

Special Issue

Sustainable Development of Mountain Tourism

Message from the Guest Editors

Mountain tourism, however, is a complex phenomenon. Due to its intrinsic ability to satisfy a vast range of tourism needs, from leisure to health and wellness and from nature to outdoor sports (Richins et al., 2016), mountain tourism represents an important source of revenue for many local communities. On the other hand, tourism can also cause natural and cultural degradation in mountain regions through its impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity, and local populations. Overtourism, urbanization, the exploitation of natural resources, pollution, and the loss of local culture are matters of ongoing discussion and debate among scholars, politicians, and practitioners, with the key question of how to balance the positive economic impacts of tourism with social and environmental issues attracting increasing public attention and opinion. The concept of sustainable mountain tourism underwent a phase of intense development during the 2000s, corresponding to an overall analysis of what was being observed at the time, leading to the earliest understanding of the concept of sustainability in mountain tourism, accompanied by an awareness of its impact on natural environments.

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