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國家公園的生態旅遊

Ecotourism in National Parks

然而,一般「自然之旅」較深度的內涵應為「生態旅遊」。自然之旅是以國家公園範圍內的自然地景為基礎,並以其為資本的經營;而生態旅遊注重「人」的管理,也就是對「遊客」的管理,因此兩種旅遊的管理重點與作法實有相當大的差別。

一般自然之旅的管理原則為考慮遊客安全,讓遊客能更容易抵達景點與玩得盡興。因此,交通、觀景點、食宿是管理重點,再加上解説服務與自然體驗等項目。所以,這種方式的國家公園經營之對象為「地景」,以提供地景與服務遊客為目的,其與「生態旅遊」之管理有極大的不同。生態旅遊業之經營對象為「遊客」,雖然也是提供地景,卻對遊客有更多的特殊服務,對遊客也有特殊的要求。更精確地說,生態旅遊是「責任之旅」、「保育之旅」、「學習之旅」與「關懷之旅」。

national parks is to provide people easy access to parks, so that they could experience nature, relax, enjoy family trips while cultivating respect and appreciate of life and knowledge in conservation. Major missions of national parks in Taiwan are also conservation, research and sustainable utilization (including tourism) of natural landscapes. Management and facilities (gardens, roads, scenic spots, architecture and infrastructure, etc.) are designed to allow tourists to enjoy nature more safely. This is a positive goal, and park authorities have indeed shown good results in achieving this goal.

What people typically call a "nature tour", however, is and should be an "ecotourism" in essence. The current nature tour is offered within the territory of national parks and the landscapes are utilized as an asset, while an "ecotourism" is based on management of "people", i.e. "tourists". The two types of tour are obviously different in key management concepts and approaches.

In principle the management of nature tours focuses on tourist safety. Tourists are provided easy access to sites where they can enjoy themselves. Therefore nature tour management focuses on transportation, scenic spots, food and lodging plus guide services and nature experiences. This type of management targets "landscapes" and the goal is to offer landscapes and services to tourists. An ecotourism, on the other hand, takes on a completely different management approach. Ecotourism management targets "tourists". Although landscapes are also offered, it is designed to provide many more special services to tourists and at the same time demands more from them. More specifically, ecotourism means tours of responsibility, conservation, learning and concern.

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Ecotourism management targets tourists.

In addition to offering natural landscapes and services,
ecotourism industry must also ask specific responsibilities of tourists.

More specifically, an ecotourism should be a tour about responsibility,
conservation, education and concern.

責任之旅是指進入國家公園的所有遊客,對這踏上之斯土負有「責任感」,對自己在公園地景的所作所為要負起責任。因此,在行為上要自律,作為上要考慮對當地造成的生態壓力與人離園後所產生的後遺症。

保育之旅是指進入國家公園後,要有保育的基本認 識與作為,不能隨意破壞植物、污染水源與土地,也不 能擾動野生動物與其棲息環境。保育之旅要在心中建 立人與非人類生命,以及與環境之間的生態倫理,所 以說保育之旅也是「生態倫理之旅」。

學習之旅是除了讓參與生態旅遊的遊客,覺得對自然原野負有責任感,以及大自然需要保育之外,便是體認到這是一趟學習之旅,不但要學習善盡保育自然之責,還要學習在所到之處的自然現象與過程,並將此知識帶出園區,廣為擴散。

最後,生態旅遊是關懷之旅。關懷的是國家公園內與附近當地的居民,能讓他們因為遊客的入園獲得利益,即所謂「經濟上的關懷」;也要關懷當地的弱勢文化與語言,以平等、尊重及謹言慎行規範自己。國家公園之經營,要有機制地讓遊客的花費中,有一相當比例嘉惠於當地居民,阻止大企業家在當地做謀私利旅遊的投資,最後把收益回流遠在他處的銀行,用作再投資其他企業。

因此,生態旅遊是人性化之旅,並非物性化之旅;管理的不是「地」,而是「人」。

A tour of responsibility means that all tourists entering a national park should have a "sense of responsibility" towards the land beneath their feet and their activities carried out on the land. This calls for self-discipline, consideration of the disturbance inflicted on the local ecosystem and an awareness of the impact on the ecosystem after leaving the park.

A tour of conservation means that tourists in the park should have a basic understanding about conservation and act out accordingly. They must not damage the plants, pollute the water source and the land or disturb the wildlife and their habitat. People going on a conservation tour have to keep in mind ecological ethics concerning the relationship between man, non-human life and the environment. It would be appropriate to call a conservation tour a "tour of ecological ethics".

A tour of education means that in addition to being aware of their responsibility towards nature and that the nature needs conservation efforts, ecotourism tourists should also know that they are going on a tour of learning. They would learn to fulfill their responsibility in conservation, understand natural phenomena and processes in visited sites and spread their knowledge after leaving the park.

Finally, an ecotourism is a tour of concern. Tourists should be concerned about the residents within and near the parks so that these residents would be benefited from tourism in the park. This is what people might call "economic concern". Tourists should also be concerned about the culture and languages of local minority groups and show respect and appreciation. Meanwhile, national parks should allocate part of its earnings from tourism to benefit the welfare of local residents. Parks should further prevent enterprises from investing in local tourism for their own gain and invest the profits in other enterprises unrelated to the welfare of the residents.

As such, an ecotourism is not a materialistic tour but a humanistic one. Its management targets "man", and not "land".