

The Routledge handbook of tourism geographies, edited by Julie Wilson, London, New York, Routledge, 2012, xxii + 324 pp., ISBN 978-0-415-56857-9

The relationship between tourism and geography has been acknowledged in a great number of previous studies and papers covering various aspects and perspectives (Butler, 2004; Hall & Page, 2009). Although tourism geography as a field of enquiry is still a new concept, tourism represents an 'important point of intersection within geography' (Gibson, 2008:407). In fact, as Lew (2001) argues, much of tourism literature actually draws on geographical contributions as geographers have long been engaged with various aspects of the understanding of tourism and recreational studies. This involvement is represented in *The Routledge Handbook of Tourism Geographies*, which provides a wide variety of conceptual and methodological frameworks, research advances and analysis.

The Handbook is an edited volume comprised of thirty-one chapters. The chapters provide a good review of some thematic areas of geographies of tourism including development, historical geographies, environmental discourses and spatial analysis, and critically examines some emerging topics such as rural tourism, city tourism and tourism in coastal areas. The book starts with the editor's introductory brief which outlines the contents of the volume and introduces the topic. All chapters have a similar structure and are relatively short, but they all have a rich reference list at the end.

The book is structured in five distinctive parts. Part I – 'Tracing tourism geographies' – serves as an introduction to the topic of geography and tourism and consists of two chapters which present a comprehensive review of the field and make a distinction between 'tourism geographies' and 'geographies of tourism'. In Chapter 2, C. Michael Hall and Stephen Page provide a review of tourism geographies as a field of enquiry, while Chapter 3 reflects the subject through the career of Richard Butler as a geographer working in tourism studies.

Part II – 'Conceptualising tourism geographies' – unveils the concept of tourism geographies and includes 15 chapters written by academics from various backgrounds. In Chapter 4, Tim Gale explores post-structuralism in tourism geographies, whereas Chapter 5 provides a critique of the 'cultural turn' in tourism studies by Raoul Bianchi. In Chapter 6, Chris Gibson examines aspects of ethics and space, while Kevin Meethan evaluates the relationship between space, individuation and tourism in Chapter 7. Chapter 8 and 9 discuss the 'performance' and 'sensuous' turn in tourism geographies as explained by Jonas Larsen and Tim Edensor and Emily Falconer respectively. In Chapter 10, Gordon Waitt analyses the complexities of sexuality in tourism, while Jacqueline Tivers focuses on gender issues in Chapter 11. Postcolonialism is discussed in Chapter 12 by Donna Keen and Hazel Tucker and gentrification and its relevance to tourism are addressed in Chapter 13 by Julie Wilson and Andrew Tallon. The geographies of 'Mobilities Turn' is critically discussed in Chapter 14 by Tara Duncan whereas Maria Casado-Diaz explores leisure mobilities and retirement migration in Chapter 15. The last three chapters cover creativity in tourism geographies (Chapter 16, Julie Wilson), examination of making and unmaking places (Chapter 17, T.C. Chang) and the concept of metaspatialities (Chapter 18, Petri Hottola).

Part III – 'Approaching tourism geographies' – is comprised of 13 chapters which provide more traditional geographical analysis of tourism. In Chapter 19, Keith Debbage and Dimitri Ioannides observe the economy of tourism spaces, while in Chapter 20, Dallen Timothy draws on the relationship between tourism and historical geography. Spatial analysis (Chapter 21, C. Michael Hall), time geography (Chapter 22, Noam Shoval), destination marketing (Chapter

23, Alan Lew), geographies of tourism development (Chapter 24, Marcela Palomino-Schalscha) and environmental discourses of tourism (Chapter 25, Andrew Holden) are also examined in this part of the book. The section concludes with two chapters about landscape perspectives (Chapter 26, Daniel Knudsen, Jillian Rickly-Boyd and Michelle Metro-Roland) and politics and geographies of air transport (Chapter 27, David Duval and Tay T.R. Koo).

Part IV– ‘Situating tourism geographies’ – contains four chapters which discuss recent developments in tourism research in urban, rural and coastal areas. In Chapter 28, Salvador Anton Clavé contextualises mass tourism in relation to space and place, while Gunjan Saxena discusses current conflicts and paradoxes related to rural tourism geographies in Chapter 29. In Chapter 30, Martin Selby evaluates urban geographies and city tourism, whereas Gareth Shaw and Sheela Agarwal focus on the changing geographies of coastal resorts in Chapter 31. The volume concludes with Part V, entitled ‘Advancing tourism geographies’. The only chapter here is the editor’s conclusion, which is a synthesis of research perspectives and key areas for further research.

In summary, the volume is a well-organized, easy to read and useful book which provides various research perspectives and analysis. However, as noted by the editor in the first chapter, the book should not be considered solely as a reference for geographical analysis of tourism. Instead, it should be regarded as in-depth examination of various conceptual and methodological frameworks and contexts in tourism geographies. The collection is particularly useful for students as it brings an array of themes, approaches and perspectives in a single book. The chapters are well-referenced and cover many traditional and contemporary approaches to tourism geographies.

In addition, one of the main strengths of the book is the selection of contributors. The involvement of non-geographers (sociologists, anthropologists, social scientists, economic, historical and cultural geographers) in the volume provides a wide perspective to the topics covered and illuminates new approaches and advances for further research.

In conclusion, I would highly recommend this volume to any researchers and practitioners interested in tourism geographies as a field of enquiry or students wishing to learn more about the subject.

References

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