TeleTourist: Telepresence Tourism for Mobility-Restricted Participants

**Concept**
Video calls can enable people to experience activities otherwise inaccessible. A tourist in Paris could participate in a video call using a phone’s back-facing camera to virtually “bring along” people who cannot leave their homes but wish to travel. A patient bound to a hospital bed could virtually experience paragliding through a similar video call with someone who is paragliding. TeleTourist is a system to facilitate and augment video calls to share such experiences between strangers and people with mobility restrictions.

**Goals**
- Offer windows to the world outside the walls someone is bound to
- Make the experience immersive and personalized
- Increase a sense of social connection for those who may feel isolated

**Virtual Scrapbooking**
Button for capturing pictures of experiences during video calls.

**Display Relevant Information**
Display relevant information about a topic from manual searches or implicit automatic searches using phrases extracted from speech recognition, activity descriptions, or remote participant location.

**Background Replacement**
Replace background with image from remote location.

**Real-Time Map**
Display map and Street View of remote participant location.

**Matching System**
Future work: automatically match participants for different experiences using shared interests and scheduling constraints, and optionally GPS location. Also enable manually initiated matches from browsing listed activity ideas.

**Evaluation**
Future work: study the experience for participants with mobility restrictions to investigate whether and how specific features
- improve or detract from feelings of immersion (i.e. whether they were helpful or distracting).
- influence the sense of social connection.
- improve a sense of purpose.
- engage participants in a more active or passive role.
- influence overall enjoyment and satisfaction.