

CHAPTER 22 TOURISM IN AFRICA

Objectives

After studying this chapter, students should be able to:

- define tourism and describe who a tourist is.
- list and describe factors favouring the development of tourism in East Africa.
- describe the importance of tourism in the economic development of African countries.
- describe problems of tourism and proffer solutions to them.

22.1 Tourism

The term “***tourism***” is used to describe the temporary movement of people to destinations outside their normal places of work and residence, the activities undertaken during their stay in those destinations, and the facilities created to cater for their needs. It is the temporary movement away from an individual’s immediate home, communities and daily work environment, for business, pleasure and personal reasons.

Tourism can also be defined as; making a holiday involving an overnight stay away from the normal place of residence.

A ***tourist*** can be described as any person outside his or her normal place of residence for a period not exceeding 12 months and whose main purpose of visit is other than engaging in an exercise that would earn him/her income from within the community.



Figure 22:1 Tourists at National Park, Kenya

Types of tourism

Tourism can be categorized into two namely *international tourism* and *domestic tourism*.

- i. **International tourism**- This is about inter-country travel that involves crossing international boundaries.
- ii. **Domestic tourism**- This involves people travelling within their country

The two categories of tourism highlighted above could also be subdivide into:

- i. Historical tourism
- ii. Cultural tourism
- iii. Coastal tourism
- iv. Agricultural tourism
- v. Wild life and nature tourism

vi. Industrial and conference tourism

Apart from industrial and conference tourism, the rest can be referred to collectively as ECO-TOURISM. Eco-tour is rapidly becoming popular. This makes eco-tourism the fastest-growing segment of the tourism industry.

22.2 Tourism in East Africa

The crisp, sunny, mediterranean type of climate in the Northern Africa, closest to that of Europe makes the area to be a destination point for tourists from Europe and North America. Within the south of the Sahara, the coast of Senegambia is becoming highly attractive to people from all over the world. South Africa also has its own tourism industry. However, the most visited place in Africa (South of Sahara) is East Africa. East African countries include Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Among the entire East African nations, the most developed in term of tourism is Kenya. Until 1969, tourism development in Kenya had largely focused on Nairobi's hotels and on its game parks. Kenya tourist attraction ranges from Safaris through game parks to beautiful beaches on the coast. Coastal tourism is highly receiving considerable attention in recent time. The world largest concentration of elephant, giraffe, antelope and zebra are found in Kenya. Tourism is well organized in Kenya than any other East African countries. Since 1955, it had established Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife. In 1965, it set up the Kenya Tourist Development Corporation (KTDC) to work under the ministry of tourism and wildlife to manage tourist affairs.

There are many factors which make tourism thrive in East Africa, these are:

- i. The most fascinating scenery of the hinterland of East Africa which include the high volcanic peak of Kenya, Mount Kilimanjaro and many other highlands which are clad with snow and glaciers, similar to what obtains in Europe and America, gives a delightful look to tourists.
- ii. The wide open sandy beaches and coastline which are bordered by coral reefs on which the Indian Ocean waves form into towering white breakers. The coastline itself is backed by an endless line of tall coconut palms, with their fluttering, emerald green and golden fronds glittering in the tropical sunshine.
- iii. Varied climatic environment characterized by sunny and bright, but cool and invigorating weather on the plateau.
- iv. Abundant wildlife particularly along Lake Nakuru shores in Kenya. The world largest concentration of elephant, giraffe, antelope and zebra is found in Kenya.

Other factors that promote tourism in East Africa includes good and hospitality nature of East African nationals, good transportation, political stability particularly in Kenya, excellent hotel and lodging facilities with efficient and organized publicity.

22.3 Important Tourist Attraction Centres in East Africa

Burundi

- i. Beaches of beautiful Lake Tangayika.
- ii. Kasumo, the Southernmost source of Nile
- iii. Saga Beach.

Kenya

- i. The peak of Kenya volcanic mountain.
- ii. The block mountain of Ruwenzori.

- iii. The forest carpeted lava plateau of Aberdare highlands.
- iv. Great East rift valley
- v. Lake Victoria
- vi. Masai Mara in Western Kenya.
- vii. Amboseli National Park.
- viii. Lake Nakuru.
- ix. Hell's Gate National Park
- x. Port city of Mombassa.



Figure 22:1 Elephant being followed by tourist in Kenya park

Rwanda

- i. Mountain Gorillas in Rwandan's Parc's de volcans.

Tanzania

- i. Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest point in Africa.
- ii. Serengeti National Park.
- iii. Ngorongoro Crater.
- iv. Old stone town and stunning beaches in Zanzibar.

Uganda

- i. The mountains of the moon in Rwenzori National Park.

- ii. Whitewater rafting in Jinja.
- iii. Bwindi National Park.

22.3 Tourism in West Africa

Tourism in West Africa is not in any way near that of East Africa. The reason for this is partly due to lack of organization and coordination on the part of government of various countries making up the West African sub region. Two countries in West Africa where tourism is gaining attention in recent year are Ghana and Nigeria. Important tourist attraction centres in Ghana include; Cape Coast Castle, Paga Crocodile Pond, Larabamga Mosque and Kakum National Park.



Fig. 2.2: Paga Crocodile Pond, Ghana



Fig. 22:3 Kakum National Park, Ghana



Fig. 22.4: Cape Coast Castle, Ghana

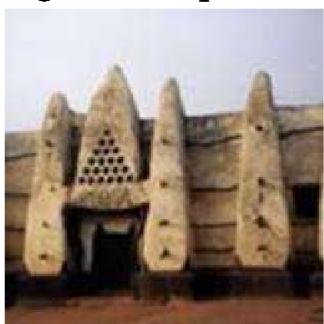


Fig. 22.5 Larabamga Mosque, Ghana

22.3.1 Tourism in Nigeria

Nigeria is a large tropical country with highly diverse ecology and culture that support tourism development. Tourism first received considerable attention in Nigeria in 1962 when Nigeria Tourist Association was established. In 1976 Nigeria Tourist Board (NTB) was established to see to the provision of tourist facilities and encouraged tourism participation. In 1990 Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation was established to oversee the promotion, marketing and coordination of tourism activities in Nigeria with the aim of generating employment and foreign exchange for the country.

Tourist resources in Nigeria can be divided into four broad categories namely;

- i. **National Parks and Game Reserves-** The major national parks are;

- a. Kainji Lake National park in Niger State. The largest in Nigeria and include Borgu game reserve with an area of 3,970km² and Zugurma game reserve with an area of 1,370km².
 - b. Yankari Game reserve in Bauchi state. Both Kainji and Yankari national parks stocks a variety of species of large mammals such as elephants, lions, jackals, hippotami, hyenas, antelope, gazelles, hartebeest and hares. Yankari alone contains about 153 known species of birds, fish and reptiles.
 - c. The Old Oyo National Park. Others are; Gashaka-Gumti, kamuku, Okomu, etc.
- ii. **Forest Reserves and Plantations-** Olokemeji forest in Oyo State is the first forest reserve to be established in Nigeria in 1990. Today, there are more than 1000 forest reserves spread all over the country.

iii. **Cultural and Historical Resources**

Several cultural attractions which are activities based on people's ways of life expressed as religious beliefs, colourful festivals, dances, songs, artworks and great monuments are common in Nigeria and these include:

- a. Eyo Festival in Lagos State
- b. Osun Osogbo Festival in Osogbo, Osun State.
- c. Ojude Oba Festival in Ijebu Ode, Ogun State.
- d. Olojo Festival in Ile-Ife, Osun State.
- e. Igogo Festival in Owo, Ondo State.

f. Argungu Fishing Festival, Kebbi State etc.



Fig. 22.6: Arugba during Osun Osogbo festival



Fig. 22.7: Sacred grove in Osun Osogbo

iv. **Scenic Resources**

Scenic resources in Nigeria include;

- a. ***Spectacular hills*** such as Shere hills in Plateau State; Mambilla Plateau in Taraba State; the Rolling Hills of Okigwe, Imo State; Obudu Hill in Cross River State; Idanre Hills in Ondo State; Olumo Rock in Ogun State, etc.

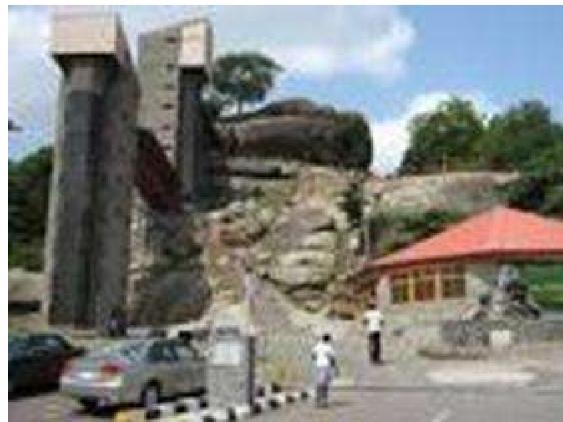


Fig. 22.8: Olumo Rock, Abeokuta

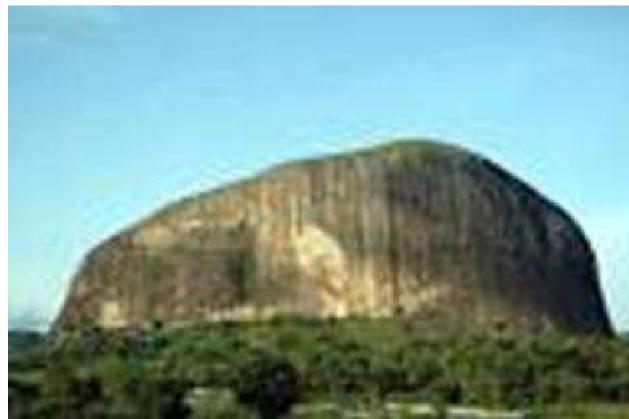


Fig. 22.9: Zuma Rock, Abuja

- b. ***Waterfalls***- Examples include Olumirin and Erin-Ijesha waterfall in Osun State; Gurara fall in Niger State and Kurra in Plateau State.



Fig. 22.10: Olumirin Waterfall

- c. ***Warm Springs***- Wikki Warm Springs (Bauchi State); Enemba in Benue State; Lamurde in Taraba State and Ikogosi Spring in Ekiti State.
- d. ***Beautiful beaches***- Bar beach, Mayegun beach and Lekki beach in Lagos State; Nike beach in Imo State, Kainji and Marimara crocodile pond in Niger State.

22.3.2 Factors Limiting Tourism Development in Nigeria

Some of the factors limiting tourism development in Nigeria are:

- i. **Poverty**- Increase in poverty level does not allow people to have left over resources in terms of money to visit tourist centres.
- ii. **Poor holiday culture**- Unlike people in developed countries, holiday culture is poor in Nigeria. People hardly go on holiday and paid leave is used for other things rather than vacation.
- iii. **Poor transportation**- Most of the roads that lead to many of our tourist centres are bad, rail lines are not functioning and air transport is not reliable.
- iv. **Inadequate power supply**.

- v. **Corruption and bad governance.**
- vi. **Poor tourism policy implementation.**
- vii. **Inadequate standard hotels that can adequately accommodate foreign tourist.**

22.4 Economic Importance of Tourism

- i. It promotes the image of the country and improve relationship with other countries.
- ii. It provides employment for people. Some are employed as guides, guards, transporters, hotel keepers and workers in tourism ministry.
- iii. It promotes growth in other sectors of the economy such as art, local craft, wood work, etc.
- iv. It helps in keeping wildlife and other forest resources.
- v. It facilitates transport development.
- vi. It helps in bringing to lime light hitherto neglected areas and open them for infrastructural development.

22. 5 Benefits of Tourism to the Tourist

- i. It enables tourists enjoy their holiday relaxation and pleasure.
- ii. It offers tourists opportunities to learn other cultures.
- iii. Promote interaction among various culture, race and people.
- iv. Tourism reinvigorates.

22.6 Problems of Tourism

- i. It can lead to exchange of alien culture which is strange to host nations, thereby causing cultural pollution. The youth often copy the lifestyles of tourists. Public awareness and enlightenment on important cultural values of the host countries will help preserve the culture of host countries against spread of alien cultures.
- ii. Development of tourism may lead to forceful eviction of local population in order to make room for tourist. Such forceful eviction had occurred in Kenya, when Kenya's game park was built in the 1959's and Dja Reserve in Cameroon where many pygmy villages in the reserve area were moved from the centre of the park to the edge of the park.
- iii. It can aid the diffusion of diseases: Ebola fever, AIDS, etc., can be easily spread by tourist. Proper health control policy will reduce diffusion of diseases from tourist.
- iv. It may promote social vices such armed robbery and prostitution in host countries. For example women of easy virtue always besiege tourist centres to attract tourist for paid sexual services. The International Labour Organization reports that roughly 2 million children under age 18 have been lured into the booming "sex tourism" industries of South-east Asia and Latin America.
- v. People of questionable characters among tourist and locals can use tourism to perpetrate evil e.g. spying and espionage activities.
- vi. Terrorist may use tourism as an avenue to attack their target countries.
- vii. It may increase cost of living in host communities. People tend to increase prices of goods and services whenever visitors are around.

Summary

- Tourism is a term used to describe the temporary movement of people to destination outside their normal places of work or residence for business, pleasure and personal reasons.
- A tourist is a person who is outside his or her normal place of residence for a period not exceeding 12 month and whose main purpose of visit is other than engaging in exercise that would earn him/her income from within the community.
- International tourism is about inter-country travel while domestic tourism involves people travelling within their country.
- The most developed east African country in tourism is Kenya.
- Examples of Cultural tourism in Nigeria is Osun Osogbo festival.
- One important disadvantage of tourism is diffusion of alien cultures

Revision Questions

1. Who among these will be best classified as a tourist?
 - A. A man who went to India for medical attention.
 - B. A man who visited national park in Kenya.
 - C. A government official who was in a country for bilateral talk
 - D. A diplomat on peace mission
2. Which of these describes tourism?
 - A. A vacation time spent at beach party in another country.
 - B. An attendance at Wedding Ceremony in another village.
 - C. A soccer match between two countries.
 - D. None of the above.

3. Eco-tourism is the fastest growing segment to tourism industry because of its

 - A. significant contribution to national income.
 - B. benefits of inter-marriages.
 - C. exchange of culture and ideas
 - D. None of the above
4. A country in East Africa where largest concentration of elephant, giraffe and antelope are founds in

 - A. Rwanda
 - B. South Africa
 - C. Kenya
 - D. Lesotho
5. Lake Nakuru is found in

 - A. Burundi
 - B. Zimbabwe
 - C. Zambia
 - D. Kenya
6. Mountain Kilimanjaro is found in

 - A. Libya
 - B. Botswana
 - C. Tanzania
 - D. Uganda
7. Borgu game reserve is found in

 - A. Niger state, Nigeria
 - B. Kogi state, Nigeria
 - C. Oyo State, Nigeria
 - D. Zamfara state, Nigeria
8. The following are examples of scenic tourist resources in Nigeria except

 - A. Bar beach
 - B. Ikogosi warm springs
 - C. Idanre hills
 - D. Argungu fishing festival
9. The first forest reserve to be established in Nigeria is

 - A. Old Oyo forest reserve
 - B. Yankari forest reserve
 - C. Kamuku forest reserve
 - D. Olokemeji forest reserve
10. The following are benefits of tourism except

 - A. opportunity to learn other culture
 - B. promotion of interaction among various culture
 - C. Reinvigoration of energy
 - D. increased cost of living

Essay

1. Account for factors that aid tourism development in East Africa.
2. Compare and contrast tourism in East Africa and West Africa. What are the factors militating against tourism development in West Africa.
3. Discuss problems of ‘tourism’.
4. With relevant examples discuss culture and historical tourist resources in Nigeria.
5. What are the economic benefits of tourism?