
Preface

This volume is already the fourth one in a series on *Advances in Tourism Economics* streamlined by the Portuguese Association in Tourism Research and Development (APIDT). It contains a set of contributions on modern methods and techniques in tourism research. It is the offspring of a major international conference on Tourism Economics (ATE2011), held in Lisbon in April 2011, at the headquarters of Universidade Lusíada de Lisboa. The fact that on a regular basis a volume with refreshing and innovative studies on tourism behaviour and policy is published reflects the maturity of this branch of economics research.

Tourism economics is partly based on established principles from the economics discipline, but it also incorporates elements from sociology, psychology, organization theory and ecology. It has over the years turned into an appealing multidisciplinary approach to the understanding of the impacts of leisure time in a modern society, including cultural heritage, sustainable quality of life and industrial organization of the hospitality industry.

The present volume comprises novel studies – mainly of a quantitative-analytical nature – on the supply, demand and contextual aspects of modern tourism. It contains a sound mix of theory, methodology, policy and case studies on various tourism issues in different parts of the world.

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