Routledge Handbook of Tourism Cities

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This edited book by Alastair M. Morrison and J. Andres Coca-Stefaniak offers a comprehensive overview on a wide array of topics relating to urban destinations and city tourism. It is uniquely positioned and creates a distinct niche in tourism research. It raises awareness on the marketing and development of tourism cities.

The first chapter sheds light on the economic, social and political factors that are shaping the development of tourism cities. Maxim (2021) identifies different challenges including sustainability, traffic congestion and pollution, among other issues. Chapter two is focused on the effects of terrorism on tourism cities and on UNESCO’s World Heritage Sites. Seabra and Paiva (2021) imply that terrorism can have a negative impact on the perceived images of tourist destinations and on their local residents. The third chapter elaborates on sustainable tourism in cities. Day (2021) recommends that prospective authors ought to utilize systems-thinking approaches to better understand how sustainability can become standard practice in urban tourism.

Chapter four describes the effects of the sharing economy on the development of city tourism, in terms of peer-to-peer accommodation and ridesharing. Belarmino (2021) identifies specific segments of the sharing economy and proposes future research avenues on this topic. The fifth chapter investigates the effects of the urban development in the Chinese context. Luo and Lam (2021) suggest that policy makers should adopt an integrated long-term outlook on urban

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planning. They discuss about the positive and negative effects of urbanization on the tourism industries of cities.

Chapter six deliberates on the gentrification issues that are conspicuous with urban environments. Gravari-Barbas and Guinand (2021) contend that an increased tourism demand can further exacerbate the detrimental impacts of gentrification on the socio-economic fabric of communities and on their local economies. The seventh chapter explores the relationship between urbanization and overtourism. Gowreesunkar and Gavinolla (2021) investigate urbanism and overtourism in the context of Hyderabad, India. Chapter eight suggests that various socio-political forces can have an impact on the flows of tourists to destinations. Webster and Hji-Avgoustis (2021) imply that political authorities as well as tourism managers can work in tandem to decrease the negative impacts of micro shocks and public outage on city tourism inflows.

The ninth chapter provides a critical review of relevant academic literature on tourism marketing, branding as well as on product development of urban areas. Morrison (2021) identifies different markets for tourism cities and elaborates on the key success factors for destination management. The tenth chapter is focused on the corporate tourism segment. Davidson (2021) discusses about demand and supply elements that are required to foster business tourism as a catalyst for urban development in cities. Chapter eleven explains how a portfolio of major cultural exhibitions could contribute to the development of city tourism, in an Australian setting. Gorchakova and Antchak (2021) emphasize the importance of using storytelling and creative marketing approaches to promote events in Melbourne’s urban environments.

Chapter twelve features a case study on the branding of a Canadian destination. Isaac and Wichnewski (2021) investigate the effectiveness of Vancouver’s newly established brand among tourists. The thirteenth chapter presents a literature review on family tourism. Lehto, Chen and Le (2021) indicate that family tourism is a well-defined field of study; however, they maintain that there is scope for further research on this topic. Chapter fourteen presents the findings from a literature review and from selected case studies that clarify how millennial audiences are contributing to the development of city tourism in different settings. Kim and Lee (2021) describe the millennial traveler market and identify their travel behaviors before and after they visit destinations.
The fifteen chapter raises awareness on the “visiting friends and relatives” (VFR) segment. Backer (Zentveld) (2021) reviews the academic literature to discuss about VFR’s latest trends. She implies that there are opportunities for tourism marketers to attract senior travelers to their destinations. Chapter sixteen demystifies the dark tourism concept. Lennon (2021) discusses about dark tourism attractions in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and in Lety, Czech Republic. The author implies that locals as well as tourism marketers ought to preserve them, as they form part of their heritage. The seventeenth chapter promotes sustainable projects in urban destinations. Newsome and Simpson (2021) suggest that tourism cities can offer natural environments including urban parks and gardens for tourists who are interested in birdwatching. They argue that healthy urban spaces may result in benefits for residents and visitors alike.

Chapter eighteen provides a narrative about cultural and heritage attractions in tourism cities. Boyd (2021) maintains that urban environments ought to dedicate facilities; spaces and places and people to safeguard their traditions. The author argues that there is scope for urban destinations to regenerate their inner-city cores. He points out that they can promote trails and routes to raise awareness about their attractions. The nineteenth chapter describes outdoor and indoor markets in tourism cities. Henderson (2021) sheds light on the attributes and characteristics of shopping centers, urban markets, specialty markets, food markets, cooked food markets within city destinations.

The twentieth chapter discusses about challenges and opportunities to better utilize urban spaces in tourism cities like Sydney in Australia. Kaya and Edwards (2021) argue that there is scope for tourism planners to develop the infrastructures and mobility around waterfront environments to attract residents and tourists to their destinations. Chapter twenty-one outlines Nthebe and Swart’s (2021) perspectives about tourist attractions in urban environments. The authors identify different types of city attractions. They describe the features of city attractions and elaborate on their impact on destination development.

Chapter twenty-two posits that an ambidextrous model could contribute to improve the performance of French tourism cities. Séraphin (2021) contends that cities ought to promote their historical parts (e.g., le vieux) as well as their modern areas (e.g., le nouveau). The twenty-third chapter explains how a coastal, industrial city can be regenerated as a world class tourism and maritime destination. Van Zyl (2021) uses a pragmatic approach as she carries out a strengths,
weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis about the tourism strategy of Port Elizabeth in South Africa. The twenty-fourth chapter provides a critical and discursive contribution on the key elements of smart cities. Coca-Stefaniak and Seisdedos (2021) elaborate on the governance; technology; environmental; human capital; innovation and learning; as well as on multi-disciplinary aspects pertaining to smart tourism destinations. The authors identify new trends relating to the smart concept and provide good examples of best practices that are drawn from different contexts around the world.

Chapter twenty-five clarifies that advances in technology are affecting urban tourism destinations. Molinillo, Anaya-Sánchez and Guevara-Plaza (2021) identify a number of challenges faced by tourism cities, in terms of how they can utilize technologies (e.g., mobile applications, sharing economy innovations, social media, big data mining, artificial intelligence, among others) to improve their visitors’ experiences, and to encourage outcomes like the co-creation of online content, including positive reviews. Chapter twenty-six is focused on the utility of social media for the promotion of city tourism. Gretzel (2021) explains that social media can be used to shape city tourism experiences. She indicates that social media may also result in negative impacts on the city and its residents (e.g., overtourism).

The twenty-seventh chapter suggests that there is a close relationship between the provision of transportation options and tourism growth. Papaix and Coca-Stefaniak (2021) discuss on balancing the interests of residents and tourists by providing them with utilitarian and experiential transport solutions. The authors make reference to key elements of environmental and societal wellbeing perspectives relating to the sustainable mobility in the city destinations. Chapter twenty-eight raises awareness on walking tourism. Morris (2021) argues that walking offers a reflexive mode to experience tourism cities. The author elaborates on audio-walks, psycho-geographic drifts and mass participation walks. He clarifies that such artistic walks differ from traditional walking activities.

Chapter twenty-nine explores the socio-economic challenges that are brought by urban tourism development, in the European context. Önder and Zekan (2021) introduce the readers to various concepts including carrying capacity, limits of acceptable change and overtourism, among others. Afterwards, they provide case examples and recommendations for destination marketers of tourism cities. The thirtieth chapter sheds light on the development of tourism cities in the United
States of America. Spirou (2021) maintains that private-public partnerships are required to develop amenities (e.g., stadiums and convention centers among other infrastructures) that are intended to support the tourism industry.

The thirty-first chapter is focused on tourism in Latin America. Camargo, Chávez and del Carmen Ginocchio feature three case studies on city tourism in Central and South America. The authors elaborate the social transformation and urban innovation in Medellín, Colombia; gastronomic tourism in Lima, Peru; and on the tourist attractions of Tijuana, in Mexico. Chapter thirty-two describes various attractions of four Asian cities of Bangkok (Thailand), Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and Jakarta (Indonesia). Oktadiana and Pearce (2021) consider key elements of their tourism products including their landmarks, districts and paths, among others. Afterwards, they evaluate contextual factors and outline their recommendations for policy makers and tourism marketers.

Chapter thirty-three provides a reflective contribution on the communist heritage of Bulgaria and sheds light on its effects on tourism. Iankova and Mileva (2021) elaborate on the Bulgarian communist legacy and on the concept of social attitudes and feelings toward heritage attractions. In conclusion, they outline their practical recommendations to destination management organizations. The thirty-fourth chapter illustrates the latest developments of several tourism cities that are located in post-communist countries. Smith and Klicek (2021) discuss about their image and branding issues. They also examine their economic and social challenges, before presenting their conclusions and recommendations.

The thirty-fifth chapter sheds light on Chinese urban destinations. Wu, Li, Ma and Wang (2021) identify a number of tourism cities in China and elaborate on their tourism planning and development. Afterwards, they focus on the recreational belt around cities and on the urban heritage revitalization theory. Chapter thirty-six raises awareness on the geological aspects of urban environments. Richards, Simpson and Newsome (2022) rely on four case studies to shed light on geologically distinctive tourism cities located in China, England, Poland and Scotland. In conclusion, the authors feature their recommendations for policy makers.

Chapter thirty-seven is focused on a case study about wildlife tourism in the Western Australian context. Simpson, Patroni, Kerr, Verduin and Newsome (2021) suggest that tourists are compelled to visit a dolphin discovery center. The authors discuss about the socio-economic
implications of wildlife tourism on the destinations’ growth and competitiveness. Chapter thirty-eight describes the features and attributes of China’s Grand Canal. Wang, Lin and Liu provide a historical morphogenic analysis of tourism cities along one of China’s greatest engineering marvels. The authors discuss about the influence of the Grand Canal development on the Chinese economy.

Chapter thirty-nine presents a case study on Macao’s potential as a gastronomic destination. Loi, Kong and Bandeira (2021) argue that the Macanese cuisine differentiates itself from other destinations’ culinary experiences. Lastly, the fortieth chapter features a case study about tourism development in the Chinese city of Wuhan. Mao (2021) elaborates on the city’s attractions and branding exercises that are intended to raise awareness of this bustling city. The author makes reference to the destination’s smart tourism initiatives.

In the main, this handbook provides an insightful overview of key theoretical underpinnings and case studies that are focused on urban tourism destinations. Its forty chapters provide a useful guide for practitioners, academics and students, who are aspiring to work in the tourism industry.

The authors of this title have acquired different backgrounds, qualifications and experiences in academic writing. As a result, this publication presents distinct writing styles and approaches. Some contributing authors distinguish themselves, among others, particularly those who are capable of captivating their audiences’ attention through articulated arguments, that are presented in a clear and understandable manner.

“I invite prospective readers to check out this authoritative textbook. I am very pleased to recommend Alastair M. Morrison’s and J. Andres Coca-Stefaniak’s Routledge Handbook of Tourism Cities. This edited book is a rich source of thought for everyone who wants to enhance knowledge and understanding on tourism cities”. 