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Brian Boniface and Chris Cooper (2024). *Worldwide Destinations: The Geography of Travel and Tourism (Ninth Edition)*. Routledge, London and New York, 818 p. ISBN 9781032524917



Studying the world's tourism demand, supply, organization, and resources for every country worldwide in a single book seems an unrealistic task because it is simply too much to do. The world is so big and the tourism phenomenon is so complex that it is almost impossible to describe and analyze them in a single book. There are some scientific books in this area with the same aim, but, given the immensity of the field, they are either theoretical or offer rather summaries of the world's tourism resources.

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However, Brian Boniface and Chris Cooper tried to do the impossible, because their book does not offer a purely theoretical perspective only or a description of the tourism resources (which is difficult even for a single country), but their unique text explores all, putting into context tourism demand, supply, organization, and resources for every country worldwide.

The authors mention that their approach is meant to fill a gap in the tourism geography literature: "While the scope of tourism is widening, at the same time, the focus on tourism is becoming narrower, with most authors specialising in ever-smaller areas of the subject, and with very few geographers taking a comprehensive and popular market approach to travel and tourism. As in previous editions, we aim to fill this gap in the market" (p. xiii).

Given the immensity of the field mentioned above, *Worldwide Destinations: The Geography of Travel and Tourism* is now at its ninth edition (and expanded to over 800 pages), because always new things and perspectives can be added. The book cannot pretend to be exhaustive, and every reader from every country could have suggestions to improve the section dedicated to the respective country; it also does not contain maps and relevant images, although the text could allow many. However, it uses an accessible language and many case studies, charts, and tables that help to understand the text and it remains among the most valuable resources in the field of tourism geography, very useful for scholars and students (the third part of the book contains online resources for lecturers and students including PPTs, web links, video links, and discussion questions), but also for tourism planners and policy professionals which can have an overview of the tourist context. The new and updated case studies throughout the book highlight the content of the respective chapters and help greatly to develop further reflections on the content.

As the authors mention (p. xiii), in this edition, they have retained many of the ingredients of previous successful editions and highlighted current themes such as global and long-term threats to peace, stability, and growth posed by the Ukrainian war, the climate change and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in certain countries, with subsequent recovery strategies, changes in consumer behavior, and sustainability. They have endeavored to place less emphasis on Europe and given more space to emerging destinations, including South America and countries in

sub-Saharan Africa. Due to the increasing number of tourists in Antarctica, the authors included a new chapter focusing on the tourism geography of the white continent.

The book is organized into three parts. The first two parts include 27 chapters, which contain almost the entire book, while the third part is a short chapter that provides a list of useful sources to support work on worldwide destinations: academic books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, statistical sources, reports, etc.

The first part, *The geographical principles of travel and tourism*, (chapters 1-5), comprises thematic chapters that detail the geographic knowledge and principles required to analyze the tourism appeal of destinations; it presents the geography of demand, resources, and the transport for travel and tourism. This part is almost a book itself (127 pages) which deals with definitions of concepts and the calculus to illustrate the theory, such as the travel propensity, tourism planning, and carrying capacity.

The second part, *The regional geography of travel and tourism* (chapters 6-27, from pages 129 to 777), is the most extensive, and half of it is dedicated to Europe, as the first international tourist destination; however, the length of the chapters varies, probably due to the linguistic facilities or obstacles: for example, almost 60 pages are dedicated to Britain, while France, the first tourist destination in the world, has less than 30. This part contains regional chapters that generally describe the setting for tourism and analyses the major physical and cultural features of the continents/regions, the impact of climatic differences on the flow of tourists, and regional differences. The chapters that deal with the countries have generally the same structure: the physical and social setting for tourism, the demand for tourism, the supply of tourism, and tourism resources. There are also little sections with practical educational purposes, *Discussion point*.

This volume is a must-have for any scholar and student in tourism geography and even for non-specialists with interests in this field, since it studies every destination in the world, explaining tourism demand, evaluating the many types of tourist attractions, and examining the trends that may shape the future geography of tourism.

All links were verified by the author and found to be functioning before the publication of this text in 2025.

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS**

The author declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

**FUNDING**

The author received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this review.

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