

Travel Typology

Prior to the late 1970s, all definitions of tourism described the tourist's activities, without evaluating the impacts on the environment or host community. In the late 1970s, the concept of *ecotourism* emerged as part of the new global environmental movement. By the early 1990s, ecotourism was the fastest growing sector of the tourism industry. Unlike earlier tourism definitions, ecotourism describes the *impacts* of tourism on nature and communities, and posits that, done well, the impact *could be positive*. As such, ecotourism was more than simply a niche market within the tourism industry. It was also a set of principles and good practices, closely aligned with the concept of *sustainable development*.^{xxii} Over the last two decades, other value-based tourism terms have emerged, all based on principles and practices closely associated with sustainable development. The chart below includes, in the first column, tourism definitions that describe the travel activities without evaluating impact, while the second column includes newer tourism terms that describe the social and environmental impacts.^{xxiii}

Tourism Terminology			
Definitions describing activities		Definitions describing impacts	
Tourism	The practice of traveling for recreation.	Ecotourism	Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the welfare of local people.
Nature Tourism	Travel to unspoiled places to experience and enjoy nature.	Responsible Tourism	Tourism that maximizes the benefits to local communities, minimizes negative social or environmental impacts, and helps local people conserve fragile cultures and habitats or species.
Mass Tourism	Large-scale tourism – typically associated with ‘sea, sand, sun’ resorts and characteristics such as transnational ownership, minimal direct economic benefit to destination communities, seasonality, and package tours. ^{xxiv}	Sustainable Tourism	Tourism that meets the needs of present tourist and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future. ^{xxv}
Adventure Tourism	Nature travel which involves physical skills, endurance & degree of risk-taking.	Geotourism	Tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place-its environment, heritage, aesthetics, and culture and the well-being of its residents.
Cultural Tourism	The movement of persons for essentially cultural motivations. ^{xxvi}	Pro-poor Tourism	Tourism that results in increased net benefit for the poor people. ^{xxvii}