

BOOK REVIEW**Tourism Geography: A New Synthesis (Second Edition)**by
Stephen Williams

(Routledge London – 2009)

Reviewed by John Barnes¹

Tourism Geography: A New Synthesis (second edition) in the words of the author “aims to develop a critical understanding of how many different geographies of tourism are created and maintained.”

The volume is comprehensive, yet compact. It comprises 309 pages and is divided into three parts and 11 chapters. Each chapter carefully lays out the principles theories of the chapter topic which is supported with numerous figures, tables, and fifteen short boxed case studies which provide students the opportunity to apply the theory contained in each chapter and to discuss the application in small groups within class. Each chapter ends with a Summary, a small number of End of Chapter Questions which prompt student's deeper enquiry and check understanding of the chapter material. Finally each chapter concludes a list of suggested further reading.

This book is the work of Stephen Williams Professor of Human Geography and Head of Applied Sciences at Staffordshire University, UK. He is also Director of the University's Institute for Environment, Sustainability and Regeneration. His publications include: *Outdoor Recreation and The Urban Environment* (Routledge) and *Tourism and Recreation* (Prentice-Hall)

Praise for this book comes as follows:

“[the] book contributes significantly to an understanding of the importance of geographical issues in the theory and practice of tourism. Leavened with useful case studies and questions this new edition links some conventional and basic issues to the intricacies of geographical perspectives to provide some new insights into practices of tourism” – Dr. Michael Fagance, *The University of Queensland, Australia.*

“This new edition provides a comprehensive introductory text based on an excellent range of case studies.” – Professor Gareth Shaw, *University of Exeter, UK.*

The front of the book contains an extensive index of photographs, Figures, Tables and Boxed Case Studies. Chapter titles are:

Introduction

- Chapter 1 Tourism Geography and Geographies of Tourism.

(pages 3-24)

Part I - Tourism Development and Spatial Change (page 25)

- Chapter 2, Tourism places and the place of tourism: Resort development and the popularization of tourism. (pages 27-50);

- Chapter 3, From Camber Sands to Waikiki: The expanding horizons of international tourism (pages 51-78);

¹ John Barnes, Ph.D. lectures at Assumption University, Graduate School of Business

Part II - Tourism relations (page 79)

- Chapter 4, Costs and benefits: The physical and economic development of tourism (pages 81-108);
- Chapter 5, Tourism, sustainability and environmental change (pages 109-133);
- Chapter 6, Socio cultural relations in tourism (pages 134-156)
- Chapter 7, Strategies for development: The role of planning in tourism (pages 157-180)

Part III - Understanding the Spaces of Tourism (page 181)

- Chapter 8, Inventing places ; cultural constructions and tourism geographies (pages 183-207)
- Chapter 9, Urban tourism in a changing world (pages 208-235)
- Chapter 10, The past as a foreign country; heritage attractions in contemporary tourism. (pages 236-257)
- Chapter 11, Tourism Consumption and identity. (pages 258-277)
- Appendix (pages 278-280)
- Glossary, (pages 281-283)
- Bibliography, (pages 284-303)
- Index, (pages 304-309)

This book is commended to you as a useful resource at both the Tourism MBA and PhD HTM levels of study both in terms of theory application through case study and for the valuable end-of-chapter suggested list of additional readings.