

BOOK REVIEW

INTERNATIONAL HANDBOOK ON THE ECONOMICS OF TOURISM

Abstract

The paper “INTERNATIONAL HANDBOOK ON THE ECONOMICS OF TOURISM”, edited by Larry Dwyer and Peter Forsyth presents a cutting edge discussion of the state of tourism economics and its likely directions in future research.

This book is structured in six parts and each chapter includes a discussion of its relevance and importance to the tourism economics literature, an overview of its main contributions and themes, a critical evaluation of existing literature.

Part one “Tourism demand and forecasting” presents world top destinations, factors affecting international tourism demand, exploring the microfoundations of tourist choice, studies of tourism forecasting. Tourism forecasts may be generated by either quantitative or qualitative approaches. This chapter focuses on quantitative forecasting methods, especially econometric approaches.

Part two “Tourism supply” has discussed the SCP paradigm analyses of tourism by taking the package tour industry as a case study, the industrial economics and pricing issues within tourism enterprises and markets, pricing principles for natural and cultural attractions in tourism. The chapter Travel and tourism intermediaries focuses on the economics of travel agencies, the principles of tour operating, the yield management in the tour operating business.

Part three “Tourism Transport” presents the evolution of alliances in the airline industry, the importance of airline alliances, aviation and tourism – the policy conflicts, the low-cost-carrier-phenomenon, air transport infrastructure as a constraint on tourism growth, taxing tourism and aviation.

In the Part four “Tourism taxation and infrastructure”, tourism infrastructure is foundational for tourism development, second in importance only to a destination’s attraction resource base, because infrastructure is vital to the commerce of tourism. Taxing tourism is one way for tourist destinations to reap the economic gains from tourism development.

Part five “Evaluation for policy making” presents the Tourism Satellite Account, Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) analysis and policy modeling, the economic evaluation of special events.

Last part “Applications” focuses on the valuation of tourism’s natural resources, the implications of human capital analysis in tourism, the tourism information technology, the destination competitiveness, the tourism destination specialization and the globalization.

Tourism economics is a rapidly expanding field of research and interest in the subject has been growing steadily over the past decade.