

Tourism, Religion and Spiritual Journey

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Abstract: The aim of this study is to provide the review in the following area following areas concept related to the intersection of tourism and religion, religion and spirituality are still among the most common motivation for travel, religious tourism and pilgrimage sacred motivation for pilgrimage development of tourism destination for pilgrim age route, and challenges for pilgrimage route in cultural tourism.

Religious tourism so called “faith tourism” is a form of tourism whereby people of faith travel individually or in group for reasons related to religion or spirituality in their quest for meaning.

It could be under pilgrimage, missionary or leisure purpose. many of today’s most popular tourist destination are related to ancient places of worship or to the site of apparent miracles . In addition, pilgrimage, as a part of religious tourism is the act of moving from one place to another, often travelling through foreign lands with religious connotation, a ritual journey with a hallowed purpose.

The destination and places of pilgrimage associate with the main stream faiths like Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, jannisum and Sikhism. Now a days at least 300 million pilgrims visit the worlds religious sites every year. The study also present implications to distinct pilgrimage from religious tourism in terms of piligrame, its incorporation conveys religious involvement in to the journey. Motivation for pilgrimages will differ from those of religious tourism, the pilgrimages has a mediation function between the natural and cultural world and between the natural and supernatural world. It is not a vacation, but a transformational journey during which significant change takes place, new insight are given, deeper understanding is attained, new and old places in the heart are visited, blessing are received healing takes places, and on return from the pilgrimages life is seen with different eyes and nothing will ever be quiet same again.

There is an emergence of experience industries from the pilgrimages route as cultural heritage attraction in view of, cultural tourism, aimed at consuming experience and engaging in enchantment. The study found that religious based experience could provide experience based economies. Religion, as a tourist experience, becomes part of the symbolic economy. In conclusion, the experience industry with tourist attraction derived from the pilgrimage route has been broadly developed in form of cultural tourism. These tourist attractions are also known as cultural heritage, functioning, as the travel motivation.

Introduction

Tourism is travel for pleasure, also the theory and practice of touring, the business of attracting, accommodating, and entertaining tourists, and the business of operating tours. Tourism may be international, or within the traveler's country. The World Tourism organization defines **tourism**

more generally, in terms which go " beyond the common perception of tourism as being limited to holiday activity only ", as people "traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes". Tourism can be domestic or international, and international tourism has both incoming and outgoing implications on a country's balance of payments. Today, tourism is a major source of income for many countries, and affects the economy of both the source and host countries, in some cases being of vital importance. William F. Theobald (1994) suggested that "etymologically, the word tour is derived from the Latin, 'tornare' and the Greek, 'tornos', meaning 'a lathe or circle; movement around a central point or axis'. This meaning has changed in modern English to represent 'one's turn'.

Importance

Tourism is an important, even vital, source of income for many countries. Its importance was recognized in the Manila Declaration on World Tourism of 1980 as "an activity essential to the life of nations because of its direct effects on the social, cultural, educational, and economic sectors of national societies and on their international relations. Tourism brings in large amounts of income into a local economy in the form of payment for goods and services needed by tourists, accounting for 30% of the world's trade of services, and 6% of overall exports of goods and services. It also creates opportunities for employment in the service sector of the economy associated with tourism. The service industries which benefit from tourism include transportation services, such as airlines, cruise ships, and taxicabs; hospitality services, such as accommodations, including hotels and resorts; and entertainment venues, such as amusement parks, casinos, shopping malls, music venues, and theatres. This is in addition to goods bought by tourists, including souvenirs, clothing and other supplies.

- Domestic tourism, involving residents of the given country traveling only within this country
- Inbound tourism, involving non-residents traveling in the given country
- Outbound tourism, involving residents traveling in another country

The terms tourism and travel are sometimes used interchangeably. In this context, travel has a similar definition to tourism, but implies a more purposeful journey. The terms

tourism and tourist are sometimes used pejoratively, to imply a shallow interest in the cultures or locations visited. By contrast, traveler is often used as a sign of distinction. The sociology of tourism has studied the cultural values underpinning these distinctions and their implications for class relations. Leisure travel was associated with the Industrial Revolution in the United Kingdom – the first European country to promote leisure time to the increasing industrial population. Initially, this applied to the owners of the machinery of production, the economic oligarchy, the factory owners and the traders. These comprised the new middle class. Cox & Kings was the first official travel company to be formed in 1758.

Modern day tourism

Many leisure-oriented tourists travel to seaside resorts at their nearest coast or further apart. Coastal areas in the tropics are popular both in the summer and winter. Mass tourism developed with improvements in technology, which allowed the transport of large numbers of people in a short period of time to places of leisure interest, so that greater numbers of people could begin to enjoy the benefits of leisure time:

Recent developments

There has been an up-trend in tourism over the last few decades especially in Europe, where international travel for short breaks is common. Tourists have a wide range of budgets and tastes, and a wide variety of resorts and hotels have developed to cater for them. For example, some people prefer simple beach vacations, while others want more specialised holidays, quieter resorts, family-oriented holidays or niche market-targeted destination hotels.

The developments in technology and transport infrastructure, such as jumbo jets, low-cost airlines and more accessible airports have made many types of tourism more affordable. The WHO estimated in 2009 that there are around half a million people on board aircraft at any given time. There have also been changes in lifestyle, for example some retirement-age people sustain year round tourism. This is facilitated by internet sales of tourist services. Some sites have now started to offer dynamic packaging, in which an inclusive price is quoted for a tailor-made package requested by the customer upon impulse.

Ecotourism, also known as ecological tourism, is responsible travel to fragile, pristine, and usually protected areas that strives to be low-impact and (often) small-scale. It helps educate the

traveler; provides funds for conservation; directly benefits the economic development and political empowerment of local communities; and fosters respect for different cultures and for human rights. Take only memories and leave only footprints is a very common slogan in protected areas.^[46]

Creative tourism

Creative tourism has existed as a form of cultural tourism, since the early beginnings of tourism itself. More recently, creative tourism has gained popularity as a form of cultural tourism, drawing on active participation by travelers in the culture of the host communities they visit. Several countries offer examples of this type of tourism development, including the United Kingdom, Austria, France, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Spain, Italy and New Zealand.

Growth

It has been suggested there is a strong correlation between tourism expenditure per capita and the degree to which countries play in the global context. Not only as a result of the important economic contribution of the tourism industry, but also as an indicator of the degree of confidence with which global citizens leverage the resources of the globe for the benefit of their local economies. This is why any projections of growth in tourism may serve as an indication of the relative influence that each country will exercise in the future.

Religion is a cultural system of behaviors and practices, mythologies, world views, sacred texts, holy places, ethics, and societal organization that relate humanity to what an anthropologist has called "an order of existence". Religious practices may include rituals, sermons, commemoration or veneration (of a deity, gods, or goddesses), sacrifices, festivals, feasts, trances, initiations, funerary services, matrimonial services, meditation, prayer, music, art, dance, public service, or other aspects of human culture. About 84% of the world's population is affiliated with one of the five largest religions, namely Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism or forms of folk religion. The study of religion encompasses a wide variety of academic disciplines, including theology, comparative religion and social scientific studies. Theories of religion offer various explanations for the origins and workings of religion.

The word religion is sometimes used interchangeably with faith or set of duties. However, in the words of Émile Durkheim, religion differs from private belief in that it is "something eminently

social" system of symbols which acts to establish powerful, pervasive, and long-lasting moods and motivations in men by formulating conceptions of a general order of existence and clothing these conceptions with such an aura of factuality that the moods and motivations seem uniquely realistic. A religion is a cultural system of behaviors and practices, mythologies and world views, sacred texts, holy places, ethics, and societal organisation that relate humanity to an order of existence.

"Spiritual journey" is merely a metaphor for how spiritual beliefs change and develop throughout life. The phrase is common both within the New Age movement and in Christian churches. In New Age philosophy, a spiritual journey is an intentional search to find the relationship between oneself and the universe. Searchers use aspects of Buddhism, New Age philosophy, and "laws of attraction" to manipulate the world to give them what they want. The New Age spiritual journey is not only unbiblical; it is dangerous, as it opens the door to demonic involvement. The phrase "spiritual journey" is also used as the name of a discipleship method in many Christian churches. The trappings can look different—some churches see the journey as rounding the bases in a baseball field, others as different stages on a hike up the mountain—but the basics are generally the same. Classes or lessons take believers through several steps, which may vary, but usually include instruction about Christianity and the local church, Christian disciplines, ministry involvement, mentorship, and leadership.

In truth, we are on a spiritual journey our entire lives. Everything we do and learn and accept affects our relationship with God. Whether we are changing for the better depends on if we are allowing God to lead us in our spiritual journey. Paul said the journey will take a lifetime). The journey will only end when we see Jesus face-to-face

All spiritual journeys are unique, but they have common steps along the way. The steps are not set in stone, and don't always occur in a particular order. Several steps can occur at the same time. God will guide you along the journey. You will get off track, that's normal, but when you do, ask God to show you the next step. When you are on the right path you will feel peace. God's communications are delivered in love. Use the feeling of love and peace as the central signpost of all communications

Spiritual journey is a phrase used by many different religions to mean the natural progression of a person as they grow in understanding of God, the world, and himself. It is an intentional

lifestyle of growing deeper in knowledge and wisdom. A spiritual journey filled with empty chanting will only lead to an empty heart. A journey filled with studying the Bible, obedience to what it says, and trusting God is a lifelong adventure that will bring true understanding of the world and a deep love for its Creator.

Conclusion

Religion usually entails adhering to a certain belief system. Spirituality places importance on intellectual beliefs, but is concerned with growing into an experiencing the divine consciousness. The spiritual approach to god is through the path of love, spiritually embraces all the world religions so the world has become to one destination for tourism. Tourism for positive affirmation for more joy, peace and harmony in your life with a view towards enhancing the positive effect of spiritual tourism on the economic and social advancement of communities and societies. In which living cultural, tradition and belief can be integrated into tourism. Understanding and safeguarding of spiritual, religious and cultural values and assets in the context of tourism.

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