
Preface

Tourism stands as the largest industry in the world with 1.3 billion international tourists in 2017 and 1.8 billion expected by 2030 (UNWTO, 2017). Despite the ever-increasing human population, we are fortunate many wild and inspiring natural spectacles exist and governments are increasingly aware that not only do we need to protect global biodiversity but also the geodiversity that surrounds us. The new wave of knowledge on how to understand and practice geotourism gives us an excellent platform for a type of tourism that celebrates all aspects of nature, which in our case is geology and landscapes and the geodiversity that has shaped our lives through history.

We acknowledge that another book on geotourism must suit the purposes of the people who are using it, and in this regard, we have constructed a book so the reader can appreciate the many international perspectives that geotourism has to offer. The *Handbook of Geotourism* is a comprehensive research text that has been written for practitioners, educators and students alike. An important part of the book delves into what the tourism professional should know about Earth science and then what geologists need to know about the practice of tourism.

Providing a fully international perspective on the subject requires contributions from many sources and authors whose English is not their first language. The global scope and contributions are highly valued as new experiences, problems and perspectives are brought into focus. Writing styles vary and while we have done our best to edit these contributions we hope you appreciate what these authors have to say, applaud their enthusiasm and hard work and value their insights into international geotourism.

Accordingly, we want this book to serve three functions:

1. profile a range of international perspectives and case studies
2. be a resource for practitioners to extend their international appreciation of what is being achieved in the field of geotourism
3. act as a teaching resource for students of geotourism with the book acting as a guide to knowledge and practice.

Ross Dowling and David Newsome
Perth
Australia
6 July 2018

REFERENCE

UNWTO (2017) *UNWTO Tourism Highlights, 2017 Edition*. Madrid: United Nations World Tourism Organization.