

Unit 6: Critical Analysis of Emerging Issues in Tourism (CAEIT)

Status: Optional

Number of Credits: 30

Lectures/seminars: 60 hours

Directed learning: 240 hours

Unit descriptor

This module combines four emerging issues in Tourism – Eco and Nature Tourism; Cultural and Urban Tourism. Cultural and Urban tourism has been one of the dynamic and emerging areas of tourism, especially with the growing tendency of individuals to explore the world and understand cultures globally which has significantly contributed to the growth of this area in the recent years. This module therefore aims to examine more specifically the lifestyle of the people in different geographical areas, the history of those peoples, their art, architecture, religion(s), and other elements that helped shape their way of life – students are expected to look at how these social and cultural dimensions contribute to the growth of tourism and the impact of tourism in the social and cultural context.

Cultural tourism includes tourism in urban areas as well in particular historic or large cities and their cultural facilities such as museums and theatres. Students are expected to analyze the key issues of tourism in urban areas showcasing the traditions of indigenous cultural communities (i.e. festivals, rituals), and their values and lifestyles.

The significant growth in social awareness of global warming, environmental and green issues have led to the dynamic growth of eco and nature tourism globally. In this module, students are expected to critically analyze the effect of tourism on fragile, pristine, and usually protected areas and how effective tourism can educate the travelers; provides funds for conservation; directly benefits the economic development and political empowerment of local communities; and fosters respect for different cultures and for human rights.

This module also looks at nature tourism and how individuals can be educated about the management of greener areas such as wildlife tourism.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, students will be able to:

- i) Critically evaluate the key trends and development of cultural and urban tourism at different worldwide destinations
- ii) Critically evaluate the issues in cultural and urban tourism such as planning policies, events, infrastructural developments, diversification as well as potential conflicts arising as a result of tourism
- iii) Critically evaluate the role and elements of ecotourism and understand the effects of tourism on nature and wildlife.
- iv) Critically appraise and develop a strategic understanding in development of strategic tourism initiatives and plans.

Indicative content

- Key trends and developments of nature and eco tourism
- Key trends and developments of culture and urban tourism
- Tourism planning policies and infrastructural development
- Effects of mass tourism and conservation policies
- Tourism planning and environmental awareness.