from purpose-built tourist centre hotels that are regularly used for events, meetings, picnics, and other social interaction and gathering purposes. This is so since it was easier and tidier for respondents to gather and obtain information from. Six tourist hotels were purposively chosen from each state because they have landscape features and hotel facilities to be assessed. The number of guests at the tourist centre hotel was 22,000, 5 hundred and twenty (2,520), of which 13.7% were selected. This represents the sample of 345, which represents questionnaires administered to the visitors. Accidental sampling, often referred to as random convenience sampling, is a method for gathering data by selecting individuals who are readily available or easily accessible. This technique works on the principle of spontaneity, emphasising the practicality of immediate interactions rather than strategic selection. **Table 1** illustrates the purposively carefully chosen tourist centres in south-west Nigeria.

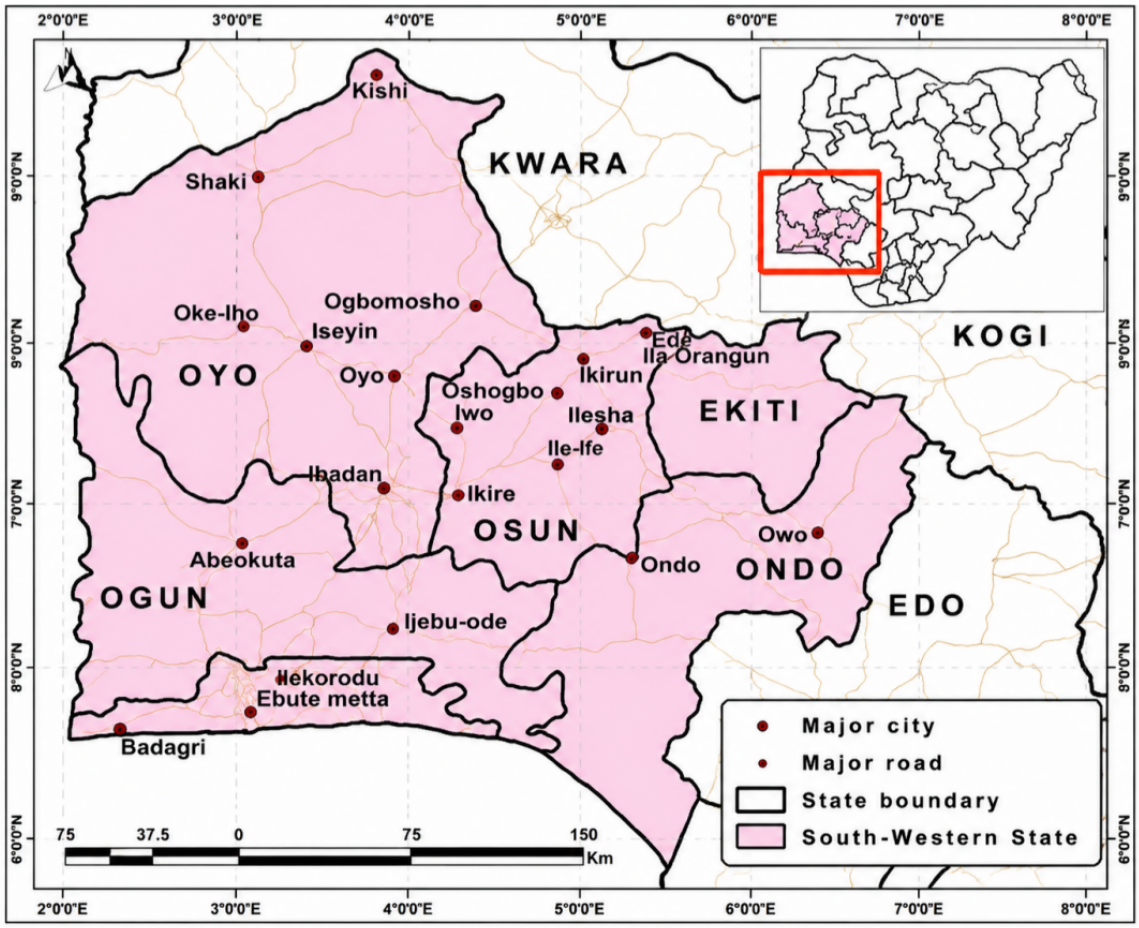


Figure 1. Map of South-Western Nigeria.

Source: South-West Topographical Map-HD GIS Mapping-Geoinfotech.

Table 1. Purposively selected tourist centres in southwest Nigeria.

S/N	State	Purposed Selected Hotel for the Study	Average Number of Users per Week	13.7% Sample Size Users Were Selected
1	EKITI	Ikogosi Warm Springs Resort	462	63
2	OSUN	Zenababs Half-Moon Resort Hotel	173	24
3	OGUN	Green Legacy Resort, Abeokuta	560	77
4	OYO	IIaji Hotel and Resort Centre	442	60
5	LAGOS	Lekki Beach Resort	645	88
6	ONDO	Goshen Trust Hotel	238	33

The sample size used in this study was obtained from Slovin's formula. The Slovin's formula was used to determine the minimum sample size at a 95% confidence level with a 5% margin of error (E = 0.05). The formula allows us to calculate a perfect sample size given an anticipated level of precision, confidence level, desired, and projected proportion of the population. This formula is considered appropriate in situations with large populations. This represents 13.7% of the total population used in the study. A total set of 345 questionnaires were distributed and administered to tourists randomly to ensure an equal representative sample.

The study used both closed-ended (structured) and open-ended (semi-structured) questionnaires to obtain information from the respondents. The questionnaire developed for this research purpose typically consists of several sections. The sections depend on the objectives and study topic. These are questions for descriptive analysis and questions for inferential analysis. The questions for descriptive analysis collect information on the socioeconomic characteristics (age, educational qualification, gender, tribe, and income level) of the respondents, while the questions for inferential analysis collect data on the independent and dependent variables of the study. Nevertheless, every question in a questionnaire employed each of these particular measurement scales, including the nominal, ordinal, interval, and ratio scales. This methodology ensures inclusive coverage of key research objectives while upholding reliability and validity through expert validation and consent analysis. Content validity was used to measure the extent to which the items that include the scale correctly measure the facts that are being assessed. The questions that were asked represented the questions that need to be asked. Also, the study used construct validity procedures by calculating the mean scores and determining whether they can be generalised. The study used construct validity statistical analyses, such as correlations and regression, to verify the relevance of the questions. The coefficient alpha is employed to assess the consistency of the items. If the alpha value is 0.70 or greater, the tool is considered reliable [39]. The alpha value is 0.887, and the instrument is considered reliable. With a Cronbach's Alpha score of 0.887, we can positively say that the questionnaire instrument is reliable and well arranged for the study objectives.

4. Results and Interpretation

4.1. Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondents

The overall results for both gender and age of the respondents from selected tourist centres in southwest Nigeria, from **Table 2**, revealed that the majority of the population, constituting 73.5%, was identified as male, while the remaining 26.5% were female. This shows discernible gender imbalance, with a higher representation of male respondents compared to their female counterparts in the selected tourist centres in southwest Nigeria (Ekiti, Osun, Ogun, Oyo, Lagos, and Ondo). For the age of the respondents, it revealed that a substantial portion of the respondents fall within the age range of 36–45 years, comprising 63.1% of the total. The subsequent age group, 26–35 years, follows closely, with a representation of 13.8%. The age bracket of 46–55 years constitutes 12.6% of the respondents, ranking third, while the over 56 year age group follows with 5.7%. The smallest proportion of respondents belongs to the age category of 18–25-year-old, accounting for 4.7% of the total. The result revealed that in the selected tourist centres in southwest Nigeria, the dominant gender is male between the age brackets of 36–45 years old.

Table 2. Socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents.

Gender and Age of Respondents

Selected Tourist Centres in Southwest Nigeria		Gender		Age					Total
		Male	Female	18–25 Years	26–35 Years	36–45 Years	46–55 Years	56 Years and Above	
Ekiti	Frequency	38	20	3	13	36	6	-	58
	Percentage (%)	65.5%	34.5%	5.2%	22.4%	62.1%	10.3%	-	100.0%
Osun	Frequency	19	-	-	-	19	-	-	19
	Percentage (%)	100.0%	-	-	-	100.0%	-	-	100.0%
Ogun	Frequency	55	15	3	12	35	8	12	70
	Percentage (%)	78.6%	21.4%	4.3%	17.1%	50.5%	11.4%	17.1%	100.0%
Oyo	Frequency	36	17	-	7	39	7	-	53
	Percentage (%)	67.9%	32.1%	-	13.2%	73.6%	13.2%	-	100.0%
Lagos	Frequency	60	27	5	3	54	19	6	87
	Percentage (%)	69.0%	31.0%	5.8%	3.4%	62.1%	21.8%	6.9%	100.0%
Ondo	Frequency	25	5	4	9	17	-	-	30
	Percentage (%)	83.3%	16.7%	13.3%	30.0%	56.6%	-	-	100.0%
TOTAL	Frequency	233	84	15	44	200	40	18	317
	Percentage (%)	73.5%	26.5%	4.7%	13.8%	63.1%	12.6%	5.7%	100.0%

Occupation and Educational Qualification of Respondents

Selected Tourist Centres in Southwest Nigeria		Occupation				Qualification				Total
		Student	Employed	Self-Employed	Retired	Primary School	Secondary School	Under-Graduate	Post-Graduate	
Ekiti	Frequency	7	10	40	1	-	8	38	12	58
	Percentage (%)	12.1%	17.2%	69.0%	1.7%	-	13.8%	65.5%	20.7%	100.0%
Osun	Frequency	-	-	3	16	-	-	-	19	19
	Percentage (%)	-	-	15.8%	84.2%	-	-	-	100.0%	100.0%
Ogun	Frequency	5	20	40	5	-	10	40	20	70
	Percentage (%)	7.1%	28.6%	57.1%	7.1%	-	14.3%	57.1%	28.6%	100.0%
Oyo	Frequency	3	34	12	4	-	15	35	3	53
	Percentage (%)	5.7%	64.2%	22.6%	7.5%	-	28.3%	66.0%	5.7%	100.0%
Lagos	Frequency	10	36	35	6	-	20	46	21	87
	Percentage (%)	11.5%	41.4%	40.2%	6.9%	-	23.0%	52.9%	24.1%	100.0%
Ondo	Frequency	4	1	25	-	-	-	10	20	30
	Percentage (%)	13.3%	3.3%	83.3%	-	-	-	33.3%	66.7%	100.0%
TOTAL	Frequency	29	101	155	32	-	53	169	95	317
	Percentage (%)	9.1%	31.9%	48.9%	10.1%	-	16.7%	53.3%	30.0%	100.0%

Marital Status and Monthly Income Range of the Respondents

Selected Tourist Centres in Southwest Nigeria		Marital Status				Income Range					Total
		Single	Married	Divorced	Widowed	<N50,000	N50,000–₦100,000	₦100,001–₦200,000	₦200,001–₦300,000	Above ₦300,000	
Ekiti	Freq.	8	50	-	-	-	2	35	16	5	58
	Perc. (%)	13.8%	86.2%	-	-	-	3.4%	60.3%	27.6%	8.6%	100.0%
Osun	Freq	-	19	-	-	-	-	9	10	-	19
	Perc.(%)	-	100.0%	-	-	-	-	47.4%	52.6%	-	100.0%
Ogun	Freq.	10	57	3	-	1	4	45	12	8	70
	Perc. (%)	14.3%	81.4%	4.3%	-	1.4%	5.7%	64.3%	17.1%	11.4%	100.0%
Oyo	Freq	15	35	3	-	-	3	32	12	6	53
	Perc. (%)	28.3%	66.0%	5.7%	-	-	5.7%	60.4%	22.6%	11.3%	100.0%
Lagos	Freq.	5	79	3	-	1	2	62	14	8	87
	Perc. (%)	5.7%	90.8%	3.4%	-	1.1%	2.3%	71.3%	16.1%	9.2%	100.0%
Ondo	Freq	8	22	-	-	-	3	22	5	-	30
	Perc. (%)	26.7%	73.3%	-	-	-	10.0%	73.3%	16.7%	-	100.0%
TOTAL	Freq	46	262	9	-	2	14	205	69	27	317
	Perc. (%)	14.5%	82.6%	2.8%	-	0.6%	4.4%	64.7%	21.8%	8.5%	100.0%

Table 2. *Cont.*

Visitors' Response to the Frequent Visitation to Tourist Centres					
Selected Tourist Centres in Southwest Nigeria		**Visitors' Response to the Frequent Visitation to Tourist Centres**			**Total**
		Once a Year	**Twice a Year**	**More Than Twice a Year**	
Ekiti	Frequency	8	25	25	58
	Percentage (%)	13.8%	43.1%	43.1%	100.0%
Osun	Frequency	-	-	19	19
	Percentage (%)	-	-	100.0%	100.0%
Ogun	Frequency	8	22	40	70
	Percentage (%)	11.4%	31.4%	57.1%	100.0%
Oyo	Frequency	1	6	46	53
	Percentage (%)	1.9%	11.3%	86.8%	100.0%
Lagos	Frequency	7	25	55	87
	Percentage (%)	8.0%	28.7%	63.2%	100.0%
Ondo	Frequency	5	-	25	30
	Percentage (%)	16.7%	-	83.3%	100.0%
TOTAL	Frequency	29	78	210	317
	Percentage (%)	9.1%	24.6%	66.2%	100.0%
Visitors' Response to the Purpose of Visiting Tourist Centres					
Selected Tourist Centres in Southwest Nigeria		**Visitors' Response to the Purpose of Visiting Tourist Centres**			**Total**
		Leisure	**Adventure**	**Educational**	
Ekiti	Frequency	37	6	15	58
	Percentage (%)	63.8%	10.3%	25.9%	100.0%
Osun	Frequency	-	10	9	19
	Percentage (%)	-	52.6%	47.4%	100.0%
Ogun	Frequency	40	9	21	70
	Percentage (%)	57.1%	12.9%	30.0%	100.0%
Oyo	Frequency	42	6	5	53
	Percentage (%)	79.2%	11.3%	9.4%	100.0%
Lagos	Frequency	53	12	22	87
	Percentage (%)	60.9%	13.8%	25.3%	100.0%
Ondo	Frequency	-	4	26	30
	Percentage (%)	-	13.3%	86.7%	100.0%
TOTAL	Frequency	172	46	99	317
	Percentage (%)	54.3%	14.5%	31.2%	100.0%

The implication of this result is that there is a gender imbalance for tourists who visited tourist centres in Southwest Nigeria, with a significantly higher proportion of male respondents (73.5%) compared to female respondents (26.5%) who visited. This shows that males visit these tourist centres across the six states (Ekiti, Osun, Ogun, Oyo, Lagos, and Ondo) more than females. This disparity reflects underlying societal or cultural trends where men have more access to leisure activities or tourism opportunities than women in this region. Additionally, the consistency of male dominance across all six states, particularly in Osun State, where no female respondents were recorded, points to a broader gender participation gap in tourism.

In terms of age distribution, the data reveal that the most represented age group is between 36 and 45 years, constituting 63.1% of the respondents, followed by the 26–35 years age group at 20.8%. This concentration of respondents in middle adulthood reveals that individuals in this age range are more active in tourism activities due to having more financial stability or fewer family responsibilities

than younger or older populations. The overall findings in **Table 2** reveal the occupation and qualification of the respondents in the selected tourist centres in Southwest Nigeria. The data revealed that the majority of the respondents, accounting for 48.9%, identified as self-employed in the study area, while 31.9% of the total identified as employed. 9.1% of the total respondents are students, and the least portion, constituting 10.1%, are retired workers. The data shown in **Table 2** further revealed that most respondents, accounting for 53.3%, are undergraduates in a tertiary institution. A notable portion, comprising 30.0%, is identified as postgraduate. Furthermore, 16.7% of respondents have a certificate from secondary school, indicating that their highest qualification is secondary school. Overall, the majority of the respondents from the selected tourist centres in Southwest Nigeria are self-employed and are undergraduates. The implication of this result is that in the selected tourist centres across Southwest Nigeria, the predominant occupation of the respondents is self-employment, accounting for 48.9% of the total population. This proves a strong presence of individuals who own and run their own businesses, reflecting the entrepreneurial nature of many visitors to these sites. Employment is the second most common occupation, representing 31.9% of the respondents, showing that a substantial portion of the population is engaged in formal or corporate work. A smaller portion of respondents (9.1%) are students, and only 10.1% are retired, indicating that tourist centres in the region attract mostly economically active individuals, with relatively few retirees.

In terms of educational qualifications, the data reveal that most respondents, 53.3%, hold undergraduate degrees, while 30.0% possess postgraduate degrees. This shows that the tourists frequenting these centres are relatively well-educated, with a significant number having pursued higher education. Smaller percentages (16.7%) hold only secondary school certificates, indicating some level of diversity in educational backgrounds. The fact that most respondents have tertiary education qualifications aligns with the observation that self-employment and formal employment are the predominant occupations because individuals with higher education are more likely to engage in such activities. Overall data from **Table 2** provide valuable demographic information about the study population in the selected tourist centres in Southwest Nigeria. The analysis reveals a significant preference for married individuals, with 82.6% of respondents identifying as married. This is followed by single individuals at 14.5%, divorced individuals at 2.8%, and no respondent identified with the widowed category. In terms of income distribution, the study population exhibits a relatively balanced profile. The most common income bracket is ₦100,001 to ₦200,000 with 64.7% of the total respondents, followed by ₦200,001 to ₦300,000 with 21.8%, ₦50,000 to ₦100,000 with 4.4%, and less than ₦50,000 with 0.6% being the least response from the respondents. These findings suggest that most respondents are middle-income earners with a monthly income range of ₦100,001 to ₦200,000. Overall, the data presented in **Table 2** provide a clear picture of the demographic characteristics of the study population. The predominance of married individuals and the balanced income distribution are important factors to consider when evaluating the needs and preferences of visitors to tourist centres in Southwest Nigeria. The implication of this result is that the demographic information regarding the marital status and monthly income of respondents from selected tourist centres in Southwest Nigeria.

A significant portion of the respondents, 82.6%, identified as married, revealing that most tourists in the region are family-oriented or settled individuals. Single respondents make up 14.5% of the total, while divorced individuals account for 2.8%. No respondents identified as widowed, indicating a relatively youthful or middle-aged population that is probably married or single. The overwhelming representation of married individuals in all six states (Ekiti, Osun, Ogun, Oyo, Lagos, and Ondo) points to the idea that tourism in this region may be more attractive to people in stable relationships or families. In terms of income distribution, most respondents, 64.7%, fall within the ₦100,001 to ₦200,000 monthly income range, indicating that most of the visitors are middle-income earners. The next most common income bracket is ₦200,001 to ₦300,000, representing 21.8% of the respondents, which shows that a significant portion of the population earns above the average income level in Nigeria. A smaller proportion of respondents earn less than ₦100,000, with only 4.4% earning between ₦50,000 and ₦100,000 and a mere 0.6% earning less than ₦50,000. These findings reveal that the tourist centres in Southwest Nigeria attract primarily middle-income visitors, which could influence the types of services and

facilities needed at these locations. The predominance of married individuals and middle-income earners shows the importance of catering to families and individuals seeking moderately priced tourist experiences.

4.2. Visitors' Response to the Frequently Visited Tourist Centres

Table 2 provides valuable insights into the frequency of visits to tourist centres in Southwest Nigeria. The data reveal a clear preference for repeat visits, with a significant majority (66.2%) of respondents reporting that they visit these centres more than twice a year. Overall, the data indicate a high level of return visitation to tourist centres in the region. This reveals that these centres are popular and attractive destinations for leisure and recreation. Additionally, significant portions (24.6%) of respondents visit these centres twice a year, presenting a moderate level of visitation. Only 9.1% of respondents visit tourist centres once a year, indicating that these centres are generally well-visited. The implication of this result is that the majority of respondents from tourist centres in Southwest Nigeria prefer to visit these locations frequently, with 66.2% indicating that they visit more than twice a year. This high rate of return visitation shows that the tourist centres in states like Ekiti, Osun, Ogun, Oyo, Lagos, and Ondo are popular and likely offer engaging experiences that encourage visitors to return multiple times throughout the year. For instance, in Osun and Oyo States, an overwhelming majority (100% and 86.8%, respectively) of respondents reported visiting more than twice annually, showing the strong appeal of the tourist centres in these areas. Similarly, in Ondo and Lagos States, a large proportion of respondents (83.3% and 63.2%) visit more than twice a year, reinforcing the notion that these centres attract loyal and frequent visitors. In contrast, a smaller portion of visitors reported visiting less frequently. About 24.6% of the total respondents visit tourist centres twice a year, representing a moderate but consistent level of engagement with the sites. Additionally, only 9.1% of respondents reported visiting once a year, indicating that one-off or infrequent visits are relatively uncommon. The low percentage of respondents who visited only once shows that most tourist centres in Southwest Nigeria have a sustained attraction for visitors, leading to higher levels of repeat visitation.

4.3. Visitors' Response to the Purpose of Visitation to Tourist Centres

Overall findings from **Table 2** reveal the primary purposes of visitation to tourist centres in Southwest Nigeria. The data reveal a clear preference for leisure activities, followed by adventure and educational pursuits. Leisure is the most cited reason for visiting tourist centres, accounting for 54.3% of all responses. This reveals that relaxation and enjoyment are the primary motivations of visitors. Adventure and educational purposes are also significant, with 14.5% and 31.2% of respondents, respectively, citing these as their primary reasons for visiting. This reveals a desire for both excitement and learning experiences. While leisure is the dominant purpose across all states, there are variations in the relative importance of adventure and educational activities. For example, Osun has a higher emphasis on adventure, whereas Ondo places a greater emphasis on educational activities. Overall, the data presented in **Table 2** highlight the diverse motivations for visiting tourist centres in Southwest Nigeria. While leisure activities are the primary driver, adventure and education also play significant roles in attracting visitors.

The implication of this result is that the visitor's response to the diverse motivations for visiting tourist centres in Southwest Nigeria. Across the six states (Ekiti, Osun, Ogun, Oyo, Lagos, and Ondo), leisure activities emerged as the most common reason for visitation, accounting for 54.3% of all responses. This shows that most tourists are drawn to these centres for relaxation, recreation, and enjoyment. States like Ekiti, Ogun, Oyo, and Lagos strongly prefer leisure, with a significant portion of visitors in each state citing it as their primary reason for visiting. In Oyo State, for example, 79.8% of respondents visited for leisure, revealing the appeal of these locations as places for relaxation. Educational and adventure activities also play an important role in drawing visitors. Educational purposes account for 31.2% of the total responses, showing that many tourists visit these centres for learning and enrichment. Ondo State has the highest emphasis on educational activities, with 86.7% of visitors citing this as their primary reason for visiting. Adventure activities, while less prominent overall, still attract a notable 14.5% of respondents. Osun State stands out in this regard, with 52.6% of visitors seeking adventure, revealing that certain tourist centres offer unique

or thrilling experiences that cater to adventurous visitors. Overall, the findings from **Table 2** reveal that while leisure is the dominant purpose of visitation, there is a strong demand for both adventure and educational experiences in the region. This indicates the need for tourist centres to continue offering a variety of activities that cater to different preferences, ensuring a broad appeal to visitors seeking relaxation, excitement, or learning opportunities. The variation across states in terms of the importance of adventure and education points to the diverse attractions available within the region, which can be leveraged to enhance the tourism experience.

4.4. Importance of Landscape Elements to Visitors' Preferences

Table 3 presents the data on the importance of LEs to visitor preferences. Each element is evaluated across five levels of agreement: Not Important, Slightly Important, Neutral, Important, and Critical. The total weight value (TWV) represents the aggregate score for each element, calculated by summing up the weighted values assigned to each level of agreement. This shows the overall measure of how positively or negatively respondents view each LE. TWV/n is derived by dividing the TWV by the total number of responses (n) for each element, allowing for an average score that makes it easier to compare elements with different numbers of respondents. The results in **Table 3** show the relative importance index of LEs to visitors' preference index (ILEVPI). The result indicates that 12 out of 20 identified variables had an ILEVPI above the average of 4.21, which were considered as major important factors influencing visitors' preferences. These include: accessibility features, seating areas, wildlife habitats, pathways and walkways, gardens, information boards and signage, leisure gardening, driveways, gate and building fences, paving stones, statues and sculptures, and vegetation (trees, shrubs, and lawns). Others comprised: building texture, compost bin, building colour, outdoor furniture, lighting features, building form, recreational spaces, and water features (ponds, fountains, streams), among others, with positive deviation but below average of 3.88. The study discovered that among all the factors, retailing wall with 2.46 ILEVPI and with negative deviation was considered as factors not important in influencing visitors' preference in the study area. These require considerable improvement in the study area.

Table 3. Importance of Landscape Elements to Visitors' Preference Index.

S/N	Landscape Element	Not Important (1)	Slightly Important (2)	Neutral (3)	Important (4)	Critical (5)	Total (Frequency) (n)	TWV	TWV/n
1	Accessibility features	0	4	10	130	173	317	1,423	4.49
2	Seating areas	2	15	40	40	220	317	1,412	4.45
3	Wildlife habitats	4	7	16	120	170	317	1,396	4.40
4	Pathways and walkways	6	18	45	68	180	317	1,349	4.26
5	Gardens	6	18	45	68	180	317	1,349	4.26
6	Signage and information boards	4	10	15	180	108	317	1,329	4.19
7	Leisure gardening	4	10	15	180	108	317	1,329	4.19
8	Driveways	4	10	15	180	108	317	1,329	4.19
9	Building fence and gate	6	7	45	135	124	317	1,315	4.15
10	Paving stones	9	12	45	130	121	317	1,293	4.08
11	Statues and sculptures	2	-	88	120	107	317	1,281	4.04
12	Vegetation (trees, shrubs, and lawns)	6	15	80	96	120	317	1,260	3.97
13	Building texture	6	15	80	96	120	317	1,260	3.97
14	Compost bin	25	10	80	82	120	317	1,213	3.83
15	Building colour	35	12	45	117	108	317	1,202	3.79
16	Outdoor furniture	10	5	175	50	77	317	1,130	3.56
17	Lighting features	32	45	90	20	130	317	1,122	3.54
18	Building form	20	15	167	90	25	317	1,036	3.27
19	Recreational Spaces	15	16	175	96	15	317	1,031	3.25
20	Water features (ponds, fountains, and streams)	10	135	22	110	40	317	986	3.11
21	Retailing wall	90	100	47	50	30	317	781	2.46
	Average								81.45/21 3.88

The implication is that users agreed that the quality of vegetation is crucial and stressed the yearning and need for aesthetically pleasing and well-maintained green spaces. Similarly, water features, seating areas, pathways, sanitation, and maintenance received strong support, deeming them significant factors. This result reveals that landscapes with these elements are more likely to be perceived as attractive and welcoming. Other influential factors included lighting, building facades, and security. These elements contribute to the overall ambiance, safety, and functionality of the landscape, demonstrating the importance of considering a variety of factors in landscape design to enhance user satisfaction.

4.5. Design Elements Required for Landscaping Hotels

Table 4 reveals the results of users' perceptions of design elements in landscape hotels. The results show that several LEs significantly influenced users' preferences for such accommodations. Among these elements, the integration of natural elements, water features, and pathways emerged as particularly influential. Accessibility having 5.00 Design Considerations for Landscape Hotel Index (DCLHI), Availability of water features (e.g., fountains, ponds) having 4.68 DCLHI, The quality of walkways and pathways influences users' preference for visiting tourist centres, having 4.59 DCLHI, Aesthetic appeal and ease of maintenance, having 4.56, Opportunities for social interaction and community activities, having 4.55, Safety for visitors (e.g., well-lit pathways, clear signage), having 4.51 DCLHI, and Availability of seating areas, having 4.43 DCLHI, among others. From the results, it is evident that the users considered the integration of natural elements as essential or important, which stressed the desire of users for hotels and tourist centres to incorporate natural features into their designs. Similarly, water features and pathways received strong support, which are seen as significant factors. The results reveal that hotels with well-designed water features and accessible pathways are more likely to attract and satisfy guests. Other influential factors included accessibility, seating, shade, and spaces for recreation. These elements collectively contribute to a comfortable and enjoyable hotel experience, demonstrating the importance of considering landscape design elements in hotel development.

4.6. Relationship between Variables of Socioeconomic Characteristics and Users' Preferences in Nigerian Tourist Centres

Table 5 presents the Multiple Regression Analysis results of the relationship between variables of socioeconomic characteristics and users' preferences in Nigerian tourist centres in the study areas. The results showed F-value of 99.964 and *p*-value of 0.000, which is significant at the 0.05 level. It was observed that the relationship between socioeconomic characteristics and users' preferences is significant. This indicates a strong relationship between the dependent and independent variables. Variables with *p*-values that were significant at the 0.05 levels comprised: gender, age, occupation of the respondents, education qualification of the respondents, marital status, and monthly income range of the respondents with *p*-values of 0.014, 0.000, 0.000, 0.050, 0.010, and 0.020, respectively.

Table 4. Design Considerations for Landscape Hotel Index (DCLHI).

S/N	Design Consideration	Not Important at All (1)	Slightly Important (2)	Neutral (3)	Important (4)	Critical (5)	Total (Frequency)(n)	TWV	TWV/n
1	Accessibility	-	-	-	-	317	317	1,585	5.00
2	Availability of water features (e.g., fountains and ponds)	2	5	12	55	243	317	1,483	4.68
3	The quality of pathways and walkways influences my preference for visiting a tourist centre.	-	3	12	98	204	317	1,454	4.59
4	Aesthetic appeal and ease of maintenance	6	12	-	78	221	317	1,447	4.56
5	Opportunities for social interaction and community activities	-	-	33	78	206	317	1,441	4.55
6	Safety for visitors (e.g., well-lit pathways, clear signage) pathways, clear signage.	-	-	-	154	163	317	1,431	4.51
7	Availability of seating areas	5	2	12	132	166	317	1,403	4.43
8	Integration of natural elements (vegetation and water features)	2	5	45	87	178	317	1,385	4.37
9	Presence of interactive landscape features	2	5	45	87	178	317	1,385	4.37
10	Presence of artwork and sculptures within the landscape	2	5	45	87	178	317	1,385	4.37
11	Provision of shade and shelter	2	12	34	110	159	317	1,363	4.30
12	Spaces for sport and recreation	-	43	-	132	142	317	1,324	4.18
13	Availability of leisure gardening areas	-	-	87	110	120	317	1,301	4.10
14	Educational features (e.g., plant information boards).	-	78	22	80	137	317	1,227	3.87
	Total								61.87/14 4.42

Table 5. Regression analysis showing the relationship between socioeconomic variables and users' preferences in the study area.

Model Summary				
Model	**R**	**R Square**	**Adjusted R-Square**	**Std. Error of the Estimate**
1	0.996[a]	0.992	0.982	0.04854

Note: [a] Predictors: (Constant), Gender, Age, Occupation and Education Qualification, Marital Status, and Monthly Income Range.

ANOVA[b]						
Model		**Sum of Squares**	**Df**	**Mean Square**	**F**	**Sig.**
1	Regression	3.062	13	0.236	99.964	0.000[a]
	Residual	0.026	11	0.002		
	Total	3.088	24			

Note: [a] Predictors: (Constant), Gender, Age, Occupation and Education Qualification, Marital Status, and Monthly Income Range.
[b] Dependent variable: Users' preferences.

Coefficients[a]						
Model		**Unstandardised Coefficients**		**Standardised Coefficients**	***t***	**Sig.**
		B	**Std. Error**	**Beta**		
1	(Constant)	−1.531	1.655		−0.925	0.375
	Gender	0.363	0.124	0.521	2.937	0.014
	Age	1.149	0.201	1.287	5.718	0
	Occupation	1.464	0.156	1.382	9.379	0
	Education Qualification	−1.244	0.573	−1.253	−2.17	0.05
	Marital Status	−1.291	0.414	−0.848	−3.122	0.01
	Monthly Income Range	0.292	0.071	0.54	4.141	0.02

Note: [a] Dependent variable: Users' preferences.

Note: *p*-values are significant at 0.05 levels.

Furthermore, the results showed a correlation coefficient (R) of 0.996 and a measurement of multiple determination (R^2) of 0.992. It can be perceived that about 99% of the disparity in users' socioeconomic characteristics may be credited to a magnitude change in users' preferences in Nigerian tourist centres. In other words, 99% of the inconsistency in the observed users' preferences in Nigerian tourist centres was explained by gender, age, occupation, education qualification, marital status, and monthly income range. This shows that the regression model employed describes about (0.992 × 100) 99.2% of the variance in users' preferences. This indicated that there is an uninterrupted functional relationship between independent and the dependent variable. Some independent variables are components or an uninterrupted transformation of the dependent variable. The dependent and independent variables were trending in the same direction over time. Also, in multicollinearity, extreme correlation between independent variables and dependent variable can inflate the R^2 value. There are still other factors amounting to 0.8% that are not included. The implication of this is that these users' socioeconomic characteristics, including gender, age, occupation and education qualification, marital status, and monthly income range, are the major factors influencing users' preferences in Nigerian tourist centres in the study area.

Multicollinearity was assessed using VIF; all values < 5. Normality of residuals was checked via a Probability-Probability (P-P) plot.

Table 6 shows the computed Pearson's correlation coefficient (r) among pairs of the thirteen (6) identified relevant socioeconomic characteristics variables in the study area. The study indicated that Users' preferences had negative and significant correlations (−0.603) with variable Gender (A). It has positive and significant correlations with age (B), occupation (C), education qualification (D), marital status (E), and monthly income range (F), with coefficients of 0.771, 0.605, 0.760, 0.673, and 0.464, respectively. The correlation was significant at 0.01 and 0.05 levels. Furthermore, the study revealed that users' preferences have positive and no significant correlations with gender (A), with coefficients of 0.035.

Table 6. Relationship between Respondents' Socioeconomic Characteristics and Users' Preferences Using Pearson's Correlation Co-efficient (r) in the Study Area.

S/No.	Variables	A (i)	B (ii)	C (iii)	D (iv)	E (v)	F (vi)	G (vii)
(i)	Gender (A)	1						
(ii)	Age (B)	−0.218	1					
(iii)	Occupation (C)	0.323	0.464*	1				
(iv)	Education Qualification (D)	−0.005	0.714**	0.835**	1			
(v)	Marital Status (E)	−0.343	0.955**	0.367	0.679**	1		
(vi)	Monthly Income Range (F)	0.134	0.557**	0.179	0.297	0.521**	1	
(xiv)	Users' Preferences (N)	0.035	0.771**	0.605**	0.760**	0.673**	0.464*	1

Note: **Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). *Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

4.7. Study Discussion Relating to the Findings in Previous Literature

The study agreed with Yan et al.[40] on the significance of socioeconomic characteristics of users in tourist centres. The study is also in line with Indwar and Muthukumar[41], which agreed that the demographic composition of tourists is essential for developing targeted marketing strategies, enhancing visitor experiences, and informing tourism development initiatives. Existing literature by Raj and Feola[42] highlighted the relationship between variables of socioeconomic characteristics and users' preferences in Nigerian tourist centres, the importance of socioeconomic factors in landscape maintenance, and managing urban ecosystem services. Additionally, this study is in line with Compeán-Guzmán[43], who supported the assertion that socioeconomic status significantly influences participation in leisure-time physical activity. This study was also in line with Siregar et al.[44], who stated that the impact of quality landscape on tourism development enhances user experiences, satisfaction and the initiatives for enhancing tourist attractions through landscape maintenance are highly needed. Various scholars, including Thompson[45] and Seervi[46], agree with this study on the need to extensively explore various aspects of landscape and tourism, ranging from addressing the cost of maintenance practices to the maintenance of landscape convectional plants and on the need to engage users' opinions in decision-making on landscape development, such as landscape quality or aesthetics, and the need for detailed investigation into how users specifically perceive and evaluate the maintenance practices employed in these areas. This is crucial for informing effective maintenance strategies and enhancing user satisfaction in urban or recreational settings.

The study is in line with Saavedra[47] on the importance of landscape elements to visitors' preferences and influence of various factors such as accessibility features, seating areas, wildlife habitats, pathways and walkways, gardens, signage and information boards, leisure gardening, driveways, paving stones, statues and sculptures, vegetation (trees, shrubs, lawns), outdoor furniture, lighting features, recreational spaces, water features (ponds, fountains, streams), retailing wall on user preferences and experiences in tourist centres, and the perception of landscape elements and its implications in tourism. This study also confirms the study by Jehan et al.[48] that understanding the tourist landscape, with a comparative study of locals' and visitors' perceptions in selected destinations, will enhance user experiences. This study is also in line with the study by Park et al.[49] on the impact of landscape on tourism development; the study agreed that while several factors influence users' preferences and experiences, there is a notable gap in the existing literature regarding the specific role of landscape maintenance practices in shaping these preferences and experiences.

5. Conclusions

The results revealed that in the selected tourist centres in southwest Nigeria, the dominant gender is male. The implication of this is that there is a gender imbalance for tourists who visited tourist centres in Southwest Nigeria, with a significantly higher proportion of male respondents. This disparity reflects underlying societal or cultural trends where men have more access to leisure activities or tourism opportunities than women. Additionally, the consistency of male dominance across all six states, particularly in Osun State, where no female respondents were recorded, points to a broader gender participation gap in tourism. In terms of age distribution, there is a concentration of respondents in middle-aged adulthood, revealing that individuals in this age range are more active in tourism activities due to hav-

ing more financial stability or fewer family responsibilities than younger or older populations. The study reveals that tourist centres in the region attract mostly economically active individuals, with relatively few retirees. Additionally, significant portions of respondents visit these centres twice a year, presenting a moderate level of visitation. This high rate of return visitation shows that the tourist centres in states are popular and are likely to offer engaging experiences that encourage visitors to return multiple times throughout the year. The results on visitors' responses to the purpose of visitation to tourist centres show a clear preference for leisure activities (relaxation and enjoyment) as primary motivations for visitors, followed by adventure and educational pursuits. While leisure activities are the primary driver, adventure and education also play significant roles in attracting visitors. The implication of this result is that the visitor's response to the diverse motivations for visiting tourist centres in Southwest Nigeria. This indicates the need for tourist centres to continue offering a variety of activities that cater to different preferences, ensuring a broad appeal to visitors seeking relaxation, excitement, or learning opportunities. The variation across states in terms of the importance of adventure and education points to the diverse attractions available within the region, which can be leveraged to enhance the tourism experience.

The importance of landscape elements to visitors' preferences shows that the major factors influencing visitors' preferences include: accessibility features, seating areas, wildlife habitats, pathways and walkways, gardens, information boards and signage, leisure gardening, driveways, gate and building fences, paving stones, statues and sculptures, and vegetation (trees, shrubs, and lawns). Others comprised: building texture, compost bin, building colour, outdoor furniture, lighting features, building form, recreational spaces, and water features (ponds, fountains, streams), among others, with positive deviation. The implication is that users agreed that the quality of vegetation is crucial and stressed the yearning and need for aesthetically pleasing and well-maintained green spaces. Similarly, water features, seating areas, pathways, sanitation, and maintenance received strong support, deeming them significant factors. This result reveals that landscapes with these elements are more likely to be visited and perceived as attractive and welcoming. Other influential factors include lighting, building facades, and security. These elements contribute to the overall ambiance, safety, and functionality of the landscape. These demonstrate the importance of considering various factors in landscape design to enhance user satisfaction. The study revealed that hotels with well-designed water features and accessible pathways are more likely to attract and satisfy guests. Other influential factors included accessibility, seating, shade, and spaces for recreation. These elements collectively contribute to a comfortable and enjoyable hotel experience, demonstrating the importance of considering landscape design elements in hotel development. The study showed that there is a relationship between socioeconomic characteristics and users' preferences, which is significant.

Recommendations and Suggestions

The study examined the impacts of users' socioeconomic characteristics and LEs, focusing on components that enhance visitor preferences and experiences, such as vegetation, water features, pathways, seating areas, signage, and lighting in Nigerian tourist centres. These findings suggest that tourist centres in this region are highly attractive to middle-aged, middle-income, married individuals seeking leisure and educational experiences, with recurrence visitation. These findings highlight the necessity for tourism destinations in the region to prioritise strategic landscape planning and implementation. By creating visually appealing and functional spaces, these tourist destinations can significantly enhance their overall appeal, fostering a positive visitor experience. Moreover, well-designed landscapes can contribute to a more enjoyable and memorable visit, encouraging longer stays and further exploration. By creating inviting and visually pleasing environments, destination marketers can foster a positive visitor experience, hearten repeat visits, and create positive word-of-mouth endorsements. Furthermore, well-maintained landscapes can contribute to the overall functionality and enjoyment of tourist sites. By providing comfortable and aesthetically pleasing spaces, tourist destinations can enhance visitor satisfaction and create a memorable experience. These findings recommend that investing in the development and maintenance of attractive and well-planned landscapes is a strategic approach to enhancing the appeal and competitiveness of tourist centres.

Therefore, there is a need for further research that systematically investigates the ways in which landscape mainte-

nance practices influence user preferences and experiences in tourist centres by providing valuable insights into sustainable development practices of indigenous communities from the angle of technological invention, destination management, and tourism development strategies. This study is limited to the area of funding and spreads to other parts of the country, including the Southeast, Northwest, Northeast, and North Central of the country in which tourism development is influenced by different sociocultural backgrounds. Generally, this study contributed to the body of knowledge by focusing on the impacts of users' socioeconomic characteristics and landscape elements on users' preferences in Nigerian tourist centres. The study will provide information that will guide the building professionals who comprise architects, urban planners, and builders on tourist centre development. It will also inform policy on tourist development and landscape studies. It will provide information and educate on the need to incorporate users' preferences for landscape elements that will enhance tourist visitation and experiences.

Author Contributions

Conceptualization, O.O.A.; methodology, O.M. (Olusola Makinde) and O.M. (Olubukunmi Makinde); software, O.M. (Olusola Makinde); formal analysis, O.O.A.; investigation, O.M. (Olubukunmi Makinde); resources, O.O.A.; data curation, O.O.A. and O.M. (Olubukunmi Makinde); writing—original draft preparation, O.M. (Olusola Makinde); writing—review and editing, O.M. (Olusola Makinde) and O.M. (Olubukunmi Makinde); visualization, O.M. (Olusola Makinde) and O.O.A.; validation, I.E.; supervision, I.E.; project administration, I.E.; funding acquisition, I.E. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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Institutional Review Board Statement

Ethical review and approval were waived for this study as the procedures were designed to ensure participant rights, safety, and welfare.

Informed Consent Statement

Informed consent was obtained from all subjects involved in the study.

Data Availability Statement

The data supporting this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no competing financial, professional, or personal interests from other parties. The authors also declare no conflict of interest related to this research.

AI Use Statement

During the preparation of this work, ETSD-510: The Impacts of Socioeconomic Characteristics and Landscape Elements on Users' Preferences in Nigerian Tourist Centers, the authors used CoPilot to refine the academic language of their own work in order to correct any inaccurate grammar and punctuation. After using this tool/service, the authors reviewed and edited the content as needed. The authors will take full responsibility for the content of the published article.

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