

# The Significance of Geographical Tourism: A Descriptive Study of Fact and Challenges

**Reetu**

Research Scholar, Department of Geography, MDU, Rohtak

**Vikas Dangi**

Research Scholar, IHTM, MDU, Rohtak

**Prof. (Dr.) Sandeep Malik**

Professor, IHTM, MDU, Rohtak

**Dr. Pardeep Kumar**

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, MDU, Rohtak

## Abstract

The geography of tourism is the synonymous of tourism industry. It can be explained as social as well as cultural industry. Due to the geographical nature of tourism, geography is essential to the study of tourism. Tourism is an activity that takes place in places, involves movement and interaction between places, and shapes both place attributes and individual self-identities through the connections made between locations, landscapes, and people. In present research work a descriptive attempt has been made to present the moderate relation of tourism with geographical location. Study concludes that, tourism geography encompasses a wide range of topics, such as the effects of tourism on the environment, the geography of the leisure and tourism industries, how to address management and industry issues in the tourism sector, and the demography of tourism and the sites of tourism.

**Keywords-** Geographical, Tourism, Location, Climate, Naturae.

**Scope of The Study-** The study is descriptive by nature. The study was focused on the relation of geographical location on tourist trade. The discussion of research paper will help to understand the importance of tourism trade on different location.

**Limitation of The Study-** Present research work is theoretical by nature; absence of data analysis is the main limitation of present research work.

## Introduction

Tourism geography is the area of human geography that examines travel and its effects on different locations. Physical geography provides the fundamental context for the development of tourism destinations, and environmental impacts and concerns are important aspects that must be taken into account while managing the development of tourism destinations.

According to the diverse issues in the geography of tourism, there will be different study methods. Approaches like those from cultural geography, which take more conceivably different methodologies to tourism, including sociology of tourism, which stretches further than tourism as a secluded, exemplary task and considers how travel fits into daily lives and how tourism is not only a consumer of places but also generates the sense of place at a destination, have recently emerged as a result of developments in human geography. Therefore, crucial tourism geographies apply the principles of critical geography to the travel industry:

- Tourism as a tool for profiteering, liberation, and political progress, including difficulties with commercialization, consumerism, and placemaking.
- Injustice in tourism as it relates to gender, class, colour, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and incapacity as well as social justice and protection of the environment.

- Ethnicity, marginalization, and dominance in interpretations of tourism that are colonialist and heritage-based.
- Climate impacts, conservation, active experimentation, and advocacy in the tourism industry.

Researchers are continuously arguing what is and isn't included in this relatively broad field of study because there are numerous ideas and definitions for what is defined by the phrase "tourist geography." A very geographical phenomenon, tourism. It exists because people want to move in order to have an embodied experience of various places on a personal, collective, and global level. People (as visitors) and the host venues, places, and individuals they visit forge deep connections. This has important ramifications for the utilisation and depletion of resources as well as the landscapes of tourism planning.

The initial descriptions were quite ambiguous and inadequate, claiming that geographic location and hospitality are two terms that were designed to be combined since every geographer must possess the attributes of a tourist, and vice versa, as the clever tourist is a geographer who has not yet recognized himself. The precision and breadth of the criteria started to increase as more and more scholars started investigating this new topic. The word "tourism" can be defined in a variety of ways and has varying connotations depending on the language and place. The journeys of the earliest times of human history are not comparable to modern tourism. *But only the WTO definition, which was released in 1991, contains the explicit spirit of these notions of tourism. The definition of tourism in this article was rather broad and stated that it consisted of "the activities of a person travelling to a place outside of his or her usual environment for less than a particular amount of time and whose main travel objective is other than the exertion of a task adequately compensated from within the destination area."*

Both the WTO definition and a previous declaration from the International Union of Tourism Organizations (IUOTO), which defined tourists as " However, do not necessarily highlight overnight stays as a defining characteristic of tourism. Instead, they say that "any person travelling to a country, area, or location different from the one in which he or she has his or her customary domicile of origin." This point of view is supported by an increasing number of authors who contend that day visitors and excursionists should also be classified as tourists because their activities are frequently causally equivalent to those of overnight visitors.

***According to Hunziker and Krapf, tourism is the entirety of the interaction and phenomena resulting from a random person's journey and stay, as long as the stay is unrelated to a paid task and does not entail the formation of a continuous abode.***

However, the main challenge for any student of tourism geography is to be able to comprehend the variety of opinions that can be implemented to tourism troubles and their relative benefits and drawbacks. This instead implies that debate is still very much alive. With these difficulties in mind, the emergence of the geography of travel and tourism as well as a review of numerous influential studies are now the centre of the debate.

## Review of Literature

The area of geographical tourism is very vast and significant for GDP prospects. the concept was studied by many authors time to time. **C. Michael and et al. (2005)** highlighted the geography of tourism and contemporary mobility. Study concludes that geography have long contribution to the study of tourism. There was strong relationship to research on time geography as well as to work on diaspora and transnationalism. **W. A. Khairi et al (2009)** present the conceptualise tourism and their interlinking features within the broad geographical prospective. The findings of the study suggested that by utilising the concept of development theories. One could analyse and evaluate dynamic tourism process and a necessity to understand how tourism work. **Bilal Ahmad Bhat et al (2017)** Presented a study of Kashmir Valley their geography tourism and environment. Study conclude that Kashmir Valley has a tremendous Potential to attract tourist but, on another hand, study also conclude that for increasing human welfare we have to set environmental at priorities and limit tourism according to sustainable capacity of tourist place. **Jarkko S. (2014)** Presented a geographical study on tourism and their historical connectivity study concluded that although the field of tourism geographies has become versatile and closer to the conceptual and theoretical understanding of human geography, there were challenges which need to be deals by scholars.

Present research is also an attempt in this direction and trying to highlight following conceptual points od geographical tourism.

Study highlighted following points-

- I) Geography of tourism appraisal
- II) Tourism Perception on Environment
- III) Environmental stewardship is predominantly a constraint in tourism geography
- IV) Potential for enhancing tourism-related activities through geographic factors
- V) Environmental protection, geography, and tourism

### **Geography of Tourism Appraisal and Linkages**

Since the 1920s, tourism has been the focus of direct geographic analysis as well as other social scientific disciplines. Paradigms, ideas, and the subject matter have all evolved since then. There were approaches and studies were introduced in post war period. Out of these works, a synopsis work on the state of geography in the United States in the 1950s should include a chapter on the geography of leisure and tourism since it has a significant enough prominence in the field to do so. In the era of 1960, there wasn't much more actual research done on tourism and leisure in the United Kingdom. The framework for subsequent work on the geography of second home advancement at a global level, especially in Scandinavia, which has a long history of second home ownership and access, was laid in Canada during this same time period by substantive geographical research on tourism that was primarily focused work on cottaging. The focus of research increased after 1970 in the era of cold war. the geography of tourism and recreation in Anglo-American geography underwent many significant evaluations in the 1960s, and regional sciences, economic geography, and migration studies all made significant contributions to the growth of the field. In the 1960s and 1970s, French geography also had a longstanding record of research on tourism and recreation that was, potentially, considerably more advanced than the Anglo-American tradition in terms of intellectual development and scope of publishing.

### **A Tourism Perception on Environment**

Worldwide, tourism is a significant economic sector. The tourism sector does not require any raw materials or machinery, unlike other industries, given the current state of the world. Every nation in the world should place a strong emphasis on the growth of the tourist sector in light of the economic, social, and regional relevance of each country. Therefore, the tourist sector is a form of industry that is always growing. India is a developing country; hence this industry should be of the utmost importance. Tourism back then was viewed as purely recreational.

This enterprise served a variety of aims, such as promoting natural beauty, the arts, and travel while having fun. Tourism has developed into an important sector in recent decades. With the aid of the following points, the nature of tourism will be understood.

- i. Gourmet - Tourism is a specific activity that requires us to leave our homes and regular jobs. Tourism serves a variety of goals, including those related to religion, recreation, cultural heritage, exploration, sports, health, and natural beauty. Therefore, the basis of tourism is specialisation.
- ii. Diversity - Traveling is a form of commerce. It offers numerous advantages for growth. Many individuals have been employed in this industry at numerous locations, which has invisible benefits. This industry has drawn a large number of tourists. Given the growth of our nation, this business has a promising future. This sector of the economy has been crucial to the growth of our country.
- iii. Equestrian - Aside from these three fundamental human requirements, today's education and entertainment are also crucial components of humility. Many tourists choose to travel to other locations for amusement purposes, taking into account the recreational element of tourism. People increasingly go from one location to another because of their recreational value in order to view specific natural features, appreciate the beauty of landmarks, and experience the weather and environment.
- iv. Tourism is by its very nature dynamic and ever-changing. Tourism is a component of wandering; via travel and tourism, we forge relationships with others and gain a wealth of knowledge from them. A dynamic with many facets is tourism. Tourism is a complicated sector as a result of the geographic, social, economic, and psychological factors involved. Retractable and non-moveable activities are two different categories. If we stay in a hotel for a short while, tourism stops being mobile at that point.

v. Cyclic Environment – Tourism has a dynamic nature. A country of all seasons and all reasons is a significant tagline for Indian tourism. Tourists make their arrangements based on the season. In the rainy season, tourists visit waterfalls because of their natural beauty since they may enjoy a cool, peaceful climate there during the hot summer months. As a result, tourism has a seasonal nature.

vi. Transdisciplinary - Tourism is a significant sector of the economy. Tourism is interdisciplinary by its very nature. We research numerous aspects of our environment that are covered in geography, economics, and social science courses. The intimate connection to another subject demonstrates how multidisciplinary tourism is.

vii. Hindu religious tourists must visit God and Goddess temples, Muslim religious tourists must visit mosques, Christian religious tourists must visit churches, etc. There are many different religious groups in India, and each group has a place of worship. All of these instances provide proof of cultural and religious elements.

viii. Spatial nature – Geography and tourism have a close connection. Tourism activity growth is challenging without geography. There are numerous geographical features that operate as magnets, attracting large numbers of tourists. Geography classes require field trips because there are many things that can only be understood outside of a building. For this reason, study trips are organised at the college and high school levels.

ix. Tourist destinations with a historical flair. Tourists visit numerous historical locations, based on the historical touch. As an example, consider forts, monuments, historical sculptures, temples, caves, paintings, architectural feats, and handicrafts. We learn accurate facts about our history by visiting such locations. Moreover, we can guard against losing our beautiful and ancient culture.

### **Potential for Enhancing Tourism-Related Activities Through Geographic Factors**

There is promise for an ever-increasing synergy between geography and sustainability because to the increased attention in environmental protection. Tourism geography has the potential to alter and even enhance travel experiences. However, there are also grounds for thinking that geography, including both territory and inhabitants, can alter as a result of tourism. Undoubtedly, the most popular travel places around the world have changed as a result of tourism. A few examples of how tourism can affect a region over the course of a few decades can be found along the coast of Romagna and, more broadly, the entire Italian coastline. Additionally, it's crucial to emphasise the obvious distinction between peak season and the rest of the year.

The situation is fairly similar in many Alpine regions and in the major art cities. New cities have occasionally been created solely for touristic purposes. Another new trend that aims to boost inbound visitor flows and benefit the local economy is territorial marketing, which is occurring in both industrialised and developing nations. Territorial marketing is becoming more important in many medium-sized and large cities politically to win over residents and local stakeholders. In many instances, local economies place a high priority on income generated by tourists. Along with changing the behaviour and way of life of the locals, tourism also results in changes in the tourist's mindset and the locals' behavioural patterns.

*Everywhere, from Papeete to Venice, from Cortina d'Ampezzo to Bali, from Miami to Capri, it is simple to observe the impact that tourism has on local populations.* As a result, mixed lifestyles emerge, marked by the coexistence of indigenous elements and foreign behaviours. Similar to this, new habits and lifestyles are spread through tourism, information technologies, and mass communication. However, visitors can effectively show how these tools can be used to deliver factual information, not only fiction. Tourists are also impacted by the tourism experience. Folk music, which is getting more and more popular in industrialised nations, is a good example in this regard. More often than not, when on vacation, visitors approach life more leisurely; when returning home, they frequently strive to keep the situation in mind.

This is also demonstrated by the growing prevalence of recreation amenities similar to those initially tested in tourist areas at enterprises. Golf courses can frequently be located in the middle of cities in Japan. Cities in Europe frequently have fitness centres and wellness centres that replicate experiments done in tourist destinations. Facilities for sea and even mountain sports have occasionally been erected right in the middle of cities, making it possible to engage in activities that are often done during the holiday season.

Geography and tourism can collaborate and share knowledge. They can exchange ideas on how to enhance human existence and advance cultural and environmental awareness. Above everything else, geography and

tourism have the power to ensure that the constant changes taking place around the globe are motivated by a respect for people and their environment.

### I. Environmental Factors

**Good climate:** For any tourist destination, a good climate is one of the key attractions. Tourists from temperate and colder countries are drawn to areas with nice climates, warmth, and lots of sunshine. For instance, the majority of seaside towns in the U.S.A. and the U.K. are found in the southeast, which is warmer. On the other hand, residents of hotter climates move to cooler areas in search of the benefits of a crisp, chilly environment. In India, for instance, locations like Lonavala, Mahabaleshwar in Mumbai, Kullu and Manali, Shillong, Kashmir, and others are widely renowned for their mild and pleasant climate.

Switzerland, Sweden, and other nations with colder climates are popular travel destinations for those from tropical regions. **Magnificent scenery:** Picnic areas with beautiful views experience a surge in tourism. For instance, tourist numbers are frequently high at sunrise and sunset locations, lengthy seashores, waterways, cascades, etc.

### II. Socio-Economic Factors

There are four significant socioeconomic elements that affect the growth of tourism.

**Connectivity:** The most significant socio-economic aspect is accessibility. All tourist destinations must be easily reachable by many kinds of transportation, including roads, trains, planes, and boats. It is preferable to go by roads and railways to take in the breathtaking sights of nature. Airway is the best option if a tourist wants to get to a far-off trip destination as quickly as possible. Waterways are typically not chosen unless a tourist decides to take a luxurious cruise or is interested in visiting a remote island chain.

**Amenities:** Tourist attractions need to be able to offer quality lodging and culinary services. The kind of lodging needed by visitors will depend on their lifestyles, class of living, ability to spend money, types of services anticipated, etc. It is crucial to categorise lodging options (such as different hotels, motels, dormitories, etc.) according to star ratings, such as five stars and below, so that travellers may make the best decision and organise their journeys effectively. In general, tourist destinations that offer quality housing and affordable dining facilities do best.

**Ambience:** Important variables like how effectively the site is managed for travelling pursuits like snowboarding, rafting, parasailing, canoeing, catching fish, windsurfing, safari experience, etc. have a significant impact on the growth of tourism in a specific location. Whether or whether there are medical services available, etc.

**Subsidiary facilities:** A tourist location will be able to hold (retain) more visitors for a longer period of time if it has ancillary (complementary) services like banking and finance, Internet and telecom connectivity, hospitals, insurance, and so forth. Overall, this contributes to some degree to strengthening the local economy.

### III. Historical and Cultural Factors

Historical landmarks and locations with a rich cultural past are popular tourist destinations. People adore and enjoy visiting places with well-known historical landmarks, magnificent forts, castles and palaces built by former kings and queens, etc. The Taj Mahal in India, the Nazca Lines and Machu Picchu in Peru, the Pyramid of Giza in Egypt, the Great Wall of China, and Stonehenge in England are a few examples of locations that are well-known throughout the world for their historical and cultural significance.

### IV. Religious Factors

People frequently travel on pilgrimages to holy sites in order to find inner peace, receive the blessing of their favourite gods and gurus, find salvation before passing away, and other goals. Here, people's faiths, convictions, and emotions all play a part in the rising tourism at sacred locations. Jerusalem in Israel, Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia, Varanasi and Amritsar in India, among other locations, are examples of locations that are well-known for their religious significance.

## V. Other Factors

The increase of tourism can occasionally be attributed to additional reasons in unexpected locations. A UFO crash site at Roswell, New Mexico (USA), for instance, draws numerous visitors from all over the world. Tourism is also being developed to some extent by research forays into deep seas and caves, geological studies of hot springs and geysers, seismic study of active volcanoes, investigations into ghostly activity in deserted ghost towns, etc. So, these are a few of the major elements affecting the expansion of tourism.

### Environmental Protection, Geography, and Tourism

The philosophical arguments about human geography rather than physical geography have a greater impact on how people see geography related to tourism. The connection between physical and human geography, however, has long been a central issue in geography, particularly tourism location. Physical topography and human ecology are frequently viewed as having entirely different historical paths. However, over a considerable amount of time, their very coexistence has contributed to the formation of the field as a whole.

The fundamental difference in approaches, justifications, and foci between physical and human geographers is a major cause of the occasionally present uneasiness. There is a long history of multi-method and integrative techniques in tourism geography, including mental processes involved, natural disaster research, tourism impacts, and resource appraisal, despite the fact that there is frequently little metaphysical common ground. Additionally, tourist geographers have significantly influenced the study of sustainable tourism, particularly in poor nations.

The integration of physical and human geography was criticised for having an ontological difficulty since, despite the fact that they are connected by social practices, "there is nothing in this which compels them to be connected through a formal system of common property." However, its most significant modern contribution is undoubtedly in the complex fields of global environmental change and climate change that call for integrated physical and human geographic methods.

The moral links between humans and the environment, as well as criticism of instrumental science, are all raised by ontological distinctions, which raise basic problems about how the environment may be understood. The applied/theoretical binary is revisited in various ways in the physical/human binary, which places the qualitative, poststructuralist, humanistic approaches of human geography at one extreme and the rigorous advanced techniques of physical geography at the other.

### Changing The Tourist and Recreational Landscapes

Tourism and recreation geography is a comparatively applicable field of study on the edge of its domain, yet it has close ties to scholarly work conducted elsewhere. It has historically been dominated by systematic geographical analysis, but with a weak theoretical foundation that made it even more difficult to have an impact on broader disciplinary initiatives. However, since the late 1980s, its nature and fortunes have gradually changed.

First, there has been a significant increase in the quantity and calibre of tourism and recreation geography publications. While these publications have not had a significant impact on geography outside of the tourism and recreation subdiscipline, they have had a significant impact on the direction of these studies. They have also influenced broader social scientific debates on mobility, globalisation, services, heritage, and regional studies, as well as increasingly environmental science debates on conservation and environment.

Second, there is a deliberate effort to provide tourist and leisure geography a deeper conceptual underpinning that would be informed by and contribute to modern social philosophy, especially with regard to topics like globalisation, decentralization, privatization, reorganization, and conservation.

Third, tourism and leisure geographers are attempting to actively market their work in academic and non-academic contexts, particularly as domestic and international temporary mobility continues to rise. The metropolitan nature of tourism and recreation geography has also come to be seen as a resilience rather than a frailty in an era of increasing conceptual, empirical, and strategy flowability. This allows for greater involvement in a variety of philosophical discussions and business, social, and ecological.

On one hand, it aims to draw attention to the range, character, and significance of geography and geographers in the study of travel and recreation. On the other hand, it also seeks to offer some insights into the nature of the theoretical changes that are taking place in the area. At ranges ranging from the global to the individual, tourism and recreation are complex phenomena with significant economic, societal, climatic, and social effects. It is now necessary for geographers to not only gain a deeper understanding of the mechanisms that gave rise to the spatial outcomes of tourism and recreation, but also to share this understanding with other geographers, tourists and recreation students, the public and private sectors, and the larger communities that are impacted by these manifestations.

## References

- (Ed.) Hall, C.M. and Lew, A.A. (1998). *Geographical Perspectives on Sustainable Tourism Development*, 236 pages. Addison Wesley Longman, Harlow.
- A. C. M. Hall (2019). *The Geography of Recreation and Tourism* (Issue January 1999). the following URL: [10.4324/9780203796092](https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203796092)
- B. BERGMAN (2009). a manual for manuals at the dawn of modernity.
- B. Bergman (2012). guidelines for a tourism geography. <https://doi.org/10.4000/belgeo.7176> *Belgeo*, 3, 0-13
- Bao, J. (2002). Geographical tourism has been the focus of doctoral dissertations in China from 1989 to 2000. 148–152 in *Tourism Geographies*, 4(2).
- Bilal Ahmad Bhat (2017) “A Study of Geography on pilgrimage tourist and environment a case study of Kashmir Valley, *International Journal of engineering and management research* vol. 7 (4) 2394 – 6962
- C. Michal (2005)” Reconsidering the Geography of Tourism and Contemporary mobility, *International Review, Geographical Research* vol. 43 (2) June 2005
- C.M. Hall (2000). *Policies, Processes, and Relationships in Tourism Planning*, 236 pages. Prentice Hall, Harlow.
- D. Crouch, ed (1999). *Geographies of leisure and tourism: practises and geographic knowledge*, 299 pages. Routledge, New York and London.
- E. De Kadt (1979). *Passport to Development: Tourism perspectives on how tourism affects social and cultural life in poor nations*.
- *Guiding and Guiding Tours*, Gothenburg, and BAS Publishers, in ADOLFSSON P., DOBERS P., and JONASSON M. (eds.).
- Hoogendoorn, G., and C. M. Rogerson (2015). *Tourism geography in the developing world: fresh ideas from South Africa*.
- *L'Invention du tourisme*, by M. BOYER, Paris: Gallimard, 1996.
- M. FOUCAULT (1978). The topic of the March 12 lecture at Collège de France was "Security, Territory, and Belonging." *Sécurité, territoire, population, Collège de France 1977–1978*, Stockholm, Tankekraft Förlag.
- P. ELLIMAN (2006). In ABRAMS J. & HALL P., *Elsewh ere: Mapping New Cartographies of Networks and Territories*, they discuss signal failure.
- S Jarkko (2014) *tourism geographies: Connections with Human Geography with and emerging responsible geography” Geographia polonica* Vol. 87 (3) 2014.
- S.J. Page and C.M. Hall (2002). 2nd edition, 399 pages, *The Geography of Tourism and Recreation: Environment, Place, and Space* Routledge, New York and London.
- W.A. Khairil (2009) “Tourism Development a Geographical Prospective” *Asian Social Science* Vol 5 (5) may 2009.