Responsible Tourism, Responsible Tourists: What Makes a Responsible Tourist in New Zealand?

Stanford, Davina

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Abstract:
The impacts of tourism, both good and bad, are many and diverse. Responsible tourism has been suggested as one way of maximising the positive and minimising the negative impacts of tourism. The tourist's contribution to responsible tourism is somewhat overlooked in the literature and they are often seen as part of the problem rather than as part of the solution. They are also frequently accused of taking a break from responsibility while on holiday. This thesis concentrates on the actions of the tourist, seeking to understand what influences or constrains responsible behaviour while on holiday; to compare some responsible behaviours on holiday with similar behaviours at home. It also explores effective communication to encourage responsible tourist behaviour. The influences and constraints are multiple and complex and a fluid methodology was required, to be sufficiently structured to allow for comparability, while flexible enough to allow for the unexpected. A multi-phase, multi-method iterative research design was used, based on comparable case studies of two locations within New Zealand, Kaikoura and Rotorua. Kaikoura is a fairly recent, developing destination, Rotorua is a mature, established destination. The first phase of research employed in-depth interviews with industry representatives and with tourists and document analysis. The initial stage of the method allowed five actions of responsible behaviour to be identified. These represented responsible behaviours in a range of situations: environmental, cultural, social and economic. These behaviours were then applied in a visitor survey, based on a social psychological framework using Ajzen's Theory of Planned Behaviour. The survey identified instances of responsible behaviour and the influences and constraints on this behaviour. The survey also explored effective means of communication to encourage responsible behaviour, using Kohlberg's Stages of Moral Development. Generic definitions of responsible tourism and responsible tourists were developed and five actions representing responsible behaviour were identified which operationalised the definitions from the specific context. Influences and constraints on these responsible behaviours were also identified. These were internal, emanating from the tourist and included culture; values and attitudes; ethics and motivations; and mindfulness and mindlessness, and external, emanating from the destination, which included marketing; visitor management; and information and communication. Awareness was considered an important aspect of responsible tourist behaviour yet few tourists were aware of context specific details. Information, therefore, is considered important in achieving responsible tourist behaviour. Information may be most effective if it appeals to good citizenship and provides a reasoned and positive argument. A three step model was developed to foster responsible tourist behaviour. The first and crucial step is for the destination to set its objectives, then, to market to the most appropriate tourists. The third step is to optimise the responsible behaviour of these tourists once they have arrived, through visitor management which encourages and facilitates responsible behaviour. The New Zealand context provides a good example of this approach.
Ethical tourism, green tourism, responsible tourism: what’s the difference and how can you go on holiday without harming the planet? Choosing your dream destination usually comes down to things like the weather, accommodation, night life and activities. But what about the impact your holiday will have on the local community, the environment or even bigger issues like global warming? Read more: The Skyscanner glossary of tourist and travel terms. Now we’ve got that straight, here are 7 tips to being a responsible tourist: 1. **“Shop locally”**. The best way to discover a new place is either by foot or by hiring a bicycle. Take off at your own pace and explore all those cute cobbled side streets, stopping off for a coffee or cold refresher at a pavement café. Responsible travel is all about investing in a better way of doing things. It’s about being conscious of who gets our money, and what they’re going to do with it. And it takes a lot of tourists at a grassroots level to make the wholesale change to ethical tourism we’d like to see. One important note: Though we believe this approach is better for everyone involved, responsible tourism isn’t about judging the way others choose to travel. What we’re ultimately after is an authentic appreciation of exploring new places sustainably. In the end, responsible tourism delivers experiences that remain w Key term New tourism is a general term used to describe all kinds of responsible tourism – as if it were a new idea. Specifically, it is a term used by the World Travel and Tourism Council to denote partnerships between tourism stakeholders in the public and private sector who work together to develop tourism policies which are of benefit to local communities. Did you behave as a responsible tourist? How would you know how to do that? Come up with, and justify, some points for travellers to follow to act as responsible tourists. Where locals own the land they can make money from tourism and stop the advent of large hotel chains. In Tobago there are very few large hotels as local people own the land – and want to keep it. Departure City Fares. The Responsible Tourist and Traveler. flights. vacations. Everyone has a role to play in creating responsible travel and tourism. Governments, business and communities must do all they can, but as a guest you can support this in many ways to make a difference: 1. Open your mind to other cultures and traditions — it will transform your experience, you will earn respect and be more readily welcomed by local people. Be tolerant and respect diversity — observe social and cultural traditions and practices. 2. Respect human rights. Exploitation in any form conflicts with the fundamental aims of tourism. The sexual exploitation of children is a crime punish