

# Academic Weekly Digest

School of Hospitality & Tourism Management



*Potential last skiing resorts do not take accountability for how people reach them*

Due to its reliance on cold temperatures and snowfall, the ski industry is amongst the most vulnerable sections of the tourism industry to climate change. PhD student [Harald Rice](#) and supervisors [Scott Cohen](#) and [Daniel Scott](#) follow up their work modelling climate change risk in the Swedish ski industry by viewing the perceptions of and adaptations to climate change in the region.



# Perceptions of climate change risk and sustainable adaptations in the Swedish ski industry

Harald Rice, Prof Scott Cohen & Prof Daniel Scott

Following our work modelling climate change risk under differing climate change scenarios for the Swedish ski industry, this paper viewed how key stakeholders in the industry perceived and adapted to such changes. Amongst the most interesting findings was that despite the progressive work in limiting emissions within Swedish resorts, with many approaching Net-Zero carbon emissions, resorts are taking no accountability for how people reach their resorts. This represents a considerable oversight as around 86% of ski holiday emissions result from transportation. There was no evidence that Swedish resorts are incentivising or even encouraging more sustainable travel in contrast with French resorts like Morzine where tourists arriving by train are offered a suite of discounts on ski lessons, food and drink and even lift passes. Such reliance on fossil fuel-based travel is potentially problematic if Northern Sweden is to capitalise on its relative climatic advantage and become a “last resort” for European skiing. Spatially substituting skiers will need to travel further to reach Northern Sweden, whilst carbon-intensive transport options like flying are likely to increase in price due to increasingly stringent mitigation policies.



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Additionally, the lack of accountability around resort scope three emissions may increasingly be viewed as greenwashing among a younger, increasingly climate-concerned demographic. These cost changes and environmental implications may ultimately limit Northern Sweden's ability to capitalise on its potential climatic advantage.

## Further Reading:

Rice, H., Cohen, S. A., & Scott, D. (2022). Perceptions of climate change risk and sustainable adaptations in the Swedish ski industry. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*.

Link: [bit.ly/3VLGwQg](https://bit.ly/3VLGwQg)