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## Adventure tourism — Vocabulary

*Tourisme d'aventure — Vocabulaire*

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 228, *Tourism and related services*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

### 0.1 Adventure tourism

Adventure tourism is a global industry that is growing in importance. Whether provided on a commercial, not-for-profit or charitable basis, adventure tourism activities involve an accepted, inherent element of risk and challenge. Taking risks brings rewards but also brings dangers. In order to maximize the rewards, adventure tourism activity providers should operate as safely as practicable.

ISO 20611, ISO 21101, ISO 21102 and ISO 21103 provide a basis for adventure tourism activity providers to plan, deliver and inform about adventure tourism activities as safely as practicable.

Effective implementation of these documents will help consumers and other participants make informed choices about activities and providers.

### 0.2 Adventure tourism standards

The purpose of these documents is to set out the minimum requirements for safety management systems and information to participants.

The following four documents are independent entities since they apply to different aspects of adventure tourism:

- ISO 20611: provides requirements and recommendations on good practices for sustainability (environmental, social and economic aspects) for adventure tourism activities.
- ISO 21101: specifies how the adventure tourism organization manages its operations in terms of safety.

NOTE *ISO 21101 – Adventure tourism – Safety management systems*<sup>[9]</sup> is a handbook that offers step-by-step guidance and examples to help small and medium-sized adventure tourism operators to develop, implement and continually improve a safety management system following the requirements of ISO 21101.

- ISO 21102: specifies the minimum requirements and recommendations of competencies and the related expected results of competencies for adventure tourism activity leaders common to any adventure tourism activity.
- ISO 21103: specifies the minimum information that shall be communicated to participants and potential participants before, during and after the activity.

### 0.3 Purpose of this document

Adventure tourism terminology is an important way to align terms to enhance the safe delivery of adventure tourism activities.

This document specifies the most common terms and their definitions used in adventure tourism activities. This document was developed to provide a better understanding of adventure tourism terms and their context within this market.

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# Adventure tourism — Vocabulary

## 1 Scope

This document establishes the terms commonly used in various types of adventure tourism activities, including terms related to safety and services.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

## 3 Terms and definitions

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1

#### **abseiling rappeling**

*adventure tourism activity* (3.4) with rope-descending techniques, using specific equipment and procedures

Note 1 to entry: Abseiling inside caves is included in *vertical speleotourism* (3.47).

### 3.2

#### **accident**

*incident* (3.20) resulting in death, disease, injury or other damage

### 3.3

#### **adventure speleotourism**

*adventure tourism activity* (3.4) in caves

### 3.4

#### **adventure tourism activity**

adventure activity for tourism purposes that involves a degree of instruction or leadership, safety management and an accepted inherent risk

Note 1 to entry: An accepted inherent risk means that the *participant* (3.30) has a reasonable understanding about the risk involved.

### 3.5

#### **adventure tourism activity provider**

individual or organization having overall responsibility for all aspects of the provision of *adventure tourism activities* (3.4)

Note 1 to entry: *Adventure tourism activities* can be provided free of charge or in return for payment.

### 3.6

#### **ballooning**

*adventure tourism activity* (3.4) using an aerostatic balloon where persons are carried in the basket under the balloon

**3.7**  
**bungee jump**  
**bungy jump**  
*adventure tourism activity (3.4)* which involves a person free-falling from a height with their descent limited by attachment to the bungee jump cord

Note 1 to entry: The elastic cord is manufactured specifically for the activity.

**3.8**  
**canoeing**  
*adventure tourism activity (3.4)* using a canoe for paddling across a body of water

Note 1 to entry: Canoes are generally propelled with single-bladed paddles.

**3.9**  
**canyoneering**  
*adventure tourism activity (3.4)* in canyons using a variety of techniques, including other outdoor activities such as walking, scrambling, climbing, jumping, abseiling and swimming

Note 1 to entry: Flotation devices can be used.

**3.10**  
**canyoning**  
*adventure tourism activity (3.4)* in ascending or descending, wet or dry courses, usually in canyons, progressing through aquatic or vertical obstacles

Note 1 to entry: In wet courses, water can be intermittent.

Note 2 to entry: A water course may contain waterfalls.

Note 3 to entry: Cascading is a term used for the descent of one particular waterfall.

**3.11**  
**cyclotourism**  
*adventure tourism activity (3.4)* involving riding a bicycle

Note 1 to entry: The activity can involve an overnight stay.

**3.12**  
**climbing**  
*adventure tourism activity (3.4)* involving scaling a steep surface

Note 1 to entry: Safe climbing uses specific techniques and equipment.

Note 2 to entry: Some examples of steep surfaces include rock face, side of a mountain, boulder, ice waterfall, ice cascade, artificial climbing wall or sea cliff.

**3.13**  
**difficulty level**  
rating or degree of physical and psychological exertion expected to be encountered while participating in an *adventure tourism activity (3.4)*, based on factors such as required technical capacity, terrain, altitude or climate

**3.14**  
**disability**  
impairment, activity limitation or participation restriction denoting the negative aspects of the interaction between an individual (with a health condition) and that individual's contextual factors (environmental and personal factors)

[SOURCE: ISO 9999:2022, 3.6, modified — Definition revised.]

**3.15****emergency**

serious situation requiring immediate action

**3.16****first aid**

emergency procedures aimed at maintaining vital functions while ensuring that the condition of a casualty who is injured or unconscious or whose life is in danger is not aggravated, until he or she receives more qualified assistance for further treatment

**3.17****free time**

period(s) of time occurring within the overall duration of the *adventure tourism activity* (3.4), defined as being beyond the contractual obligations of the *adventure tourism activity provider* (3.5)

**3.18****high rope course**

*adventure tourism activity* (3.4) where the *participant* (3.30) is attached with specialized equipment to courses at a height above the ground, usually constructed or installed in trees or made of utility poles

Note 1 to entry: It can also be referred to as a challenge course.

**3.19****hiking**

*adventure tourism activity* (3.4) where the main element is walking and is less arduous than *trekking* (3.46)

**3.20****incident**

event leading to or having the potential to lead to an *accident* (3.2)

Note 1 to entry: The term "incident" includes "almost accident" and "*accident* (3.2)".

Note 2 to entry: An incident in which no disease, injury, damage or any other loss takes place is also called "almost accident".

**3.21****interested party**

person or organization that can affect, be affected by, or perceive itself to be affected by a decision or activity

**3.22****itinerary**

description of the component parts involved in the *adventure tourism activity* (3.4), listing times, locations and activities

**3.23****jet skiing**

*adventure tourism activity* (3.4) using a recreational motorized watercraft that the rider sits or stands on

**3.24****leader**

competent person who takes responsibility for people and is able to lead, guide and supervise an assigned activity

Note 1 to entry: A leader can also be referred to as a "guide", "monitor" or similar.

Note 2 to entry: A leadership team comprises several leaders.

**3.25**

**mountaineering**

*adventure tourism activity* (3.4) involving ascending or descending mountains

Note 1 to entry: Mountaineering can involve a variety of climbing techniques, such as trekking (3.46), scrambling, rock climbing (3.32), snow climbing or ice climbing.

**3.26**

**mountain biking**

*adventure tourism activity* (3.4) involving riding a bicycle, often over rough terrain

Note 1 to entry: The bicycle can be self propelled or battery assisted.

**3.27**

**off-road tourism**

*adventure tourism activity* (3.4) following routes off public roads on unpaved secondary roads, trails (3.45), tracks or rough terrain using specialized vehicles or bikes

Note 1 to entry: The route (3.33) can include sections on public roads.

**3.28**

**tandem paragliding**

*adventure tourism activity* (3.4) that involves a leader and a participant in a tandem flight with specifically designed aircraft with no rigid primary structure

**3.29**

**parasailing**

*adventure tourism activity* (3.4) where a person is towed behind a boat while attached to a specifically designed parachute, known as a parasail, to keep them aloft

**3.30**

**participant**

person taking part in an *adventure tourism activity* (3.4) who is not a member of the leadership team

Note 1 to entry: A participant can also be referred to as a "client", "customer" or similar.

**3.31**

**rafting**

*adventure tourism activity* (3.4) involving the descent of rivers with different ratings, using inflatable boats, specific techniques and specialized equipment

**3.32**

**rock climbing**

*adventure tourism activity* (3.4) in which persons climb up, down or across natural rock formations

**3.33**

**route**

course from the start point of the *adventure tourism activity* (3.4) to its end

Note 1 to entry: In some routes, the start and end points are the same.

**3.34**

**sand boarding**

*adventure tourism activity* (3.4) that involves riding across or down a sand dune while standing on a board

**3.35**

**self-rescue**

specific techniques implemented by a person on his or her own to manage adverse situations without external intervention

Note 1 to entry: In some situations, more than one person can be engaged in self-rescue.

**3.36****self-belay system**  
**self-connection system**

safety device system, connected to the harness fixing point and to a safety point, made of ropes or another connection

Note 1 to entry: The self-belay system can have the capacity to absorb impact forces.

Note 2 to entry: A safety point can be, for example, a leash, a sling or a lanyard attached to a piton or bolts.

**3.37****single-track trail**

*trail* (3.45) where only one person or bicycle can pass at a time

**3.38****stakeholder**

individual or group that has an interest in any decision or activity of an organization

[SOURCE: ISO 26000:2010, 2.20]

**3.39****support vehicle**

<cyclotourism> vehicle for logistic support, capable of transporting persons or bicycles safely

**3.40****support vehicle**

<off-road tourism> vehicle for logistic support during the course, except for the removal of injured *leaders* (3.24) or *participants* (3.30)

**3.41****support vehicle**

<trekking> vehicle intended for logistical support during the course of the journey, except for the removal of an injured person

**3.42****sustainability**

state of the global system, including environmental, social and economic aspects, in which the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Note 1 to entry: The environmental, social and economic aspects interact, are interdependent and are often referred to as the three dimensions of sustainability.

Note 2 to entry: Sustainability is the goal of *sustainable development* (3.43).

[SOURCE: ISO Guide 82:2019, 3.1]

**3.43****sustainable development**

development that meets the environmental, social and economic needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Note 1 to entry: Derived from the *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development/Brundtland Report*.<sup>[10]</sup>

[SOURCE: ISO Guide 82:2019, 3.2]

**3.44****third-party provider**

external organization or individual that provides services to the *adventure tourism activity provider* (3.5)

**3.45**

**trail**

narrow road, track or pathway, usually unpaved, in natural surroundings

**3.46**

**trekking**

*adventure tourism activity* (3.4) in a natural environment, on *trails* (3.45), which is self-sufficient for survival, includes an overnight stay and is more arduous than *hiking* (3.19)

Note 1 to entry: Trekking activities can include overnight stays of one or more nights.

Note 2 to entry: An overnight stay can be in, for example, campsites or camp grounds, farms, hostels, lodges or bivouacs.

**3.47**

**vertical speleotourism**

*adventure speleotourism* (3.3) using *vertical techniques* (3.48)

**3.48**

**vertical technique**

set of techniques in *climbing* (3.12), descending or moving in vertical gaps

Note 1 to entry: Usually these techniques use the application of specific methods and equipment.

**3.49**

**wild safari**

*adventure tourism activity* (3.4) to experience wildlife in its natural habitat

**3.50**

**windsurfing**

*adventure tourism activity* (3.4) using a board and a single sail and involving techniques from surfing and sailing

**3.51**

**zipline course**

*adventure tourism activity* (3.4) using cables suspended between support structures that enables a person attached by specialized equipment to traverse from one point to another, propelled only by the force of gravity

**3.52**

**zorbing**

*adventure tourism activity* (3.4) involving a participant inside a ball generally made from two plastic spheres separated by a flexible structure

Note 1 to entry: The spheres can be made of steel, carbon fibre, nylon or other materials.