New Perspectives on Tropical Coastal and Island Tourism Development

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ABSTRACT This special issue is presented as a thematic issue devoted to tropical coastal and island tourism. Included in the issue are articles on (eco)tourism in Madagascar, collaboration theory and tourism partnership models on an Indonesian island, development pressure and resilience on a Malaysian island, a survey of cruise passengers in Colombia, perception and limits to development in Costa Rica, and perception and reality on Pitcairn Island. Placed within theoretical or conceptual frameworks, these case studies can be applied to development challenges of tropical coastal and island destinations worldwide.

KEY WORDS: Tropical tourism, coastal tourism, island tourism, tourism development

Just as the great explorations of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries strove to fill in the last blank areas on the world map, the frontiers of tourism have rapidly expanded over the past few decades to the remotest corners of the world. Among the most popular of these have been the sun, sand, and sea destinations of tropical islands and coastlines. Tourists in ever growing numbers seek out their warm temperatures, sandy beaches, and tropical waters. As a result, tropical shorelines the world over have been impacted by infrastructural development to accommodate both stayover tourists and cruise tourists.

In spite of the abundance of scattered literature on tropical coastal and island tourism in sources such as *Tourism Geographies*, there exists a relatively small volume of books or special collections devoted exclusively to the topic. Following a successful conference on ‘The Changing World of Coastal, Island and Tropical Tourism’ held in Martinique, French West Indies, in January 2011, as well as two paper sessions on Coastal Tourism at the Association of American Geographers annual meeting in Seattle, Washington, in April 2011, the idea for a special issue of *Tourism Geographies* was born.

This special issue contains articles that address a cross section of topics related to tourism development in tropical islands and coastal areas. Bruno Sarrasin (2012)

These articles provide useful case studies and theoretical insights that can be applied to the development challenges of tropical coastal and island destinations throughout the world. Grounded in tourism models and theories, together they also make a valuable contribution to the conceptual side of tourism development.

References


Notes on Contributors

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