

Introduction

The first section of the book provides an introduction to the study of the geography of tourism. Chapter 1 discusses the nature of both geography and tourism and how the subjects are linked. The second chapter indicates the major motivations for tourism and then considers how these can contribute to demand for tourism experiences. Chapter 3 discusses tourism resources, including features of the natural environment, as well as human factors that can act as tourism attractions. The entire fourth chapter is devoted to an investigation of the importance of weather and climate, both as resources for tourism, but additionally as key factors influencing the nature and location of many tourism activities. Chapter 5 focuses on destinations, as it is here that tourism resources and attractions are geographically focused. The image of tourism destinations is also a major concern of this chapter. It is in the destination that many of the impacts of tourism are located, which means that this chapter acts as introduction to the second section of the book.



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Geography and Tourism

Introduction

This first chapter provides an introduction to the geography of tourism. It initially discusses the nature of geography, and indicates the major topics that the subject is concerned with, as well as presenting the types of questions that geographers ask. It then considers the activity of tourism, giving a brief overview of its importance and a discussion and consideration of definitions. The links between the two areas of study are presented, as well as a brief overview of different approaches to the relationship between geography and tourism.

The nature of geography

In summary, geography is about people and places (Mason, 1992). A key word in connection with geography is location. So geography is about the location of places and also the location of people. It is about the relationship between different locations or places. This relationship is often described as a *spatial* relationship (Hall and Page, 2014). 'Spatial' is in effect another word for 'geographical'. However, geography is not defined in the same way by all authors interested in the subject, and the term 'spatial' is more specific and a more scientific concept as it refers to just space on the earth. The concept 'spatial' is not just two dimensions on the surface of the land, but refers to three dimensions, and therefore includes mountains, hills and river valleys as well as the depths of oceans and seas. So the concept of 'spatial relationship' does not necessarily have to refer to specific geographical features, be they physical or human geographical features. However, the concept of 'spatial relationship' is that it is concerned with the relationship between different geographical features.

Investigating spatial relationships can help in finding patterns (Hall and Page, 2014). Geographers are frequently involved in looking for patterns in the environment, as these can help understand, for example, features in a natural landscape. It also means that it may be possible to suggest that as a pattern has been discerned in relation to certain features in a specific location, if these features are found elsewhere,