

Geography of Tourism

Image, Impacts and Issues

Peter Mason

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Peter Mason,

Catfield, Norfolk, September, 2017

Preface

This book is aimed primarily at undergraduate students and has been written in such a way that early chapters present largely factual material and later ones discuss and analyse theories, as well as considering critical concepts and issues. It uses a large number of case studies, at different scales, focusing on locations from many areas of the world, including the UK, Spain, France, Italy, the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, Asia and Antarctica.

The book is divided into four sections.

- Introduction to the Geography of Tourism
- Impacts of Tourism
- Issues in Tourism
- Planning and Managing Tourism

The first section is concerned with the rationale for the geographical study of tourism, the key motivations for tourism and the resources for tourism. A whole chapter of this first section is devoted to an understanding of weather and climate. Weather and climate can be considered as 'resources' for tourism, but are more important than this, being the context in which so much tourism takes place. Without an understanding of the nature and causes of variations in climate globally, it will be very difficult to understand how and why climate is changing today, and the issue of climate change is discussed in detail in the third section of the book. However, the final chapter of the first section is concerned with the nature of tourism destinations, as it is here that impacts and issues are particularly significant and can be readily observed and researched. This chapter additionally focuses on the image of destinations, as this can be a major factor in the long term sustainability of tourism locations. The second section of the book considers tourism impacts and presents separate chapters focusing respectively on environmental, socio-cultural and economic impacts. It also shows how these impacts, in reality, are frequently multifaceted, and this section also sets tourism in a wider socio-economic context. The third section of the book discusses and critically evaluates major issues facing tourism, but where, in some cases, tourism is also a significant contributor to these issues. Global development, climate change and crises and disasters are the topics discussed at length, with each the focus of a separate chapter. The fourth chapter in this section investigates the relationship between the aims of conserving landscape, and yet also allowing recreation and tourism uses, through a discussion of protected areas. The need to manage tourism is the major concern of two of the chapters in the fourth section of the book, one of which considers the nature of tourism planning and management and the other is focused on an evaluation of concepts of sustainability and sustainable tourism. The final chapter of the book presents for critical analysis a number of possible scenarios for the future direction of tourism.

