

Global Geotourism Perspectives


Edited by

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Top: Tourists visiting Purnululu National Park, Western Australia to view the Bungle Bungle Ranges. The Bungle Bungles are one of Australia's iconic geological tourism attractions and despite their extremely remote location in the vast Kimberley Region of Western Australia, they are visited by over 26,000 visitors per year. The ranges comprise Devonian-age quartz sandstone eroded over a period of 20 million years into a series of beehive-shaped towers or cones. These outstanding examples of cone karst owe their existence and uniqueness to several interacting geological, biological, erosional and climatic phenomena. For these values the park was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2003.

Source: Ross Dowling

Bottom: Sea arch visible along the Red Point hiking trail in northeast Iceland. The trail comprises scenic values, arches, stacks, exposed sections of columnar jointed basalt and cliff viewing areas.

Source: David Newsome

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About the editors

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Professor Dowling conducts international research in the fields of geotourism, cruise ship tourism and ecotourism with over 200 publications. In recent years he has co-authored or co-edited nine books on tourism. They are *Ecotourism*, *Tourism in Destination Communities*, *Natural Area Tourism*, *Ecotourism Policy and Planning*, *Wildlife Tourism*, *Geotourism*, *Cruise Ship Tourism*, *Coastal Tourism Development* and *Geotourism: the Tourism of Geology and Landscape*. Two have been translated into Chinese, one into Persian and others published in India.

In 2008 he convened the Inaugural Global Geotourism Conference in Australia and was Advisor to the Sarawak Tourism Board for the Second Global Geotourism Conference held in Mulu, Malaysian Borneo in 2010.

David Newsome is an Associate Professor in the School of Environmental Science at Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia. His principal research interests are geotourism and the biophysical impacts of recreation and tourism in protected areas. Professor Newsome's research and teaching focus on the sustainable recreational use of landscapes and the assessment and management of tourism activity in protected areas. He is the lead author of two books *Natural Area Tourism: Ecology, Impacts and Management* and *Wildlife Tourism* and co-editor of both *Geotourism* (2006), a book which has helped set the scene for the emergence of geotourism as a distinct discipline within the area of natural area tourism, as



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well as *Geotourism: the Tourism of Geology and Landscape* (2010).

Together the editors have edited three other books on geotourism:

- ◇ *Geotourism* (2006) Ross Dowling and David Newsome (eds), Butterworth Heinemann, UK
- ◇ *Inaugural Global Geotourism Conference Proceedings* (2008) Ross Dowling and David Newsome (eds), Promaco Conventions, Australia
- ◇ *Geotourism: the Tourism of Geology and Landscape* (2010) David Newsome and Ross Dowling (eds), Goodfellow Publishers, Oxford. This is the companion volume to *Global Geotourism Perspectives*.

Dedications

To Herman Van Duren (1959–2009) my good friend, originally from Zimbabwe, then latterly of Australia, who passed away at the age of 50, far too young. He was a truly great man, a wonderful son, husband, father, work colleague and friend. He will be forever in our thoughts and our heart. His spirit lives on through his wife Marga and children Paul, Adele and Daniel. To them we give much love.

To my wife Wendy and family members: Jayne, Trevor, Shenee and Paige Belstead (England); Simon, Lynette, Amelie and Ewan MacLennan (Australia); Mark, Jess and Nessa Dowling (Australia); Tobias and HyeHyang Dowling (China), Aurora, Mike, Helena and Nina Gibbs (New Zealand) and Francis Dowling (New Zealand).

Ross Dowling

Dedicated to my wife Jane and children Benjamin and Rachel.

David Newsome

Acknowledgements

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We particularly wish to thank the staff of Goodfellow Publishers, especially Tim Goodfellow (Co-Director) and our old friend Sally North (Publisher), who worked with us on our first book on *Geotourism* back in 2006.

Individually as editors we wish to thank some people.

Ross Dowling would like to thank his co-editor David Newsome. We have worked well together over the years authoring and editing a number of books. As always the experience in co-editing this book has been extremely productive and very enjoyable.

I also wish to thank Mr Francisco Dousdebés, Environmental Affairs Manager, Metropolitan Touring, Ecuador for his assistance with the text and photos for the case study on Geotourism in the Galapagos. He was extremely helpful in introducing me to the possibilities of undertaking geotourism in this World Heritage Area.

My love of geology began through the interest of a friend, Donald Lumsdon, from Nelson, New Zealand. He started my lifetime fascination with the subject. It was professionally encouraged and enhanced by the comprehensive knowledge of an early lecturer and mentor, Professor Paul Williams, Professor of Geography and globally recognised karst geomorphologist, whilst I studied under his direction at the University of Auckland, NZ. In recent years I acknowledge my renewed interest comes from working with my co-editor David Newsome, a passionate advocate of exploring and understanding the world through geology and landforms.

As with all previous books, I wish to acknowledge the support of my employer, Edith Cowan University, one of Australia's leading new generation universities, that is committed to excellence in teaching and research. It is a truly great university.

Initial thanks goes to Professor Kerry Cox (Vice Chancellor) who continues to inspire me and encourage me to achieve great things, as well as A/Professor David Clark-Murphy (Head, School of Marketing, Tourism and Leisure), and Tourism Program Staff Dr Dale Sanders and Dr Iris Mao. In addition Julie Con-

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nolly, Anna Johansson and Leishele Pearce (Administration Officers, School of Marketing, Tourism and Leisure) have also contributed to my work through their excellence as efficient administrators and superb colleagues.

I also wish to thank my many Australian and international students from around the world who have participated in my undergraduate and post-graduate Geotourism classes. We have had a lot of fun and I have learned a lot about the industry from your research assignments and oral presentations.

I wish to thank Barry Dufty, Barry Schmidt, David Barratt-Boyes and Eccles Dzedins for their interest in my work and constant friendship over many years. As former classmates at Auckland Grammar School, New Zealand, they have continued to both encourage and inspire me through their support and input into my life over the past almost fifty years.

Finally I wish to thank my wife Wendy for her unfailing love and support through this my ninth book in the last nine years. I could not have achieved this without her. I also wish to thank my children and grandchildren for the contributions they have made, and continue to make, to my life. This book is part of my legacy for you all.

David Newsome would like to thank his wife Jane who continues to support these book-writing projects. I would particularly like to express my appreciation to Young Ng who introduced me to the amazing geology of Hong Kong. Thanks also go to John Hull for facilitating the opportunity to visit Iceland in 2009 and to Edward Huijbens and Jóna Matthíasdóttir and their many colleagues in Iceland who demonstrated outstanding hospitality and showed me the geological sights of northeast Iceland – a world-class geotourism destination. I would also like to give thanks to the Hall family in South Africa who transported me to the Cederberg and the West Coast Fossil Park in the Cape.

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Preface

This book is the companion volume to *Geotourism: the Tourism of Geology and Landscape*, edited by ourselves and published by Goodfellow Publishers, 2010. Whereas the first volume sets the scene by defining and characterising the subject, this book brings together in the second volume a range of case studies of geotourism from a number of countries from around the world.

The editors of this volume originally worked together on their earlier book *Geotourism* (Dowling and Newsome (eds), Butterworth Heinemann, Oxford, 2006). Having published the first major work on this new subject, they then hosted the world's first geotourism conference, the Inaugural Global Geotourism Conference 'Discover the Earth Beneath our Feet'. This was held in Perth, Western Australia from 17–20 August 2008. Over 220 delegates from 36 countries participated in the conference which has helped broaden our knowledge of geotourism and introduce the concept of geoparks to many nations in the southern hemisphere. The conference was held during the International Year of Planet Earth and was endorsed by UNESCO.

Arising from the conference was a 478-page book, *Inaugural Global Geotourism Conference Proceedings*, (Dowling and Newsome (eds), Promaco Conventions, Australia, 2008). It comprised over 100 abstracts and papers and quickly sold out due to strong demand for information on the subject.

From this interest we decided to publish a new book to update the subject we first visited in 2006. Interest in our project grew and so this volume represents the second of two new books on the topic. The first volume sets the context for geotourism and provides a clear definition of it as well as information on its characteristics. It covers information on landscape appreciation, geoheritage, management, interpretation, education and the future of geotourism.

This companion volume brings together a range of geotourism case studies from a number of countries including Australia, Brazil, China, Greece, Ireland, Malaysia, Mauritius, Oman, South Africa and the USA. Taken together the two books lift the subject to another level and provide an informed platform on which to build the future of geotourism.

Naturally these two books form only part of the picture. There are other books and journals, much research and of course now many conferences on geotourism. Recent books include *GeoTourism in Ethiopia* (edited by Asrat, Demissie, and Mogessie, Shama Books, Ethiopia, 2009) and *Geotourism and Local Development* (edited by de Carvalho and Rodrigues, Câmara Municipal de Idanha-a-Nova and Geopark Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional, Portugal, 2009).

Journals include *GeoTurystyka (Geotourism)*, published by the International Association of Geotourism in Poland (www.geoturystyka.pl) and *Geoheritage* published by ProGeo, the European Association for the Conservation of the

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Geological Heritage, Portugal (www.springer.com). Another useful publication is *Earth Heritage*, 'The Geological and Landscape Conservation Magazine', published by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Natural England, the Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales (www.seaburysalmon.com/earth.html).

Research is being conducted in a range of countries as evidenced by the chapters in this book and its companion. Conferences abound on the subject with the World Heritage and Geotourism Conference hosted by the Geological Society of South Africa, held in Pretoria from 4–5 June 2009; the 8th European Geoparks Conference focusing on geotourism, held from 12–14 September 2009 at Geopark Naturtejo, Portugal and the Second Global Geotourism Conference held from 17–20 April 2010 at Gunung Mulu World Heritage Region, Sarawak, Borneo, Malaysia.

Thus the subject of geotourism is growing rapidly. This book is a research volume which aims to add knowledge to the many facets of this emerging subject. It has been compiled for a broad audience including natural area tourism professionals, planners and managers; government and business decision-makers; and students from a wide range of disciplines seeking general information on geotourism development in one volume. We hope that you enjoy it as well as its companion volume which sets the theoretical framework for the subject, *Geotourism: the Tourism of Geology and Landscape*.

Ross Dowling and David Newsome

Perth, Australia, January 2010

Chapter extract

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