

Tourism

Tourism is the act of travel for the purpose of recreation and business, and the provision of services for this act. **Tourists** are persons who are "travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited" (official UNWTO definition).

A more comprehensive definition would be that tourism is a service industry.

Many countries depend heavily upon travel expenditures by foreigners as a source of taxation and as a source of income for the enterprises that sell (export) services to these travellers. Consequently the development of tourism is often a strategy employed either by a Non-governmental organization (NGO) or a governmental agency to promote a particular region for the purpose of increasing commerce through exporting goods and services to non-locals.

Classification

Tourism may be classified into the following types:

- Inbound international tourism: Visits to a country by nonresident of that country
- Outbound international tourism: Visits by the residents of a country to another country
- Internal tourism: Visits by residents of a country to their own
- Domestic tourism: Inbound international tourism + internal tourism
- National tourism: Internal tourists + outbound international tourism

Required factors

The following are required, to make travel possible:

1. Discretionary income, i.e. money to spend on non-essentials
2. Time in which to do so.
3. Infrastructure in the form of accommodation facilities and means of transport.

Types of tourism

Health tourism & leisure travel

Winter tourism

Mass travel

Mass travel could not really begin to develop until two things occurred.

- improvements in technology allowed the transport of large numbers of people in a short space of time to places of leisure interest, and
- greater numbers of people began to enjoy the benefits of leisure time.

International mass tourism

Recent developments

- There has been a discernable upmarket trend in tourism over the last few decades. Tourists have higher levels of disposable income and greater leisure time. They are also better educated and have more sophisticated tastes. There is now a demand for a better quality product in many quarters. as [Thailand](#) or [Kenya](#).
- The phenomenon of the low budget airline, utilising a new generation of small regional airports.

Special forms of tourism

- *Adventure tourism*: tourism involving travel in rugged regions, or adventurous sports such as mountaineering and hiking (tramping).
- *Agritourism*: farm based tourism, helping to support the local agricultural economy.
- *Ancestry tourism*: (also known as genealogy tourism) is the travel with the aim of tracing one's ancestry, visiting the birth places of these ancestors and sometimes getting to know distant family.
- *Armchair tourism* and *virtual tourism*: not travelling physically, but exploring the world through internet, books, TV, etc.
- *Bookstore Tourism* is a grassroots effort to support independent bookstores by promoting them as a travel destination.
- *Cultural tourism*: includes urban tourism, visiting historical or interesting cities, such as Berlin, London, Paris, Delhi, Rome, Prague, Beijing, Kyoto, Warsaw, and experiencing their cultural heritages. This type of tourism may also include specialized cultural experiences, such as art museum tourism where the tourist visits many art museums during the tour, or opera tourism where the tourist sees many operas or concerts during the tour.
- *Dark tourism*: is the travel to sites associated with death and suffering.
- *Disaster tourism*: travelling to a disaster scene not primarily for helping, but because it is interesting to see. It can be a problem if it hinders rescue, relief and repair work.
- *Drug tourism*: for use in that country, or, legally often extremely risky, for taking home.
- *Ecotourism*: sustainable tourism which has minimal impact on the environment, such as safaris (Kenya), Rainforests (Belize) and hiking (Lapland), or national parks.
- *Educational tourism*: may involve travelling to an education institution, a wooded retreat or some other destination in order to take personal-interest classes, such as cooking classes with a famous chef or crafts classes.
- *Gambling tourism*, e.g. to Atlantic City, Las Vegas, Macau or Monte Carlo for the purpose of gambling at the casinos there.
- *Heritage tourism*: visiting historical (Athens, Cracow) or industrial sites, such as old canals, railways, battlegrounds, etc.
- *Health tourism*: usually to escape from cities or relieve stress, perhaps for some 'fun in the sun', etc. Often to "health spas".

- *Hobby tourism*: tourism alone or with groups to participate in hobby interests, to meet others with similar interests, or to experience something pertinent to the hobby. Examples might be garden tours, ham radio DXpeditions, or square dance cruises.
- *Inclusive tourism*: tourism marketed to those with functional limits or disabilities. Referred to as "Tourism for All" in some regions. Destinations often employ Universal Design and Universal Destination Development principles.
- *Medical tourism*, e.g.:
 - for what is illegal in one's own country, e.g. abortion, euthanasia; for instance, euthanasia for non-citizens is provided by Dignitas in Switzerland.
 - for advanced care that is not available in one's own country
 - in the case that there are long waiting lists in one's own country
 - for use of free or cheap health care organisations
- *Perpetual tourism*: wealthy individuals always on vacation; some of them, for tax purposes, to avoid being resident in any country.
- *Sex tourism*: travelling solely for the purpose of sexual activity, usually with prostitutes
- *Sport tourism*: skiing, golf and scuba diving are popular ways to spend a vacation. Also in this category is vacationing at the winter home of the tourist's favorite baseball team, and seeing them play everyday.
- *Space tourism*
- *Vacilando* is a special kind of wanderer for whom the process of travelling is more important than the destination.