
Preface

Volcanic landscapes, both active and dormant, and their related features provide priceless natural resources, which are used worldwide as tourist attractions that are popular with people from a wide range of backgrounds.

The preparation for this book has taken rather longer than anticipated but combining the collective information was a complex task. The delay, however, turned into a blessing, as in the meantime several more volcanic areas acquired protected site status, either as inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage list or as members of the growing geopark associations such as the European Geopark Network, the Japanese Geopark Network and the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Throughout this book, earth science and social science go hand in hand and some chapters may be more ‘technical’ than others. However, the aim is to provide a broad insight into volcano tourism and all factors involved. Some chapters focus predominantly on the geoscience aspects of the area described, while others emphasise the overall geodiversity of the natural and cultural heritage and its integration into various tourism sectors from geotourism, health tourism based on volcanic hot springs, adventure tourism and ecotourism. Therefore this is not an earth science text book as such, although the chapters are contributed by highly qualified scientists from various disciplines including volcanologists, seismologists, geologists, geomorphologists, geographers, tourism researchers and experts specialising in protected site management.

The main focus of this book is on the rich geodiversity in volcanic areas, which includes their geological heritage, with features and attractions of particular landforms as an important part of the whole geoexperience individual regions have to offer.

This book aims to contribute to the emerging geotourism literature as well as to the existing literature about protected sites. The individual chapters will enhance the knowledge of volcanic and geothermal environments and raise awareness about hazards and potential risks in these particular natural settings.

The chapters are separated into individual parts and provide a broad perspective on active and dormant volcanic destinations, although this is by no means exhaustive. Detailed descriptions of volcanic heritage and how it is showcased in geoparks are discussed in some chapters, while others include a focus on local biodiversity or cultural heritage as additional attractions and as an essential part of the overall learning experience. Widespread evidence suggests that volcanoes, dormant as well as active, have been and still are an important focal point within cultural and religious settings and in local histories. In many regions or countries (e.g. Japan, Indonesia), events and festivals related to volcanoes are held on a regular basis and attract large numbers of visitors.

Additional natural resources are frequently seen alongside the volcanoes with associated volcanic hot springs successfully used by resorts and spas for health and wellness purposes. These are another major draw cards for visitors, particularly in countries such as Japan, Iceland and New Zealand, where active volcanoes are common as a scenic backdrop to the spa experience.

Despite the time it took to edit this book it was an enjoyable and rewarding, although challenging undertaking, encouraged by the need for new and advanced information about an unusual tourism sector and the opportunity to fill a gap in the current tourism literature. I am sure that every reader will find something of interest and enjoy the different geosites and their aspects of conservation, sustainability and education based on their volcanic heritage as they are portrayed in this book.



June 2014

Patricia Erfurt-Cooper

Volcanic Tourist Destinations

Erfurt, P. (Ed.)

2014, XVIII, 384 p. 373 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-642-16190-2