

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

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Case Study Name:	Nature-Based Tourism	
Author:	Peter S. Valentine	
Document Type:	Book Chapter; journal article	
Year:	1992	
Language:	English	
Document Location:	Audubon Journal	
Full Citation:	Valentine, Peter (1992) Review: nature-based tourism. In: Special interest tourism. Belhaven Press, London, Great Britain, pp. 105-127.	
Region:	Oceania, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean	
Country:	USA, Australia, Costa Rica, Kenya, India, China, Brazil Mexico	
Ecosystem Type:	Arid, semi-arid, seasonal tropical forest, coral reef, coastal marine, tropical scrub, savanna, mountain ecosystems	
Social Characteristics:	Indigenous community	
Scale of Study:	global	
Resource Type:	Species conservation, habitat conservation, forestry, biodiversity conservation, tourism, ecotourism	
Type of Initiative:	Research driven, market/ business development, impact assessment	
Community-Based Work:	Ecotourism, conservation	
Keywords:	Eco-tourism, nature based tourism, conservation, resource management, impact	
Summary:	Ecotourism is big business. It can provide foreign exchange and economic reward for the preservation of natural systems and wildlife. But ecotourism also threatens to destroy the	

resources on which it depends. Tour boats dump garbage in the waters off Antarctica, shutterbugs harass wildlife in National Parks, and hordes of us trample fragile areas. This frenzied activity threatens the viability of natural systems. At times we seem to be loving nature to death (Berle, 1990). This quotation, from an editorial in the American nature conservation journal Audubon, at once expresses the hopes and fears many people hold for nature-based tourism. Is it the ideal, low impact, high value, dream tourism sought by host communities the world over? Is it ecologically sustainable development? Can it form the basis for community tourism in developing countries? Will it further destroy the ailing conservation programs by adding internal pressures to parks already under assault from external forces? Can we live with it? Can we live without it? In this chapter the essential elements of nature-based tourism are explored and examples from around the world help illustrate its diversity of form. Existing literature is reviewed and an assessment made on the present state of knowledge about ecotourism and some of the most pressing issues awaiting research. An overall management perspective reflects the intimate link between nature-based tourism and nature conservation.