

## **The Geography of Tourism and Recreation (Third Edition)”**

Edited by Hall, C. M. and Page, S. J. Routledge, New York 2006, Pp. xxi + 427; (plates, figs, tables, contents, index, bibliog) ISBN 0-415-33561-2 (pbk)

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Third editions are relatively rare for any specialised text, so that in itself is a significant recommendation for this volume. The preface describes it as “completely revised and redeveloped to accommodate new case studies, summary points and learning objectives for students”. Reviews of earlier editions described it as “an eminently useful introductory text” and “a comprehensive overview”, and these accolades apply equally to the new edition.

The title emphasises geography, and the authors are careful to mention that even though they work in tourism and marketing departments respectively, they are in fact geographers. The book, however, is much more about tourism than it is about geography, and contains much of the same material that one might find in texts on tourism and outdoor recreation more generally. But this, perhaps, simply shows us that geography is an essential component of all tourism, whether seen as a social phenomenon or an industry sector. As the authors note (p. 27), “the massive growth of tourism and recreation studies outside geography also means that increasingly many geographers publish in tourism and recreational journals rather than in geography journals”.

It is written as a self-contained teaching text, though the chapters are not matched closely to a standard semester curriculum. The introductory chapter addresses the role of geography in

tourism, and is followed by two long chapters on demand and supply in recreation and tourism, and a shorter one on impacts and management. There are four chapters on urban, rural, wilderness and marine tourism respectively, and one on planning and policy.

There are over 20 two-page text boxes labelled as “Insights”, and four slightly longer ones labelled as “Case Studies”. The latter are on: the “geography of fear”; the Sydney Bushwalking Club; parks in a suburb of London; and the National Wilderness Inventory in Australia. The former cover a wide range of topics, from globalisation to climate change, urban heritage to second homes, seaside resorts to sex and slavery, Indigenous peoples to non-Anglophone recreation.

There is a very extensive bibliography with over 2,000 references, and these are generally up to date to 2004, though with some omissions. The text box on p. 261, for example, says that longitudinal analyses would be needed to determine if and how World Heritage listing affects tourism, but does not mention that such studies have in fact been carried out, in Australia at least.

There are some very quotable quotes. On p. 345, for example, quoting Michael Hall from an earlier publication: “I have great frustrations with much of the research and scholarship undertaken in tourism.” Me too! But I’m not so sure about p. 302, which refers to “nonconformists” on beaches, specifically “nude bathers and surfers”. Umm, what exactly is the connection there? And on p. 254, in the middle of a very biblical discussion, ‘the high mountains are for the goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers’ (Psalm 104, 18).” Indeed! And the possums and peccaries, lions and lemurs?

There are plenty of sharp observations too. One of the most telling is on p. 301: if (as?) climate change reduces Arctic sea ice, we can expect more and more cruise ships through the North West passage. Good point!

So, it's a very solid piece of work, as one would expect for a third edition from such well-known authors. It's already a standard text for teaching tourism geography, and it could equally well be used in teaching tourism more generally. As a paperback, it's quite moderately priced for such a comprehensive work. It does have lists of revision questions and additional readings at the end of each chapter, albeit rather brief and idiosyncratic – but these are easily modified or supplemented.

Of course, it shows biases towards the particular interests, expertise and experience of its authors, but that is unavoidable. Any student who manages to absorb everything in this volume will certainly have a good grounding in the discipline.