

Geological Tourism and Touristic Opportunities of Africa

Poziljanov Khumoyunmirzo Gayratjon ogli¹, Irisboyev Shokhruhbek Nurmukhammad ogli²

¹Andijan State University, Socio-Economy faculty, 2nd year student in the field of Tourism

²Namangan State University, Economy faculty, 4th year student

ABSTRACT

This article describes the primary factors of Geological tourism. This tourism was developed together with archeology and was born in recent years. Moreover, we can see wonderful destinations of the African continent. Kenya, Ghana are examples of them. Australia is also one of the main spot for people who want to come for touristic reasons. There are a lot of reasons of developing tourism, for that reason, the article started with the Evolution of Tourism. Some historical arguments were added to make the article more interesting for readers.

KEY WORDS: thrill-seekers, geologists and geoscientists, geoconservation, extra-terrestrial objects, park rangers, astute agents, stereoscopes.

The Evolution of Tourism

Tourism is a near-ubiquitous phenomenon. With the exception of areas being ravaged by war or political instability, tourism to some degree and in some form, will take place everywhere. Even war zones draw tourists in the form of journalists, writers and thrill-seekers, who use local services such as accomodation, restaurants and transportation. The history of travel and tourism can be traced back to the earliest historical resources, although many of the early forms of travel would not be considered to be tourism as we know it today. For example, the Sumerians as early as 4000 bc, travelled for the purposes of trade, using an innovation we know as money as a means of exchange which might be argued to be a form of business travel. The Egyptians in 3000 bc, travelled great distances for trade and diplomacy, but also mixing in sightseeing as well as the purchase of souvenirs. Citizen living in the Greek and Roman civilizations travelled extensively for trace, conquest, religion, health and pleasure. The ancient Olympic Games stimulated travel from around the Aegean Sea- perhaps the firs: example of tourism.

Ibn Battuta was a 14th century Moroccan Berber who, over 30 years, travelled across North Africa, West Africa, Southearn and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, India, Central Asia, South-East Asia and China. The length of his travels, which he wrote about extensively, is estimated at 120,000 km. Although his exploits are perhaps not as well known in some parts of the world as those of Marco Polo, a contemporary, his travels exceeded even those of that Venetar traveller. Unlike many other explorers and travellers, Ibn Battuta appears to have been motivated primarily by a hunger to learn about other cultures.

Tourism Geology

Since the decade 90's, relation of geology and tourism refers to Geotourism. Moreover, the relation is also enriched by conservation mission of the geological feature, outcrop and landscape. That is well-known relation that everyone agrees, particularly geologists and geoscientists.

On the other hand, I propose Tourism Geology as the other relation, which means geological application to tourism.

The term of Tourism Geology is not genuinely my term. It had been mentioned originally by Prof.Chen Anze and Yunting Lan (1991) and later by Prof.Ibrahim Komoo(1997).



However, in my study, their meaning of tourism geology are related closely to Geotourism concept, where "geo" refers to geology. Therefore, I provide the new meaning of the term.

The differences

Let's jump to the conclusion. There are many differences of Tourism Geology and Geotourism. Let me describe some of them. Supporting geoconservation, to become sustainable tourism, to improve visitor experience and to encourage local economic growth are aim of Geotourism.

In other hand, Tourism Geology purpose is to support tourism by deliver proper geological knowledge to make the tourism-related professional able to solve tourism problems linked to the geological feature.

Main variables in Geotourism is mostly non-geological variables, visitor education level, age, and behaviour.

On the contrary, Tourism Geology covers only geological variables such as the steepness of the slope, rock type and structure of the rock itself.

Geotourism and ecotourism are targets of Geotourism market. Tourism geology is targeted to all tourism market applied to the geological features, such as sun and beach tourism, adventure tourism, and health

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tourism. Tourism geology is about utilizing geological features on the Earth's surface and its processes, on the subterranean and ocean floors and also on the extra-terrestrial objects like Moon and Mars to fulfill various tourist interests.

What do geologists do?

When a geologist observes a geological feature in Tourism Geology context, he/she will assess the attraction value, predict probable activities with safety requirements, including difficulty rating, and estimate the future impacts on the geological feature because of the activity. It is the whole deliverable package of proper geological knowledge to tourism related professionals.

Who are Tourism-related professionals?

In this context, example of tourism-related professional types are park managers, recreation workers, tour and travel guides, tour operators, and park rangers.

Historical Geographies

Africa

Africa is a continent of contrasts. In this narrative we will begin in the north, Morocco and Algeria are popular destinations for independent travel, and increasingly, for package tours and student travel, offering an insight into culture beyond the borders of the Western world, but sufficiently close, that travels from Europe relatively affordable. Many choose to reach these countries across the Mediterranean Sea, and ferry crossings are especially popular amongst travellers- small convoys of off-road vehicle users who travel the deserts and villages of these North African countries to enjoy a sense of exploration and adventure. Egypt is another popular destination on the African/Asian border, and is well known for its pyramids, for the legends and stories of the Pharaohs and ancient Egypt, for its cultural heritage and those who are visiting Egypt for a holiday cruising the Nile. More recently, Egypt has become a hotspot for scuba divers, and subsequently, tourism developed in resorts along the Red Sea.

Tourism in Ghana

Ghana is located on the west coast of Africa, along the Gulf of Guinea and is bordered by Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Burkina Faso. The country covers an area of 238,540 km almost the same size Great Britain or the states of Illinois and Indiana in the USA. The topography of the country is culturally diverse with many tribes. This ethnic diversity has created a national rich culture portrayed in traditional music and dance, cuisine and festivals, English is official language used in government: offices, large-scale businesses, national media and education. Ghana has a population of about 25 million.

Ghana's tourism sector thrives on its rich historical, cultural and natural heritage. The elements of the natural heritage, such as the flora, fauna, beaches, lakes, rivers and waterfalls are considered as important attractions, complementing Ghana's main historical and cultural attractions.

Case study: Kenya

Kenya is situated on the equator, spans more than 224,000 sq.miles and is geographically diverse, from the snow-capped mountains, peaks to extensive forests, wide-open plains. A key geographical attraction is the Great Rift Valley, which features extinct volcanoes and hot springs. The low coastal plains along its south east edge connect with the Indian Ocean and offer beaches, coral reefs and coral islands while northern Kenya has the biggest desert lake in the world, Lake Turkana.

Kenya ranked as the fifth international tourist destination in Africa and in 2008 won the Best Leisure Destination award at the World Travel Fair in Shanghai, China. In recent years, Kenya has been a beneficiary from the link British Royal Wedding – William proposed to Katherine during a safari trip in Kenya. Kenya is also considered to be a great alternative destination because of the turmoil in North Africa and the Middle East. Tourism in Kenya dates back to pre-independences as early as the 1930s when visitors and explorers visited for big-game hunting expeditions. These expeditions were locally referred to by the Swahili word "safari". The Kenyan government recognized tourism's potential to contribute to revenue and soon after independence the Kenyan government encouraged local and foreign entrepreneurs to invest in the tourism

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and hospitality sector. The benefits accruing from investments infrastructure and superstructure enhance tourism development and encourage economic diversification. Of international visitors 50% are in pursuit of a safari for viewing "the big five" namely the elephant, rhino, lion, buffalo and leopard, not to mention other like flamingos, giraffes, hippos, warthog, ostrich and zebras. The big five are the central focus of the majority of safari tours and wildlife expeditions offered with the parks.

Methodology and Sources

This qualitative research into the history of tourism at Coranderk Aboriginal station will employ a narrative form using a chronological approach to the evolution of the station. It will explore events as they unfold and provide a biography of key individuals where necessary. It will also explore a number of key "themes" and perspectives. It will employ the method of "thick description" which Norman Denzin (1989) has described as narrative that: "presents detail, context, emotion and the webs of social relationships...The voices, feelings, actions, and meanings of interacting individuals are heard."

Coranderk as a tourist destination has left a rich archive-there are many accounts from tourists and visitors and a vast photographic archive Lydon suggests 3000 images were taken- and an equally significant number of postcards and a small number of stereoscopes. This reveals the station's emblematic status as a "showplace". Photographs of Coranderk "were widely circulated and more abundant than images from most Aboriginal communities in Australia, so they are valuable source for considering shifts in colonial photographic practise.

Brief Histories of Coranderk

Giordino Nanni and Andrea James "We will show the Country is concerned with the 1881 Parliamentary Inquiry into Coranderk; and a recent book published by the author (Clark, 2014), The last Matron of Coranderk. Aldo Masolab has published a brief history of Coranderk in which he published extracts from the works of select visitors to Coranderk- such as Giglioli and Charnay which he translated and published in English for the first time.

Studies of Tourism in Coranderk

Lydon's central argument is that "while Aboriginal people were entangled in western cultures of imaging and scopic regimes that objectify, reify and distance, they absorbed and understood those practices, not as passive subjects, but as active, visually and politically astute agents in cross-cultural practices of imagining and image consumption.

In 2008, 496,000 people lived within the Cumbria area in the towns of Copeland, Carlisle, Allerdale, Eden, Barrow in South Lakeland. Tourism is rapidly taking over the main source of income for the region and brought in 1.17 billion pounds to the local economy. Previously sheep farming and agriculture has been the main industry for the region.

In Conclusion, Studies of tourism are different according to people's own perspective. Most of the scientists, researchers opted for their ways of contributing to this sector. Personally, I believe places which were written in this article are worth travelling.

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