

Understanding and Managing Tourism Impacts

An integrated approach

C. Michael Hall and **Alan A. Lew**



Contemporary Geographies of Leisure, Tourism and Mobility

Understanding and Managing Tourism Impacts

As one of the world's largest industries, tourism carries with it significant social, environmental, economic and political impacts. Although tourism can provide significant economic benefits for some destinations, the image of tourism as a benign and environmentally friendly industry has often been challenged. There is a clear and growing body of evidence that suggests that the effects of tourism development are far more complex than policy-makers usually suggest and that the impacts of tourism occur not just at the destination but at all stages of a tourist's trip. Furthermore, tourism does not exist in a vacuum. Broader social and environmental changes also shape the form, growth and experience of tourism development.

This text provides a clear, accessible and up-to-date synthesis of tourism's role in our contemporary world, both as an agent of change, and as a response to it. Tourism-related change is approached from a framework that illustrates the changing environments in which it occurs, including the spatial scale of such impacts and the effects of these impacts over time. This framework is then applied to the economic, socio-cultural and physical dimensions of tourism. After examining the different forms of tourism-related impacts, the book then discusses the role of planning as part of an integrated approach to the mitigation of undesirable impacts and the maximization of the desirable benefits of tourism development. Case studies and illustrations from a variety of locations around the world are used throughout the book to exemplify key themes and issues; additionally figures and tables serve to elucidate statistical data.

Understanding and Managing Tourism Impacts illustrates that when well managed, tourism can make a positive contribution to destinations. The book's use of issues of scale, time and form to illustrate the effects of tourism provide an accessible and significant reminder that tourism's impacts vary over time and space, affect both the visitor and the host community, and can be unpredictable in their consequences. Chapter objectives, recommended reading and links to web-based material help students, practitioners and researchers to grasp the broader implications of tourism development in today's world. With tourism increasingly being implicated as a factor in climate and environmental change, and with the benefits and costs of tourism as a form of economic development being examined more closely than ever, this book provides a timely contribution to help clarify the potentials and pitfalls of contemporary tourism.

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Contemporary Geographies of Leisure, Tourism and Mobility

Series Editor: C. Michael Hall, Professor at the Department of Management, College of Business & Economics, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch, New Zealand

The aim of this series is to explore and communicate the intersections and relationships between leisure, tourism and human mobility within the social sciences.

It will incorporate both traditional and new perspectives on leisure and tourism from contemporary geography, e.g. notions of identity, representation and culture, while also providing for perspectives from cognate areas such as anthropology, cultural studies, gastronomy and food studies, marketing, policy studies and political economy, regional and urban planning, and sociology, within the development of an integrated field of leisure and tourism studies.

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Alan A. Lew dedicates this book to Jessie Wee and Polly Wee, who always provide such a warm welcome and support when he is in Singapore.

C. Michael Hall dedicates the book to the Coopers and the Jameses, and to all those friends that sustain him.

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