

Courses in English Course Description

Department 14 Tourism

Course title Nature-(based) tourism and recreation in and outside protected areas

Hours per week (SWS) 2

Number of ECTS credits 3

Course objective

Students receive an overview of the learning content or challenges that nature tourism brings with it; they develop and work on their own topic in this context.

The seminar teaches the basics of how the chosen topic can be pre-structured and presented to third parties (based on this, students develop a scientific presentation with subsequent discussion). Furthermore, the students receive an overview of how the chosen topic is to be transformed into a

term paper, which represents the conclusion of the semester.

Prerequisites None

Recommended reading Chen, J. S.; Prebensen, N. K. (eds.) (2017): Nature Tourism. Abingdon: Routledge.

Dearden, P.; Rollins, R. (eds.) (2009): Parks and Protected Areas in Canada. Don Mills: Oxford

University Press, 3rd edition.

Fennell, D. (2008): Ecotourism. London/New York: Routledge. Weaver, D. (2008): Ecotourism. Brisbane: Wiley, 2nd ed.

Teaching methods Seminar

Assessment methods Presentation and term paper

Language of instruction English

Name of lecturer Prof. Dr. Marius Mayer

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Link

Course content

One of the most important tourist offer segments is nature tourism. The importance of outdoor recreational activities has increased even further, especially during the Covid 19 pandemic. In a broader sense, nature tourism refers to all tourism activities in natural environments, to "any type of tourism that relies mainly on attractions directly related to the natural environment." (Weaver 2001: 350). In a narrower sense, nature tourism is limited to "relatively undisturbed phenomena of nature" (Valentine 1992: 108), "natural resources in a wild or undeveloped form" (Goodwin 1996: 287) and presupposes the motivation to "study and observe" (Newsome et al. 2002: 13) or "experience" (Strasdas 2006: 56) these areas

These unclear terms lead to questions about how strong the nature or ecological orientation of tourists must be for activities to be considered as nature tourism? Or is it sufficient for a broader understanding of nature tourism if leisure activities are carried out in nature, which serves as a backdrop for sporting activities (e.g. alpine skiing)?

For many peripheral rural areas, nature tourism is seen as the (last?) chance for an endogenous regional development that is as adapted as possible and based on little infrastructure. In addition, nature tourism is supposed to increase the acceptance of conservation measures and areas and to contribute to their indirect financing. Can these high expectations be met, and if so, under what conditions?

Forms of nature tourism are also more strongly affected by the impacts of climate change processes than other forms of tourism. What are the consequences for the supply and demand side as well as for the respective destination and visitor management? What adaptation options are there and what are the results?

This seminar will therefore address the above-mentioned questions and discuss how nature tourism can be classified from a theoretical-conceptual perspective and what implications can be derived. In addition, various contributions from the international scientific community will be critically discussed.

Remarks