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Endnote: Covid and Beyond Covid: Temporal Futures

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The chapters of this book were developed and written by the respective authors and contributors during the two years of the Coronavirus pandemic, in 2020-2021. Given the timing and timescale of the development of book's development, the purpose of this chapter is to provide a post-pandemic post-script for some of the key issues raised in the various chapters. It starts with a review of how the pandemic played out in terms of temporal patterns, followed by a discussion of recent developments that impinge on the relationship between temporality and tourism going forward.

The temporal hiatus of the Coronavirus pandemic

For much of the pandemic period, tourism was essentially 'on hold' in most parts of the world, with some tentative signs of activity during the periods of relaxation between total and partial lockdowns. Touristic activity resumed at different paces and at different timescales from country to country and region to region. According to UNWTO (2023), by 2022, Europe had reached around 80% of its pre-pandemic arrivals level, compared with just 23% in East Asia and 63% globally. The 900 million international visitors provisionally recorded that year represented a doubling of the previous year (UNWTO, 2023). The regional differences reflected the degree of relaxation of the state controls placed on human movement, on the relaxation of temporal trading restrictions for service-oriented businesses, on the recovery of transport