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**A BOOK REVIEW: VOLCANO & GEOTHERMAL TOURISM:
SUSTAINABLE GEO-RESOURCES OF LEISURE AND RECREATION***

Volcanoes have long inspired and instilled fear in historians, poets, and artists along with geologists, disaster researchers, and emergency managers. From the enduring yarns emerging from Vesuvius' destruction of Pompeii (and Herculaneum) to the disruption that many experienced in April 2010 when an Icelandic volcano grounded all flights across Europe, volcanoes and associated phenomena are frequently part of humanity's consciousness. Some areas' most popular tourist attractions are volcano-related, such as geysers in Iceland and Wyoming along with Taupo and Rotorua in New Zealand.

Volcano & Geothermal Tourism details the fascination with, advantages of, and risks from volcano-related tourism. Through seven parts, the book's approach is case study based, but theory, recommendations, and general lessons are addressed admirably. Part I provides a single chapter introduction, Parts II-VI cover examples across the inhabited continents (but appropriate mentions of Antarctica appear throughout the book), and Part VII provides a single chapter with conclusions and recommendations. Each part has a brief introduction and is divided into chapters and short case studies, although almost all chapters also focus on specific case studies. The result is 22 chapters and 19 short case studies, supplemented by four appendices and impressively illustrated throughout with black and white photos, figures, and maps along with 16 colour plates midway through the book.

The writing style is academically rigorous, yet is not burdened with ponderous academic prose. The text is succinct and straightforward, making the points needed under numerous subsections with plenty of material also presented in easy-to-interpret, uncluttered

tables and figures. References are usually confined to the essentials, providing the reader with targeted sources for further reading without neglecting past and ongoing work. The main irritation regarding references is the authors who choose to cite Wikipedia rather than making the effort to promote a key book, guide, or paper for the same points.

Nevertheless, the well thought out structure and style ensure that this volume will appeal to many users. Academics will find a rich source of material, giving important details and analysis regarding a wide variety of cases, some comparatively new and others well-embedded in the literature but not always from a tourism perspective. Practitioners will find the pragmatic organisation and direct advice useful for gleaning exactly what is happening in each case study and why. Poignant, applicable, and sometimes creative recommendations are given, covering topics from risk management and risk communication to natural heritage conservation and interpretative information for visitors.

The material is superbly diverse, amongst others covering caves, interpretation centres, high-altitude treks, settlements damaged by volcanoes, communities living alongside active volcanoes, and visits into extinct and active craters—the full range of historical, cultural, and natural heritage. Naturally, no volume can be entirely comprehensive, but this collection has done well in illustrating all aspects of volcano-related tourism and tourism management.

One aspect that is less emphasised is the livelihoods approach, in terms of thinking about tourism beyond generating cash income, instead examining more about how it supports or interferes with people's day-to-day acquisition of food, materials, and other assets needed for living. Both academics and practitioners have explored the livelihoods approach, especially highlighting the need to use tourism as a livelihood supplementer rather than relying on tourism for livelihoods.

Such material is implicit in the discussion of many of the case studies. That might be the most appropriate manner of dealing with the topic, since the livelihoods approach has critics. Yet a few of the case studies pay little more than lip service to the debates surrounding and (im)practicalities of “sustainable tourism”. Deeper engagement with international development research and practice, and with the problems of tourism-based livelihoods, would have contributed to several of the case studies, thereby emulating those chapters that are excellent in that regard.

Some further critical engagement with past initiatives dealing with volcano-related tourism would have been useful as well. For instance, the editors’ 24 recommendations in the concluding chapter provide a nicely grounded basis for discussion on moving forward with improved, practical approaches for volcano-related tourism. It is surprising that no comparison is made with IAVCEI’s (International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth’s Interior) 1994 Safety Recommendations for Volcanologists and the Public. Even though IAVCEI has only one point that mentions tourists, it was an attempt to deal with volcano-related tourism from the perspective of volcano scientists—which can and should be critiqued.

Nonetheless, overall, the authors draw on and provide solid interpretation regarding a wide variety of disciplines, including numerous aspects of tourism, geology, physical volcanology, social volcanology, and disaster risk reduction. The chapters and case studies are well-founded in the literature yet are pragmatic, emphasising applied science. My own work on disaster tourism, as part of dark tourism, includes several volcano examples and would have benefited greatly from *Volcano & Geothermal Tourism* had the volume been published at the time. The volume deserves particular commendation for describing the

reality of tourism and tourism forms to scientists and disaster officers who continually deal with volcano-related challenges.

Consequently, asking for more from the book in certain topics could be attributed to mere quibbling, simply a function of my different background and primary interests. *Volcano & Geothermal Tourism* is a needed and important volume, presenting a wealth of scientific detail and practical recommendations for addressing volcano, and similar forms of, tourism.

Volcano & Geothermal Tourism: Sustainable Geo-resources of Leisure and Recreation.

*Erfurt-Cooper, Patricia and Malcolm Cooper (eds.). (2010). London: Earthscan. (xxi + 378 pp., ISBN 978-1-84407-870-7)