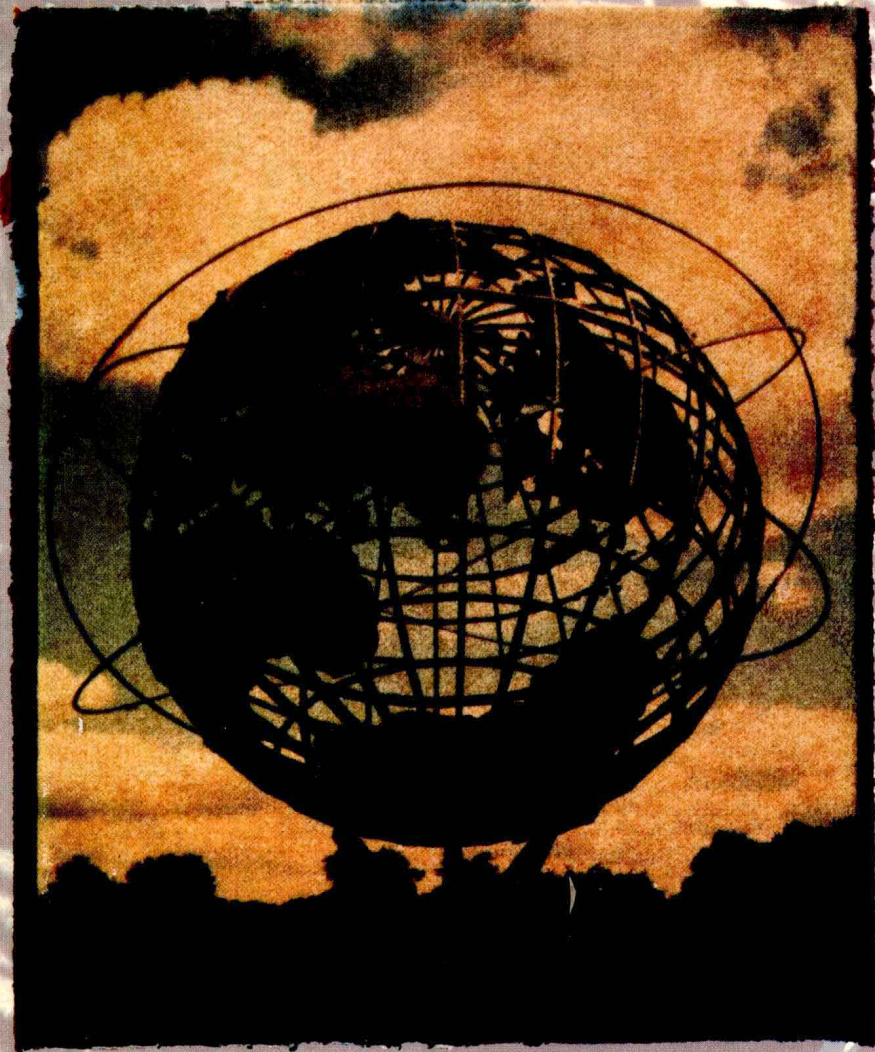


Second Edition

Tourism Geography



Philip G. Davidoff

Doris J. Davidoff

J. Douglas Eyre

Tourism Geography

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SECOND EDITION

**Philip G. Davidoff, CTC
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1

Introduction

Geography is a very broad topic—it literally includes the world. Traditionally, geography is concerned with the study of places and locations, emphasizing both the physical environment and the characteristics and arrangement of the people there, and how their environment affects the way they live.

From a systematic viewpoint, geography is divided into two primary branches—physical and human (cultural). Physical geography includes the study of landforms and climate. Cartography, or map making, is the graphic representation of the physical or human world on maps and globes. Human geography centers on the interactions among people and the places where they live. Cultural and economic activities are the primary areas of study in human geography. These two branches can be analyzed on a regional basis as well as a global one. Regional geography looks at all aspects of physical and human geography with respect to a specifically defined, small or large, area of the world.

In developing this tourism geography text, the authors have attempted to follow the basic concepts of geography, while at the same time providing an emphasis that differs from

traditional approaches to the subject. Instead of concentrating on the needs of the people in an area, this text is written with great concern for the needs of people who may visit the area. Although the physical and cultural attributes of a country or region are covered, primary emphasis is given to areas of touristic importance and the places and activities of greatest interest to potential tourists visiting the area.

This text is not a travel guide. It does provide extensive information on what to see and where to see it; however, its primary purpose is to provide a broad overview of tourism throughout the world rather than to direct travelers in specific areas.

■ ORGANIZATION

A brief summary of the most basic concepts of physical geography is a framework for understanding the specific conditions that affect tourism. The psychological and sociological factors affecting travel are also summarized. Only when we understand why people travel can we determine why specific attractions and experiences found throughout the world appeal to travelers. Basic information on immigration, customs, and health requirements for international travel is also covered.

The tourism geography of the world is discussed by region. The Western Hemisphere is covered first, starting in North America and moving through Central and South America and the Caribbean. This is followed by the Eastern Hemisphere, beginning in Europe and moving through the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and the South Pacific.

An area map is at the beginning of each regional chapter. Within each chapter, a consistent format is followed.

At the beginning of the material for each state or country, capital, area in square miles, and population are listed. For sovereign nations, this listing also includes:

- language(s)
- currency
- time zone
- national airline (if applicable)
- documentation (for example, passport and visa) required for travel to the country by a United States citizen*

*Information pertaining to documentation can change. The information in this book was correct at time of printing, but check with appropriate sources to be sure of accuracy at time of travel.

A map of each state and most countries is included to show its location and neighbors. A more detailed map is included for major tourism countries.

Following this material, a general description of each area and state or country is provided. This includes important physical features, climate, the cultural background and heritage of the people, and important historical developments. Areas of touristic importance are then presented for each state or country. This text contains the geographic and touristic information which, in the judgment of the authors, is most important to the needs of travel advisors and travelers. Volumes can be written on this subject and limitations of space prevent a more detailed approach.

At the end of each regional chapter, several examples of tour itineraries within each area are provided. The itineraries are for programs operated by some well-known tour companies and demonstrate common ways in which travelers tour an area. They provide additional touristic information as well.

A glossary of major geographical terms is provided at the back of the book. An in-depth index is also provided.

■ INFORMATION SOURCES

The spelling of all international place names conforms to that used by the United States State Department. Populations and areas are from the 1994 *World Almanac and Book of Facts*. Documentation requirements were verified with the Summer 1994 editions of the OAG Travel Planners. The regions of the United States are those designated by the United States Travel and Tourism Administration.

2

The Physical World

A basic knowledge of physical geography is essential in understanding the geography of tourism. This chapter briefly discusses the water and landforms found on the Earth. It also describes cartography—the science of representing our planet. Finally, this chapter explains the concepts of longitude and latitude, as well as world time and climate.

■ LANDFORMS AND WATER

A description of the physical features of a locality or region contains the characteristics of the landform, including types of water, if any, in the area. The terrain of the area (for example, mountains, hills, valleys, plateaus, etc.) and its vegetation may affect the activities possible in that area. Similarly, the type of surface water, if any, affects potential activities.

Most geography texts concentrate on the relationship of landforms to economic enterprises such as manufacturing or transportation, and on the cultural activities of the people living in the area. In contrast, we will concentrate on potential

activities for visitors. Specifically, we will show how land and water interact to meet the varying needs of the traveler.

Students of tourism geography should always look for ways in which land and water may attract the traveler. The most obvious are for sports and other outdoor activities—for example, mountains provide hiking spring through fall and may permit skiing in winter; rivers and lakes offer opportunities for boating and fishing. Less obvious, perhaps, is the allure of the natural beauty of green countrysides. Fall foliage also attracts the traveler. Making the best use of this knowledge requires an understanding of climatic patterns. Because beauty is truly in the eye of the beholder, all areas of natural beauty cannot be covered in one text; however, the major areas that all travel professionals should know will be included.

■ CARTOGRAPHY

Cartography is the science of map making. If the earth were flat, it would be easy to develop a map on paper. Distances could be easily shown to scale. If the earth were a cylinder or even a cone, a flat map could be developed by cutting and unrolling a picture of its surface.

Because the earth is a sphere, however, the only totally accurate map of the world is spherical in form—a globe. Through the years, cartographers have developed many different ways of depicting or projecting the spherical earth on a flat surface.

FIGURE 2-1. Mercator projection.

