

Tourism and Political Change



Edited by Richard Butler and Wantanee Suntikul

Devolution – Towards Independence: Tourism in Scotland in the 21st Century

Contents

Introduction	3
Historical context and political structures	3
Political changes pre-1999 devolution and the implications for tourism	5
The moment of devolution: the Scottish Parliament	6
Discussion: the place of tourism in political changes – issues and controversies	9
Conclusions: lessons learned and implications for the future	11



Published by Goodfellow Publishers Limited, Woodeaton, Oxford, OX3 9TJ
<http://www.goodfellowpublishers.com>

Copyright © Goodfellow Publishers Limited 2010

All rights reserved by Goodfellow Publishers Limited. The text of this publication, or any part thereof, may not be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, storage in an information retrieval system, or otherwise, without prior permission of the publisher.



Design and setting by P.K. McBride

Part II

Increasing

Autonomy

6 Devolution – Towards Independence: Tourism in Scotland in the 21st Century

Rory MacLellan

Introduction

Scotland has a distinct identity within the UK to the extent that internationally it has a higher recognition factor than many nation states. In spite of greater devolution of powers in the past decade, however, Scotland remains a region rather than an independent country. How the move towards greater autonomy and the difference between international image and political reality has affected tourism in Scotland is the focus of this chapter. The chapter describes the context within which political changes have taken place in Scotland and focuses on public policy and support structures for tourism pre and post re-establishment of the Scottish Parliament in 1999.

The thorny issue of where tourism fits into the political process has been identified by several authors (Hall, 2000; Lennon and Seaton, 1998; MacLellan and Smith, 1998) and this has vexed tourism policy makers in Scotland for decades. The need for a central organisation for tourism, such as a National Tourism Organization (NTO), has now been accepted throughout the world (Pearce, 1992; Jeffries, 2001) and destinations with national aspirations such as Scotland have embraced the NTO model in spite of there being a British Tourist Authority representing the nation state (UK).

Historical context and political structures

Scotland constitutes around one third of the area of the UK but has only 9% of its population (5.1 million). Located to the north of England, it is peripheral in both European and UK terms resulting in accessibility and transportation challenges. However the combination of relatively low population density and remoteness affords Scotland advantages in the quality and variety of its natural environment. The tourism identity of Scotland has traded on images of romantic scenery, mountains, glens and lochs, interspersed with castles and rural villages, although in reality, most tourism takes place in the major cities of Scotland. The Greater Glasgow conurbation represents one of the UK's large urban agglomerations with around 1.65 million people and has become a successful business and retail tourism destination in its own right. The capital city Edinburgh has a population of only 530,000 but as the historic centre of government arts and culture has established itself as one of the most successful arts festival cities in the world.

Chapter extract

**To buy the full file, and for copyright
information, click here**

[http://www.goodfellowpublishers.com/academic-publishing.php?promoCode=&partnerID=&content=story&st](http://www.goodfellowpublishers.com/academic-publishing.php?promoCode=&partnerID=&content=story&storyID=207)

[oryID=207](http://www.goodfellowpublishers.com/academic-publishing.php?promoCode=&partnerID=&content=story&storyID=207)



All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recorded or otherwise, without the written permission of Goodfellow Publishers Ltd

All requests should be sent in the first instance to

rights@goodfellowpublishers.com

www.goodfellowpublishers.com