

Book Review

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Tourism Planning and Development in Latin America

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This publication is part of an initiative by the publisher to offer a collection of books with comparative and individual case studies with a regional and sub-regional scope, covering different country clusters or geographic regions of the world on various tourism-related topics such as development and planning, economics and finance, as well as marketing, management, and information technology. The 10 chapters of this book focus on tourism development and planning and provide an outlook of the impact that tourism has had on a several Latin American countries. The first chapter is an analysis of tourism in Argentina, where tourism supply is distributed in a relatively homogeneous way throughout the country, but tourism demand is concentrated in certain regions according to the profile of tourists. The authors discuss and propose the development and implementation of policies for tourism dispersal. Chapter 2 presents a critical evaluation of Chile's public policy towards sustainable tourism development in the context of the Chilean economic model, with particular focus on the impacts on indigenous tourism and territories. The research highlights that while the economic aspects have been prioritised to strengthen and diversify the tourism product offerings, such decisions have been detrimental on the environmental and social spheres of sustainability. In Chapter 3 the authors describe tourism development in Colombia in the context of the internal armed conflict of past decades, analysing tourism-related public policies implemented before and after the signing of the peace process. An overview of such process in an urban setting is presented though a qualitative research-based case study of the regeneration of a touristic zone in the city of Medellin. Chapter 4 examines the development of ecotourism in Costa Rica. The authors present socio-economic indicators of the impact of tourism activities, underscoring that the increased tourism visitation to natural protected areas has not been accompanied in the same proportion by an improvement of the living conditions of the overall population. Chapter 5 analyses two tourism areas in Ecuador: the natural heritage site of the Galapagos archipelago and the cultural heritage historic centre of Quito. The authors assess tourism-related institutional frameworks and conclude that an increase of tourist arrivals is not desirable given the pressure on the carrying capacities of both sites.

Chapter 6 presents a critical review of tourism development and four tourism strategic governmental programs in Mexico. The authors note various manifestations of development paradigms since the first half of the 20th century, discussing their

performance and results over the years. At the end of the chapter, initiatives to reduce the country's heterogeneous productivity gap are proposed for the incoming federal administration. Chapter 7 overviews the path taken by Panama's governments to produce a thriving tourism industry, while discussing the role of ethnic and indigenous tourism in the historic nation-building process. Based on qualitative and quantitative approaches (e.g., ethnographic, archival, survey research methods), the author highlights the racial and ethnic stratification of marginalised, minority groups that reflects the socio-economic polarisation in the context of tourism development. In Chapter 8, the contribution of tourism to the economic growth and development in Uruguay is empirically examined through econometric modelling. The authors performed an ex-post analysis using data from the 1990s to 2017, and non-parametric cointegration and causality tests from 1997 to 2018. The results corroborate a positive impact of tourism to Uruguay's economic growth, supporting the tourism-led growth hypothesis. Chapter 9 analyses post-conflict tourism development in Peru and Nicaragua, two countries that promoted their tourism industries in the late 1990s after prolonged political unrest. Based on cultural anthropology research, the author examines how the two countries fostered community-based, cultural, and heritage tourism, initially by concealing their past of conflict, but recently by drawing tourists to areas previously considered as off-limits for travellers. Chapter 10 is an ethnographic investigation on the lifestyle mobilities of retired senior citizens in two destinations in Ecuador and Panama. The author discusses the role of the local governments of Cuenca (Ecuador) and Archipelago of Bocas del Toro (Panama) in the interaction between migrant retirees and their host communities, as well as the positive and negative outcomes from a post-coloniality perspective.

A shortfall of the book is that it does not include research focused on Brazil, the giant nation that is one of the top inbound tourism destination markets in South America, nor other countries that are absent such as Bolivia, Venezuela, Guatemala, among others in Central America. As noted in the final conclusions of the book, this was due to a lack of submissions from scholars who study those countries, despite attempts made to receive more contributions. Also, countries in the Caribbean that are usually considered part of the Latin American zone are not represented in the book, which appears to be explained by the publisher's intention to present studies about that geographic area in a separate book focused only on that sub-region. This partial geographic scope prevented a more exhaustive overview and comparison of tourism-related outcomes across the zone. For example, while some chapters often point out economic problems and inequalities attributed to development models in countries that followed reformed, market-oriented (neoliberal) policies, there is no commensurate assessment of tourism development plans and results in countries with socialist-oriented governments, several of which flourished in Latin America in the past two decades. As the editors acknowledged, the diversity of topics covered in the chapters does not allow to document development patterns and impacts of tourism for the entire region, constituting an avenue for further research. However, such heterogeneity of themes addressed also constitutes a major strength of the book, due to the rich interdisciplinary approaches reflected in the case studies (e.g., sociology, economics, anthropology, tourism planning and policy, etc.) by authors with extensive research experience on their fields. Thus, this book clearly fills a gap in the English-language literature and is an essential, useful resource for academics and practitioners interested in tourism management and planning issues in Latin America.