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NATURAL ATTRACTIONS AND E-WOM: DRIVERS OF DESTINATION LOVE IN INDONESIAN **CAMPERVAN TOURISM**

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ABSTRACT

The study aims to explore the impact of natural attractions, El objetivo del estudio es explorar el impacto de los atractivos electronic word-of-mouth (e-WOM), and satisfaction on *Indonesia. The research utilized a sample of 483 respondents* from Jakarta and other cities in Indonesia and employed structural equation modeling (SEM) using partial least squares (PLS) to test eight hypotheses. The findings indicate that natural attractions, e-WOM, and satisfaction have a significant positive effect on destination love. Specifically, natural attractions have a strong positive influence on destination love, satisfaction has a weak positive effect on demonstrating that satisfaction alone is not sufficient to recommend that tourism marketers, destination operators, and researchers utilize insights on natural attractions and electronic word-of-mouth (e-WOM) to improve marketing strategies, enhance visitor experiences, and deepen the understanding of destination love and loyalty.

KEYWORDS

Natural attraction; e-WOM; Satisfaction; Destination love, Atracción natural; e-WOM; Satisfacción; Amor por el destino, Campervan tourism

RESUMEN

naturales, el boca a boca electrónico (e-WOM) y la destination love within the context of campervan tourism in satisfacción en el amor por el destino en el contexto del turismo de autocaravana en Indonesia. La investigación utilizó una muestra de 483 encuestados de Yakarta y otras ciudades de Indonesia y empleó el modelo de ecuaciones estructurales (SEM) mediante mínimos cuadrados parciales (PLS) para poner a prueba ocho hipótesis. Los resultados indican que las atracciones naturales, el e-WOM y la satisfacción tienen un efecto positivo significativo en el amor por el destino. En concreto, los atractivos naturales tienen una destination love, and e-WOM has a strong positive effect on fuerte influencia positiva en el amor por el destino, la both destination love and satisfaction. The study conducted a satisfacción tiene un débil efecto positivo en el amor por el multi-group analysis and found no significant difference destino, y el e-WOM tiene un fuerte efecto positivo tanto en el between male and female respondents in their perspectives on amor por el destino como en la satisfacción. El estudio realizó the eight hypotheses. It extends previous theories by un análisis multigrupo y no encontró diferencias significativas entre los encuestados masculinos y femeninos en sus predict destination love, suggesting that other factors, such as perspectivas sobre las ocho hipótesis. El estudio amplía las natural attractions and e-WOM, play significant roles in teorías anteriores al demostrar que la satisfacción por sí sola influencing emotional attachment. The study's findings no es suficiente para predecir el amor por el destino, lo que sugiere que otros factores, como los atractivos naturales y el e-WOM, desempeñan un papel significativo a la hora de influir en el apego emocional. Las conclusiones del estudio recomiendan que los profesionales del marketing turístico, los operadores de destinos y los investigadores utilicen los conocimientos sobre los atractivos naturales y el boca a boca electrónico (e-WOM) para mejorar las estrategias de marketing, mejorar las experiencias de los visitantes y profundizar en la comprensión del amor y la lealtad al destino. PALABRAS CLAVE

Turismo en autocaravana

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1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, there has been a noticeable increase in the popularity of family camping and outdoor experiences among individuals and families, particularly in Indonesia (Lu et al., 2022; Safitri et al., 2022). Campgrounds across the country are witnessing a growing influx of campers, indicating a shift in tourism preferences and a demand for unique and immersive camping experiences. Understanding the elements that foster emotional connections between campers and camping destinations is crucial for campground operators and managers to deliver design and exceptional experiences. This research investigates the links between natural attractions, electronic word-of-mouth (e-WOM), satisfaction, and destination love within the context of camping grounds (Filieri et al., 2021; Pradhan, 2021), focusing specifically on campervan and family camping in Indonesia. Utilizing lovemark theory, which centers on the emotional bond between consumers and brands, this study offers valuable insights into the development of destination love (Falahnezhad et al., 2022).

By integrating the influence of natural attractions and e-WOM into the

framework of destination love, this research provides a novel perspective on factors beyond satisfaction that tourists' contribute to emotional attachment to destinations. Emphasizing the significant roles of these elements expands the theoretical understanding of destination branding and challenges the traditional view that satisfaction is the sole driver of destination love.

Existing literature on destination love and loyalty primarily focuses on satisfaction as the main predictor of tourists' emotional attachment destinations. However, this approach overlooks other significant factors that may influence destination love, such as e-WOM. natural attractions and Additionally, while lovemark theory has been applied in various contexts, its application within the camping industry—particularly concerning campervans and family camping remains underexplored. This seeks to address these gaps investigating how natural attractions and e-WOM shape destination love, thereby providing comprehensive а more understanding of the factors contributing to tourists' emotional attachment and loyalty.

In conclusion, this research addresses the limited understanding of how natural attractions and e-WOM contribute to destination love beyond the traditional focus on satisfaction. The objectives of this study are to investigate the influence of natural attractions and e-WOM on destination love and assess these factors interact how satisfaction to affect tourists' loyalty. By addressing these objectives, this study aims to provide valuable insights for destination marketers and operators to enhance their strategies and offerings.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The theoretical framework that underpins this study is primarily based on lovemark theory, which emphasizes the emotional bond between consumers and brands, suggesting that such bonds can lead to strong and long-term relationships (Roberts, 2005). This theory has been applied to understand tourists' attachment and loyalty to destination brands, highlighting the importance of emotional connections in fostering destination loyalty and the willingness to pay a premium price. However, the application of lovemark theory within the camping industry particularly in the context of campervans and family camping—remains underexplored. This gap underscores the need for а framework that incorporates additional factors, such as natural attractions and electronic wordof-mouth (e-WOM), to provide a more comprehensive understanding of destination love and loyalty. Moreover, there is a notable shift in tourism trends from competitiveness to sustainability, which is increasingly relevant in the context of natural tourism (Rocio et al., 2023), with an increasing focus on mitigating climate change in sustainable tourism practices (Peeters et al., 2024). By addressing these elements. including sustainability considerations, the proposed research aims to extend the existing theoretical framework and offer valuable insights for destination marketers and operators.

2.1 Destination Love

Brand love is a key component of lovemarks theory (H. Song et al., 2019), which posits that brands, events, and experiences that evoke strong passion can foster enduring consumer-brand relationships (Giovanis & Athanasopoulou, 2018). According to Roberts (2005), CEO of Saatchi and Saatchi, lovemarks theory is founded on two essential components: love and respect. These elements strengthen

consumer-brand relationships and positively influence brand loyalty.

Research indicates that when consumers feel a sense of love for a brand, they exhibit higher levels of brand loyalty (Giovanis & Athanasopoulou, 2018). The lovemarks theory suggests that brands should prioritize building strong emotional connections with consumers to cultivate loyalty beyond reason (Song et al., 2019). In the tourism industry, lovemarks theory can be applied to understand tourists' attachment and loyalty to specific destination brands (N. Chen et al., 2020).

Destination image encompasses the perceptions and associations that tourists hold about a place (Jean Claude et al., 2021). Destination brand love is defined as the affection tourists and visitors have for a tourism destination (Zhang et al., 2020), representing a profound emotional bond with the place (Aro et al., 2018). Destination love refers to the emotional attachment tourists and visitors develop towards a particular destination (Andriotis et al., 2021). It serves as a crucial indicator of a destination's overall success. Just as brand love is central to brand management, destination brand love is vital for destination marketers (Amaro et al., 2020). A lack of destination love can lead to the emergence of destination hate (Bintang, 2017).

Previous studies have identified social factors influencina several destination love, including brand experience-related factors, touristdependent factors. brand-related factors, positive emotions, and tourists' interest in the well-being of the brand (Amaro et al., 2020; Andriotis et al., 2021; Aro et al., 2018; Morando & Platania, 2022). According to Mohammad Shafiee et al. (2021). destination love comprises three dimensions: passionate love, emotional attachment, and self-brand integration. Additionally, Albert (2008)et al. identified eleven distinct dimensions with destination associated love: passion. relationship length, selfcongruity, aspirations, recollections, enjoyment, allure, trust, distinctiveness, aesthetics, and emotional expression.

The construct of destination brand love is characterized by a six-dimensional structure identified in previous research. These dimensions include self-brand integration, passion-driven behaviors, positive emotional connections, long-term relationship

building, attitude strength, and overall evaluation of attitudes toward the brand (K. Jiang, 2019). In the context of natural tourism destinations, the concept of destination love can be utilized to assess the success of a destination brand and develop strategies for enhancement. Tourists who form an emotional attachment to a destination reflect this bond in their experiences (Bruno et al., 2020). This study focuses on the campervan tourism industry in Indonesia to explore how natural attractions and electronic word-ofmouth (e-WOM) shape destination love among tourists.

2.2 Natural attraction and destination love

Natural attractions are features created by nature, such as geographic or geological formations that draw tourists (Shirazi & Shirazy, 2020). These attractions often serve as sites for activity-based pursuits including climbing, hiking, mountain biking, mountaineering, and camping. Examples of natural attractions include lakes, rivers, waterfalls, gorges, caves, mountains, and coastal features (Talam, 2022). Nature-based tourism activities are also considered non-consumptive tourism (Kota Neela Mani et al., 2021).

Natural attractions are essential dimensions of destination image in tourism and can be categorized into several aspects. They may represent one of two dimensions within a broader framework of destination image (Garay, 2019; Marine-Roig & Anton Clavé, 2015) or one of three dimensions (Harun et al., 2018). The dimensions of natural attraction can be categorized into seven aspects: natural scenery; facilities and equipment: traffic facilities; planning; design and arrangement of activities: business policy management; and consumer management and education (Horng et al., 2012).

Destination love can be influenced by various factors, including destination attractiveness and memorable experiences (Mohammad Shafiee et al., 2021). One study explored the attributes of outdoor environments that people place great personal importance on and found that people use natural microfeatures to explain their love for their favorite—and therefore most valued—natural environments (Schebella et al., 2017). A systematic review of nature-based tourism found that visitors are motivated by spiritual factors such as enriching their travel

experience, learning new things about nature, and experiencing the beauty of nature (Qiu et al., 2021).

The effect of natural attraction on destination love may differ in some ways. Natural attraction or destination attractiveness may be one of the antecedents of destination love (Aro et al., 2018; Mohammad Shafiee et al., 2021b). The concept of humanizing experiences in tourism significantly inspires destination brand love (Huang & Liu, 2021). This suggests that the effect of natural attraction on destination love may also depend on visitors' prior experiences and familiarity with the place. However, it's worth noting that tourism can also have negative effects on natural attractions and destinations. One article discusses how tourists can support unsustainable tourism practices that ultimately destroy the places they love (P. Lee et al., 2020).

Overall, while there is limited research specifically on the effect of natural attraction on destination or brand love, these studies suggest that natural environments can play an important role in fostering emotional attachment and identification with a destination. Based on this description

above, we develop the following hypothesis:

H₁. Natural attraction positively influences destination love.

2.3 Natural Attraction and Satisfaction

Tourist satisfaction is intricately linked to overall satisfaction with the tourism experience, wherein natural scenery that meets or exceeds expectations enhances tourists' contentment with their activities (Melih et al., 2022; Trinanda & Yuza Sari, 2020). The perception of a destination's natural environment fosters a sense of significantly awe and impacts satisfaction levels, particularly through evaluations of attractions such as scenic mountains. valleys. and natural soundscapes (J. Jiang et al., 2018).

Additionally, sociodemographic factors—including age, gender, and income—alongside destination image, emotional perceptions, perceived value, and service quality further influence tourist satisfaction (Miguel Ángel Solano et al., 2022; Melih et al., 2022; Sandhiya, 2021). Notably, the image of a natural soundscape directly affects tourist satisfaction and indirectly influences loyalty when mediated by

satisfaction levels (J. Jiang et al., 2018). Overall, the significance of natural attractions in enhancing tourist satisfaction is well-documented (Biswas et al., 2020; Hermawan et al., 2019). Thus, we propose the following hypothesis:

H₂. Natural attraction positively influences satisfaction.

2.4 Natural Attraction and e-WOM

The role of electronic word-ofmouth (e-WOM) in the tourism sector has gained prominence as online platforms such as social media facilitate easy access to information and opinions about destinations (Kit-Yeng et al., 2020). e-WOM serves as a powerful influence on tourists' destination choices and intentions to visit, with positive e-WOM capable of attracting new tourists while enhancing information gathering (Jie-Hua et al., 2020; Suman & Krishma, 2021). Natural attractions are significant triggers for e-WOM communication among tourists, as they provide valuable insights and recommendations that enhance overall travel experiences (Jie-Hua et al., 2020; Romero Montero et al., 2023). The quality and content of e-WOM can shape tourists' attitudes toward a destination; specifically, the

argumentative quality of e-WOM positively influences tourists' intentions (Jeetesh & Sana, 2022). Factors such as the type of natural attraction and the characteristics of tourists can affect the relationship between natural attraction and e-WOM communication (Mohamad et al., 2012). Tourists are particularly inclined to share their experiences regarding unique or iconic natural attractions that are visually appealing or emotionally engaging (Carvalho et al., 2021; Dionisio & Nisi, 2021). The impact of natural attractiveness on e-WOM is notably significant in tourism contexts (Hassani, 2023), with natural attractions—including soundscapes favorable e-WOM encouraging generation among tourists (Kankhuni & Ngwira, 2022). Therefore, we propose the following hypothesis:

H3. Natural attraction positively influences e-WOM

2.5 Satisfaction and Destination Love

Tourist satisfaction refers to level of contentment or fulfillment experienced by travelers during their travel experiences (Melih et al., 2022; Miguel Ángel Solano et al., 2022; Sandhiya, 2021). It is an abstract

concept that can be challenging to measure (S.Chenet et al., 2022) . In the tourism context, satisfaction is defined as the level experience tourists have during or after their travel (Miguel Ángel Solanoet al., 2022). One study defines satisfaction as post-trip evaluative judgment and affective feeling concerning travel experience (Yun & Pyo, 2016). Tourist satisfaction can be measured through various indicators, including overall satisfaction visit, which can range from unsatisfied to fully satisfied. This is often quantified using a Likert scale capture nuanced to perceptions of travel experience (Vivina et al., 2021). Factors influencing tourist satisfaction include service quality and perceived value expectations (Saut & Bie, 2024). Achieving tourist satisfaction is crucial for various stakeholders in tourist destinations (Marinao, 2018), suggesting satisfaction is key to the success of sustainability tourism businesses.

According Pizam et al. (1978) tourist satisfaction encompasses seven dimensions enjoyment opportunities, cost, hospitality, dining facilities, accommodation facilities, environment, and extent of commercialization. Another framework identifies various

factors influencing tourist satisfaction, such as attributes of accommodation quality and transportation options. food beverage services facilities overall satisfaction (Chand et al., 2016). Given the variety dimensions associated with tourist satisfaction, the complex concept difficult to measure. However expressive performance dimension most tourism products often considered more important instrumental aspects (Pizam et al., 1978). Kozak Rimmington (2000)simplifies this concept, highlighting several key factors that appeal to attractions and amenities. Accessibility information quality facilities services available at destination.

Tourist satisfaction is influenced by various factors, including motivations, participation activities. cognitiveemotional engagement, and demographic characteristics such as age, education level, family income, nationality, and length of stay (Vivina et al., 2021). Emotions like joy and love significantly impact tourist satisfaction intention to recommend destination (Prayag et al., 2017). Tourist emotional responses—including love—can affect levels of behavioral intentions, attitude judgments, choices. (Filep and Matteucci. 2020). Furthermore,

satisfaction plays a critical role in fostering loyalty, underscoring the importance of developing destination love lovalty (Papadopoulou et al., 2022). Gumparthi Patra (2020)finds satisfaction, hedonic symbolic benefits, and high-quality perceptions positively influence destination love. Satisfaction experience also positively influences destination brand love (Amaro et al., 2020). Based on this discussion, we propose the following hypothesis:

H4. Satisfaction positively influences destination love.

2.6 e-WOM and Destination Love

Word-of-mouth (WOM) communication in the tourism context refers to informal exchanges between individuals about their travel experiences (Jie-Hua et al., 2020; Mohammad Shafiee et al., 2021a). WOM can significantly influence tourists' destination choices and intentions to visit (Gosal et al., 2020). Positive WOM can attract new tourists and enhance a destination's image, while negative WOM can deter visitors and damage the destination's reputation. Online WOM, commonly referred to as e-WOM, is becoming increasingly important in the tourism sector (Akbari et al., 2022).

Online platforms such as social media, review websites, and blogs provide tourists with easy access to opinions information and about destinations, tourism products, and services (Litvin et al., 2008). The intention to engage in e-WOM can be powerful in generating visitors, particularly when responding negative feedback (Jeetesh & Sana, 2022). Tourists evaluate their satisfaction based on several kev factors, including comfort, friendliness, security, cleanliness, accommodation, transportation. and infrastructure (Cherapanukorn & Sugunnasil, 2022).

WOM can be influenced by various factors categorized into four main groups: personal conditions, social conditions, perceptual conditions, and consumption-based conditions. These factors include opinion seeking. information usefulness, trust in e-WOM sources, economic incentives, customer brand attitude. satisfaction, loyalty, commitment, altruism, affective normative commitment. opinion leadership, self-enhancement, information influence, tie strength, homophily, and community identity (Ismagilova et al., 2021).

In the conceptual article by Huete-Alcocer (2017), it is argued that there are emerging dimensional differences between traditional WOM and e-WOM. While traditional WOM is effective within limited social contact boundaries, e-WOM transcends these limitations by leveraging information technology and online social networks. It plays a significant role in consumer purchase decisions and has the potential to influence consumer behavior (Albarg & Aldoghan, 2020). By comparing WOM and e-WOM and considering the reach and convenience of reaching a wider audience—particularly among techsavvy travelers—we focus on e-WOM for this study. However, it is important to note that both WOM and e-WOM can complement each other (RV & Varshney, 2022).

The construct of e-WOM consists of four dimensions: WOM intensity, positive valence WOM, negative valence WOM, and WOM content (Goyette et al., 2010). Another study divides the dimensions of e-WOM into seven categories: perceived source credibility, source expertise, source trustworthiness. tie strength of relationships, source similarity, source quality, and source quantity (Ahmad et al., 2020). According to Hennig-Thurau et al. (2004), e-WOM has eight dimensions: platform support; venting unfavorable emotions; empathy for others; demonstrating positive feelings; benefits to society; economic motives; promoting the firm; and guidance seeking. Notably, one article includes only the first five of these eight dimensions (Yudhistira, 2018).

The relationship between e-WOM and brand love is complex and can vary depending on the study. Some research suggests that brand love can influence e-WOM, while others indicate that e-WOM can influence brand love within the tourism context (Bilal et al., 2022; Kiuru, 2014; Pillay, 2021). Furthermore, e-WOM can impact destination love in tourism by influencing tourists' emotional and cognitive responses to a destination (Amaro et al., 2020). eWOM has been found to influence attitudes toward a destination (Akdim, 2021). This emotional engagement can contribute to destination love and loyalty (Loureiro et al., 2017). Based on this discussion, we propose the following hypothesis:

H5. e-WOM positively influences destination love.

2.7 e-WOM and Satisfaction

Numerous studies discuss the effect of satisfaction on e-WOM (Febrian & Fadly, 2021; Serra-Cantallops et al., 2018), while others present opposing views (Hakim & Mulia, 2019; Kit-Yeng et al., 2020; Suman & Krishma, 2021). Some research indicates a positive relationship between satisfaction and e-WOM—suggesting that satisfied customers are more likely to contribute to e-WOM compared to dissatisfied customers (Das, 2013; T. H. Lee & Jaafar, 2011). Additionally, positive emotional experiences positively affect both satisfaction and e-WOM (Serra-Cantallops et al., 2018).

Conversely, some studies suggest a negative or inconclusive relationship between satisfaction and e-WOM. They indicate that customer satisfaction does not necessarily lead to e-WOM or may become a weaker variable influencing satisfaction (Harris & Khatami, 2017; Isa & Riyadi, 2018). The valence of e-WOM also plays a crucial role; exposure to positive e-WOM prior to purchase increases consumer satisfaction while exposure to negative e-WOM decreases it (Kuo & Nakhata, 2019). Findings indicate that electronic wordof-mouth (eWOM) positively influences brand image and satisfaction (Nurhidayati & Abror, 2020), and eWOM has a positive impact on tourist satisfaction (Hakim & Mulia, 2019). Based on this discussion above, we propose the following hypothesis:

H6. e-WOM positively influences satisfaction.

Mediating between variables

Based on the literature review throughout Sections 2.2–2.7 above, we develop indirect hypotheses regarding the relationships between variables in the context of natural tourism.

H7. The influence of natural attraction on destination love is mediated by satisfaction.

H8. The influence of e-WOM on destination love is mediated by satisfaction.

Multigroup analysis by gender

Research indicates that there are notable differences by gender in the tourism context, particularly in natural tourism. Women may have different needs and preferences than men regarding nature-based resort destinations; female tourists often perceive the importance of destination attributes and travel values differently than their male counterparts (Godtman

Kling et al., 2020; Rinaldi & Salerno, 2020). This study emphasizes that women's preferences for tourism experiences differ from men's, especially concerning safety, security, and comfort.

Gender can also influence tourist behavior and involvement in specific settings, as observed in analyses of tourist behavior at cultural sites (Miguel Ángel Solano et al., 2022). However, some studies have found no significant effects of gender on island tourism (Rasoolimanesh et al., 2017) or tourist satisfaction (Alananzeh et al., 2018). These findings highlight the importance of considering a gender perspective in tourism research, design, and marketing strategies.

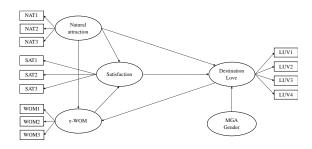


Figure 1 Framework research

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Survey instruments and measures

An online survey was conducted between May and June 2024, targeting respondents in Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia, as well as the adjacent cities of Bekasi, Bogor, and Tangerang. The survey included items for electronic word-of-mouth (e-WOM) based Goyette et al. (2010) and three items measuring destination love adapted from Wallace et al. (2014). Additionally, four items for satisfaction were taken from Kozak and Rimmington (2000), and three items for natural attraction were derived from Chi and Qu (2008). A six-point rating scale was employed for all questionnaire items, ranging from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (6). The selection of a 6-point Likert scale aims to understand respondents' biases in their perceptions of the instruments used in this study, as discussed by Taherdoost (2019), who reviews various response scales. including rating scales, attitude scales, and different lengths of Likert scales in survey measurement and questionnaire design. A total of 483 responses were collected through an online survey distributed via social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram, targeting residents Jakarta and nearby cities. Before administering the questionnaire, preliminary study was conducted to ensure the validity and reliability of the

survey instruments. To analyze the data, the researchers applied structural equation modeling (SEM) with partial least squares (PLS), a multivariate analysis technique commonly used in social sciences and various other fields. This method is chosen for its robustness in handling complex models with multiple constructs and its effectiveness in working with smaller sample sizes compared to other SEM techniques, such as covariance-based SEM (Hair et al., 2011).

3.2 Descriptive statistics for demographics

The respondents represented a diverse range of genders, generations, educational backgrounds, and employment statuses. This diversity within the sample ensures comprehensive representation of the population being studied. Among the 483 respondents were nearly evenly split by gender, with 46.7% identifying as male and 53.1% as female. The generational breakdown included 49.3% Gen Z, 32.3% millennials, and 11.8% Gen X, while the remaining respondents were from older generations or born in 2010 and later.

In terms of education level, 49.7% of respondents were undergraduates, 29% were high school graduates, and 13.3% held diplomas. Employment status revealed that 46.8% were unemployed, 40.6% were employed, and 11.4% owned their own businesses; the remainder were retirees.

4. RESULT

4.1 Reliability and validity of the measures

Table 1 presents the reliability and validity of four variables: destination love, natural attraction, satisfaction, and electronic word-of-mouth (e-WOM). The Cronbach's alpha (α) values indicate high internal consistency and reliability for all variables. The rho_A values suggest a strong correlation among items measuring the same concept. The reliability composite (CR) values demonstrate strong internal consistency, while the average variance extracted (AVE) values indicate high convergent validity for destination love and natural attraction; satisfaction shows moderate convergent validity.

Overall, these results suggest that the variables are reliable and valid measures of their respective concepts. Among the constructs, natural attraction has the highest ratings for internal consistency and reliability, with an α value of 0.907, a rho A score of 0.908, and a CR of 0.942. This suggests that the elements within this construct are very consistent and effectively measure the same underlying notion. Conversely, satisfaction has the lowest values, with an α value of 0.866, a rho A value of 0.869, and a CR of 0.909. The AVE score for natural attraction is 0.844, indicating that the items in this construct share a high degree of common variance. In contrast, satisfaction has an AVE score of 0.713, reflecting a modest level of convergent validity.

In summary, natural attraction consistently demonstrates the highest values across all measures, indicating strong internal consistency reliability, latent construct reliability, and convergent validity, while satisfaction regularly shows the lowest scores.

	(α)	rho_ A	CR	(AV E)
Destinati	0.90	0.90	0.94	0.83
on love	4	5	0	9
Natural	0.90	0.90	0.94	0.84
attraction	7	8	2	4
Satisfacti	0.86	0.86	0.90	0.71
on	6	9	9	3

e-WOM	0.86	0.86	0.91	0.79	
	7	7	8	0	

Table 1 Construct Reliability and Validity

Discriminant validity measures how distinct the constructs being assessed are from each other (Rönkkö & Cho, 2022). The results from the discriminant validity analysis show that all diagonal values are greater than the correlation coefficients between each pair of constructs, indicating that these constructs are distinct from one another (Chetwynd, 2022). This finding confirms that the measures used to assess these constructs are valid and reliable (see Table 2).

	Destin ation love	Natur al attra ction	Satisf action	e- W O M
Destin	0.916			
ation				
love				
Natura	0.847	0.918		
I				
attract				
ion				
Satisf	0.724	0.727	0.845	
action				

	Destin	Natur		е-
	_	al	Satisf	W
	ation love		action	0
	iove	ction		M
e-		ction 0.834	0.786	M

Table 2 Discriminant Validity

Table 3 presents the outer loadings for the four variables: destination love, natural attraction, satisfaction, and e-WOM. The outer loading measures the strength of the relationship between the items and their respective constructs. In this table, indicators for each variable are listed along with their corresponding outer loadings; all indicators exceed a loading of 0.8, indicating a strong relationship between the items and their respective constructs. This suggests that the items effectively capture and measure the underlying concepts they are intended to represent, thereby supporting the validity of the constructs for destination love, natural attraction, satisfaction, and e-WOM. The results indicate that all constructs demonstrate strong reliability validity in measuring and respective concepts within this study's context.

		Outer	
Variable	Indicator	loadin	Resul
S	S	gs	ts
Destinat	This is a	0.922	Valid
ion love	wonderful		
	camping		
	ground		
	(LUV1)		
	This	0.931	Valid
	camping		
	ground		
	makes me		
	feel good		
	(LUV2)		
	I love this	0.894	Valid
	camping		
	ground		
	(LUV3)		
Natural	The	0.911	Valid
attractio	beauty of		
n	the		
	camping		
	ground		
	panorama		
	is very		
	attractive		
	(NAT1)		
	The	0.923	Valid
	temperatu		
	re of the		
	camping		
	ground is		

Variable s	Indicator s	Outer loadin gs	Resul ts	Variable s	Indicator s	Outer loadin gs	Resul ts
-	convenien				camping		
	t for				ground		
	sightseein				informatio		
	g (NAT2)				n is easy		
	The forest	0.921	Valid		to obtain		
	on the				(SAT3)		
	camping				Overall,	0.821	Valid
	ground is				the		
	still				cleanlines		
	natural				s of the		
	(NAT3)				camping		
Satisfac	The	0.829	Valid		grounds is		
tion	quality				satisfactor		
	standard				y (SAT4)		
	of the			e-WOM	I spoke of	0.881	Valid
	camping				this		
	ground is				camping		
	excellent				ground		
	(SAT1)				much		
	The	0.873	Valid		more		
	facilities				frequently		
	on this				than about		
	camping				any other		
	ground				destinatio		
	are varied				n (e-		
	(SAT4)				WOM1)		
	The	0.855	Valid		1	0.898	Valid
	availability				recomme		
	of				nded this		

Variable s	Indicator s	Outer loadin gs	Resul ts
	camping		
	ground (e-		
	WOM2)		
	I discuss	0.886	Valid
	the variety		
	of		
	experienc		
	es offered		
	(e-WOM3)		

Table 3 Outer Loadings

4.2 Results of the hypothesis testing

Table 4 displays the path coefficients for the eight hypotheses (H1 H8), which are standardized regression coefficients indicating the strength and direction of relationships between two variables (Mitchell, 2020). The table includes path coefficients, standard deviations, t-statistics, and pvalues. These coefficients reflect the strength and direction of relationships between independent and dependent variables, while standard deviations measure variability, t-statistics assess significance, and p-values indicate the likelihood of obtaining observed results by chance.

The results suggest significant relationships between independent and dependent variables for all eight hypotheses, except for H7. Specifically, the study found a strong positive effect of natural attraction on destination love (path coefficient = 0.576, p < 0.001), which aligns with previous research emphasizing the importance of natural in fostering emotional beauty connections to destinations, as noted in studies by Aro et al (2018), and Mohammad Shafiee et al. (2021). Additionally, there is a significant positive relationship between natural attraction and satisfaction (path coefficient = 0.237, p = 0.002) supports findings from Biswas et al.(2021) and Jiang et al. (2018)

The study also identified a positive path coefficient for the relationship between natural attraction and e-WOM (0.158, p = 0.008). This finding is consistent with research by Carvalho et al. (2021), Dionisio and Nisi (2021), Kankhuni and Ngwira (2022) which indicated that satisfied tourists are more likely to engage in positive e-WOM about their experiences. Furthermore, there is a positive effect of satisfaction on destination love (path coefficient =

0.187, p = 0.026) aligning with earlier studies by Aro et al. (2018).

The strong positive relationship between e-WOM and destination love was also confirmed (path coefficient = 0.588, p < 0.001), corroborating findings from Bilal et al. (2022) and Pillay, (2021), highlighting the role of positive word-of-mouth in enhancing brand loyalty and emotional connections with destinations.

Moreover, the significant impact of e-WOM on satisfaction (path coefficient = 0.576, p < 0.001) supporting research by Nilashi et al. (2022), which found that positive e-WOM can enhance tourist satisfaction through shared experiences. However, the mediation effect of e-WOM on satisfaction leading to destination love (H8) was modest (path coefficient = 0.093, p = 0.010), indicating that while e-WOM influences both variables, direct relationships may have a more substantial impact than mediated pathways Overall, findings reflect and build upon existing literature, emphasizing the complex interplay between satisfaction, e-WOM, and destination love in tourism contexts.

		(0	(M	(ST	Т	Р
		•		DEV	Stati	Val
)))	stics	ues
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1	attrac					
	tion					
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	destin					
	ation					
	love					
	Natur	0.2	0.2	0.07	3.13	0.0
Н	al	37	27	6	4	02
2	attrac					
	tion					
	\rightarrow					
	satisf					
	action					
	Natur	0.1	0.1	0.05	2.66	0.0
Н	al	58	53	9	9	80
3	attrac					
	tion					
	→ e-					
	WOM					
	Satisf	0.1	0.1	0.08	2.24	0.0
Н	action	87	89	4	0	26
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	destin					
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		/0	/5.5	(ST	Т	Р
		(0	(M	DEV	Stati	Val
)))	stics	ues
	e-	0.5	0.5	0.06	8.74	0.0
Н	WOM	88	94	7	5	00
5	\rightarrow					
	destin					
	ation					
	love					
	e-	0.5	0.5	0.06	8.62	0.0
Н	WOM	76	78	7	0	00
6	\rightarrow					
	satisf					
	action					
	Natur	0.0	0.0	0.02	1.89	0.0
Н	al	37	36	0	9	58
7	attrac					
	tion					
	\rightarrow					
	satisf					
	action					
	\rightarrow					
	destin					
	ation					
	love					
	e-	0.0	0.0	0.03	2.58	0.0
Н	WOM	93	90	6	3	10
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Table 4 Path Coefficients

4.3 Multi group analysis

The multi-group analysis results, as shown in Table 5, provide insights into the relationships between the hypotheses across three groups: the overall sample, male respondents, and female respondents (Henseler et al., 2016). The results indicate that there are no significant differences between male and female respondents for most hypotheses, which aligns with several studies (Ceylan et al., 2021; Quynh et al., 2021; Su et al., 2022). However, two notable exceptions were found.

In H2 (Natural Attraction → Satisfaction), the p-values were 0.001 for males and 0.610 for females. This relationship is significant for both the overall sample and male respondents but not for female respondents. This suggests that while natural attractions significantly enhance satisfaction for males, females may not experience the same level of impact, potentially due to safety factors. This finding aligns with the research by Su et al. (2022).

Meanwhile, in H4 (Satisfaction → Destination Love), the p-values were 0.320 for males and 0.010 for females. This hypothesis is significant for females but not for males, indicating that female respondents place greater importance on satisfaction when forming emotional attachments to destinations. This finding supports earlier studies by Tosun et al. (2024).These results highlight important gender-related differences in how natural attraction and satisfaction influence emotional connections to destinations.

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Table 5 Multi group analysis

love

5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

is Natural tourism vital component of the tourism industry, and understanding the factors that influence tourists' destination love is crucial for tourism marketers. This study aimed to effects of investigate the attraction, electronic word-of-mouth (e-WOM), and satisfaction on destination love from the perspective of lovemarks theory. Using a sample of tourists, we tested eight hypotheses through statistical analysis. The results indicated that all four variables—destination love, natural attraction, satisfaction, and e-WOM—exhibited high internal consistency and convergent validity.

The findings revealed that natural attraction has a strong positive effect on destination love, supporting hypothesis H1. Additionally, natural attraction significantly impacts both satisfaction and e-WOM, thereby supporting hypotheses H2 and H3, respectively.

Satisfaction was found to have a weak positive effect on destination love, which supports hypothesis H4. Furthermore, e-WOM demonstrated a strong positive effect on both destination love and satisfaction, supporting hypotheses H5 and H6.

The multi-group analysis indicated no significant differences between male and female respondents regarding their views on the eight hypotheses, as all pvalues exceeded the threshold of 0.05. However. while most hypotheses showed significant relationships across groups, variations in p-values between males and females were for certain observed hypotheses. Specifically, the relationships between natural attraction and satisfaction, as well as between satisfaction destination love, exhibited differing levels of significance based on gender. In this study, the hypotheses that were rejected included those with p-values exceeding the conventional threshold of 0.05, indicating a lack of statistical significance. Specifically, hypothesis H7, which posited a mediating effect of satisfaction between natural attraction and destination love, was not supported across all groups, with p-values of 0.058, 0.312, and 0.702 for the overall sample, male respondents, and female respondents, respectively. Additionally, hypothesis H3, which examined the relationship between natural attraction and e-WOM, was not significant for both male and female respondents, with p-values of 0.178 and 0.201.

From the perspective of lovemarks theory, our findings enhance the understanding of factors influencing destination love in natural tourism contexts. The inherent beauty and allure of camping sites were found to significantly affect destination love. This suggests that when individuals perceive a camping ground as visually appealing and captivating, they are more likely to develop a strong emotional connection to it.

e-WOM emerged as another significant predictor of destination love. Positive word-of-mouth communication among campers regarding experiences can foster trust, credibility, and desirability for the destination. Consequently, this enhances emotional bond and attachment to the location. Additionally, satisfaction was identified as a key driver of destination love; when campers have positive experiences their that meet expectations during their stay at the camping ground, they are more likely to develop a deep affection for the destination.

However, it is important to note that the convergent validity satisfaction was slightly lower compared to other variables. This suggests that while satisfaction plays an important role in predicting destination love, additional factors may influence emotional beyond just attachment satisfaction levels alone.

In conclusion, this study explored the influence of natural attractions and electronic word-of-mouth (e-WOM) on destination love within the campervan tourism industry in Indonesia. The primary objectives were to assess how these factors contribute to tourists' emotional attachment and loyalty to destinations.

The findings revealed that both natural attractions and e-WOM significantly impact destination love, underscoring their importance beyond traditional satisfaction metrics. This research enriches the existing literature by applying lovemark theory to the camping industry and providing a deeper understanding of the elements that influence destination love.

Implications for the theory

The findings from this study have several implications for lovemarks theory as applied to natural tourism destinations. This theory can be utilized to understand tourists' attachment and loyalty to specific destination brands. Our study indicates that tourists' love for destination brands leads to favorable behaviors such as switching resistance, loyalty, forgiveness, and intentions to revisit (Swanson, 2017). Lovemarks theory explains why consumers remain attached and loyal to specific brands beyond rational considerations (N. Chen et al., 2020), as well as its relevance to green consumption (Javed et al., 2024), digitalization (Cho et al., 2024), and other contexts.

Additionally, lovemarks theory can enhance tourists' satisfaction with a destination's image by fostering strong emotional attachments that lead to loyalty and a willingness to pay premium prices (Rahman et al., 2021). The implications for theory from this study are significant, particularly in extending the application of lovemarks theory within the context of the camping industry. By demonstrating the influence of natural attractions and electronic word-of-mouth (e-WOM) on destination love, the study broadens the

understanding of factors contributing to emotional attachment beyond traditional satisfaction metrics.

These findings highlight the importance of considering a wider array of elements, such as the inherent beauty of natural attractions and the impact of e-WOM, in shaping tourists' emotional connections to destinations. Consequently, this study provides a valuable contribution to the theoretical framework bν integrating additional dimensions, thereby enhancing the predictive power and applicability of lovemarks theory in tourism research.

application However, the of lovemarks theory in expanding the destination loyalty model or brand love in tourism faces several challenges. One significant challenge is the need to integrate emotional connections with practical aspects of tourism, such as service quality and destination attributes, which can complicate the measurement of destination love and loyalty. This underscores the necessity for a more comprehensive framework that incorporates various factors influencing destination love, including sustainability considerations. Addressing these challenges will require further exploration into how emotional attachments can coexist with practical elements in tourism settings, ultimately enriching our understanding of brand love and loyalty in this dynamic field.

Implications for practice

Tourism marketers should prioritize developing and maintaining positive images of their destinations to attract tourists effectively. This can be achieved by emphasizing the natural attractions of the area and promoting positive e-WOM from satisfied visitors. Marketers should create effective strategies focusing on natural attraction, e-WOM, and satisfaction to enhance tourists' love for their destinations.

Additionally, targeting the right potential visitors can help increase traffic to these destinations. Operators should leverage visitor analytics and adapt marketing strategies according to current trends in tourism marketing to strengthen their competitive edge. By gaining insights into past visitors' experiences while enhancing efforts to attract new visitors, marketers can refine their strategies effectively.

Camping ground operators should maintain and showcase the site's natural beauty through regular upkeep, landscaping efforts, and nature-based activities that attract campers while fostering destination love. Creating memorable experiences through unique activities, amenities, and services—such as guided nature walks or themed events—can further enhance campers' experiences and generate positive word-of-mouth.

Limitation and future recommendations

This study utilized a sample of tourists that may not fully represent the entire population visiting these destinations. Future research should aim for larger and more diverse samples to enhance the generalizability of results. Additionally, the study's focus on the campervan tourism industry in Indonesia may limit the applicability of the results to other types of tourism or geographical contexts. Future studies could explore similar constructs in different tourism sectors or regions to assess the generalizability of the findings. Furthermore, future research investigate should other factors attachmentinfluencing emotional such as culture, history, infrastructure. By addressing these limitations and expanding upon the current findings, future studies can contribute even more significantly to

understanding emotional attachment in tourism contexts.

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