



Tourism in Russia A Management Handbook

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Tourism in Russia

A Management Handbook

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Contents

List of Contributors

Ack	Acknowledgements				
		SECTION ONE: FOUNDATIONS			
Cha	pter 1.	Introduction			
	-	Frédéric Dimanche and Lidia Andrades Caldito	3		
Cha	pter 2.	Tourism in Russia			
		Andrés Artal-Tur, Galina Romanova and			
		Maria del Mar Vazquez-Mendez	9		
2.1.	Introd	luction	11		
2.2.	The H	listory of Tourism in Russia	12		
2.3.	Placin	g Russia in the World Tourism Industry	27		
	2.3.1.	Russia on the International Tourism Map	28		
	2.3.2.	Country Advantages, Tourism Specialization and			
		Product Development	32		
2.4.		sm Statistics and Trends in Russia (Inbound, Outbound and			
		estic Flows)	34		
		Analysis of Inbound Tourism	34		
		Origin of Tourists	36		
		Means of Transport Used to the Destination	38		
		Purpose of Travel	39		
		Tourist Expenditures	40		
		Supply and Demand	42		
		Matching Supply and Demand in Tourism	43		
		Analysis of Outbound Tourism	44		
	۷.4.9.	Analysis of Domestic Tourism	46		

xv

vi Contents

2.5.	The Development of the Tourism Sector in Russia: Challenges			
	and Opportunities	50		
	2.5.1. Challenges	50		
	2.5.2. Opportunities	51		
2.6.	Summary	52		
Cha	pter 3. Tourism Management			
	Lidia Andrades Caldito, Frédéric Dimanche, Olga			
	Vapnyarskaya and Tatiana Kharitonova	57		
3.1.	Introduction to Destination Management	59		
	3.1.1. The Relevance of the Tourism Sector and			
	Objectives of the Chapter	59		
	3.1.2. Key Definitions	59		
3.2.	The Tourism System	61		
	3.2.1. The Tourism Product and the Tourism Sector	61		
	3.2.2. The Tourism System Components	66		
	3.2.2.1. The tourist	66		
	3.2.2.2. DMOs	67		
	3.2.2.3. Where supply and demand meet —			
	communication and distribution	67		
	3.2.2.4. Transportation	68		
	3.2.2.5. Hospitality and related services	68		
	3.2.2.6. Attractions, entertainment, etc.	69		
	3.2.2.7. Events and mega events	69		
3.3.	Tourism Destination Competitiveness	70		
	3.3.1. The Starting Point: What Is Competitiveness for a			
	Tourism Destination?	70		
	3.3.2. Brief Overview of the Academic Literature on TDC	72		
	3.3.3. Managing TDC: Tourism Destinations as a Service			
	Delivery System	76		
3.4.	Destination Planning, Development and Management	78		
	3.4.1. Tourism Destinations as a Value System	78		
	3.4.2. Destination Planning and Policy	80		
	3.4.3. Sustainable Destination Management and			
	Intra-Destination Cooperation	80		
	3.4.3.1. Sustainability	81		
	3.4.3.2. Cooperation	81		
	3.4.4. Marketing Management	82		
	3.4.4.1. The Marketing plan	83		

		Contents	vii
3 5	Russia as a Tourism Destination		84
5.5.	3.5.1. Tourism in Russia — How Is It Organised?		84
	3.5.2. Tourism Management in Russia: Challenges and		0,
	Opportunities		87
	3.5.2.1. Product design and resource managemen	ıt	90
3.6.	Conclusions		95
Cha	pter 4. Tourist Behaviour and Trends		
	Lidia Andrades Caldito, Frédéric Dimanche and	Sergey	
	Ilkevich		101
	Introduction		102
4.2.	The Decision-Making Process		103
	4.2.1. How Do Consumers Make Decisions?		103
	4.2.2. Explicative Models for Tourist Behaviour		107
4.2	4.2.3. Tourist Motivation for Travel		110
	The Tourist Experience		114
4.4.	Meeting the Needs of the Tourist		116
	4.4.1. Market Segmentation4.4.2. From Market Segmentation to Target Marketing		116 117
15	Global Consumer Trends	1	117
4.5.	4.5.1. The C-Consumers		118
	4.5.2. The Green Consumers		120
46	Focus on Russian Tourists		121
	Conclusions and Marketing Implications		125
ч./.	Conclusions and Warketing Implications		123
	SECTION TWO: SECTORS		
Cha	pter 5. Cultural Tourism		
	Danielle Allen, Steven Rhoden, Elena Sakharch	uk Sergev	
	Ilkevich, Elena E. Sharafanova and Elena Peche		133
5.1.	Cultural Tourism: Definitions and Concepts		135
	5.1.1. Cultural Tourism		135
	5.1.2. Culture in Russia		138
	5.1.3. Cultural Tourism in Russia		138
5.2.	Relevance of the Cultural Tourism Segment in Russia		140
	5.2.1. Cultural Heritage Assets		140
	5.2.2. Measuring the Impact of Culture		141

viii Contents

	5.2.3. Economic Impacts	141
	5.2.4. Value to the Economy: Importance of Cultural	
	Tourism in Russia	142
	5.2.5. Cultural Policy Objectives	143
5.3.	Cultural Tourists	144
	5.3.1. Defining the Cultural Tourist	144
	5.3.2. The Cultural Tourist Experience	147
	5.3.3. Delivering Experiences for Cultural Tourists	148
	5.3.3.1. Co-creation of experiences	150
	5.3.4. The Challenges of Co-creation in Practice	153
5.4.	Cultural Tourism Supply	155
	5.4.1. Cultural Tourism Resources in Russia	156
	5.4.1.1. Tier 1: Moscow and Saint Petersburg	156
	5.4.1.2. Tier 2: The Golden Ring	160
	5.4.1.3. Tier 3: Rural areas	160
5.5.	Marketing Cultural Tourism	161
	5.5.1. Cultural Tourism Products in Russia	162
	5.5.2. Pricing of Cultural Tourism in Russia	165
	5.5.3. Promotion of Cultural Tourism in Russia	167
	5.5.4. Distribution of Cultural Tourism	168
5.6.	Management in the Cultural Tourism Sector	171
	5.6.1. Networks between Tourism Providers	171
	5.6.2. Value Chain in Cultural Tourism	172
	5.6.3. Cultural Tourism Employment	173
5.7.	Conclusions	174
Cha	apter 6. Nature-Based Tourism	
	Juan Ignacio Pulido-Fernández, David Ward-Perkins an	d
	Olga V. Krukova	181
6 1	Introduction	183
	Definition and Aspects of Nature-Based Tourism	185
0.2.	6.2.1. Natural Areas	186
	6.2.2. Nature-Based Tourism	187
	6.2.3. Leisure Activities in Nature	189
	6.2.4. Adventure Tourism	189
	6.2.5. Outdoor Sporting Tourism	190
	6.2.6. Wildlife Tourism	192
	6.2.7. Ecotourism	193
	6.2.8. Other Nature-Based Tourism Categories	196

		Contents	ix
6.3.	Nature-Based Tourism in Russia		197
	6.3.1. Geography		197
	6.3.2. Population and Ethnicity		197
	6.3.3. Limits to Development		198
6.4.	Tourist Demand		199
	6.4.1. Particularities of Nature-Based Tourism Dema	nd	199
	6.4.1.1. An Evolving Market		201
6.5.	Developing Nature-Based Destinations		202
	6.5.1. Basic Requirements		203
	6.5.2. Success Factors for a Nature-Based Destinatio	n	205
	6.5.2.1. Proximity		205
	6.5.2.2. Image, Brand and Positioning		206
	6.5.2.3. Services		207
	6.5.2.4. Local Involvement		207
	6.5.3. Models of Governance		209
	6.5.4. Governance of Natural Spaces in Russia		210
6.6.	Optimisation		211
	6.6.1. Sustainability		211
	6.6.2. The Contribution of Nature-Based Tourism to	Local	
	Development		213
	6.6.3. The Value Chain		218
	6.6.4. Entrepreneurial Capacity		218
	6.6.5. Seasonality Management		221
	6.6.6. Measuring and Mitigating Risks		222
	6.6.7. Managing Flows		224
6.7.	Conclusions		225
Cha	pter 7. Health and Wellness Tourism		
	Galina Romanova, Alexandr Vetitnev and Fré	déric	
	Dimanche		231
7.1.	Introduction to Health and Wellness Tourism		233
	7.1.1. Review of Health Tourism Concepts from Rus	sian and	
	International Perspectives		233
	7.1.1.1. Health Tourism: International Definit	ions	
	and Terminology		233
	7.1.1.2. Understanding Health Tourism in Rus	ssia	239
7.2.	The Specificities of Health Tourism		239
	7.2.1. Russia as a Provider Social Oriented Type of H	Iealth	
	Tourism		<i>240</i>

x Contents

	7.2.2.	Economic Impact and Social Significance of Health	
		Tourism	244
		7.2.2.1. Economic Impacts	244
		7.2.2.2. Social impacts	245
	7.2.3.	Characteristics of the Contemporary Situation	
		with Health Tourism in Russia	247
7.3.	Dema	nd Characteristics for Health Tourism	251
	7.3.1.	Characteristics of Demand and Main Stages of its	
		Development	251
	7.3.2.	Motivations and Needs	253
	7.3.3.	Main Markets and Their Behaviours	256
7.4.	Healtl	n Tourism in Russia — Supply	258
		Management of Resources	258
	7.4.2.	Management of Infrastructure	261
	7.4.3.	Visitor Management	263
7.5.	Healtl	n Tourism Marketing	264
	7.5.1.	Health Tourism Product Design	264
	7.5.2.	Health Product Positioning	267
	7.5.3.	The Marketing Mix in Health Tourism	268
7.6.	Optim	nizing Management — The Impact of Health Tourism on	
	Destir	nation Development	272
	7.6.1.	Health Tourism and Destination Development	272
	7.6.2.	Seasonality Management	274
	7.6.3.	Risk Management and Safety of Health and Sport	
		Tourism	275
7.7.	Concl	usions — The Future of Health Tourism in Russia	276
Cha	pter 8.	Business Tourism	
Cira	pter o.	Mady Keup, Andrés Artal-Tur, Ludmila	
		Belosluttseva and Antonio García Sánchez	289
Q 1	Introd	luction to Business Tourism: Definitions and Concepts	292
		verview of Business Events	293
0.2.		Volumes, Value and Recent Evolution	293
		Leading International Industry Bodies (ICCA,	293
	0.2.2.	MPI, SITE, ACTE)	302
		8.2.2.1. The International Congress and	302
		Convention Association (ICCA)	302
		8.2.2.2. Meeting Professionals International	302
		(MPI)	303

		8.2.2.3. Society for Incentive Travel Excellence	
		(SITE)	303
		8.2.2.4. Association of Corporate Travel Executives	
		(ACTE)	304
	8.2.3.	Business Tourism in Russia	304
		8.2.3.1. The Economic and Social Impact of	
		Business Tourism	306
		8.2.3.2. MICE Tourism	308
		8.2.3.3. Organisation of Business Tourism:	
		The Main Suppliers in Russia	310
		8.2.3.4. Domestic Business Tourism	313
		8.2.3.5. Outbound Business Departures	313
		8.2.3.6. Growth Forecasts	314
		8.2.3.7. Legal Framework	315
8.3.		ess Clients: Visitors and Organisations	316
	8.3.1.	Association Business Tourists	316
		8.3.1.1. What Motivates the Planners and	
		the Delegates?	317
		8.3.1.2. How Association Planners and Delegates	
		Make Their Decisions?	318
	8.3.2.	Corporate Business Tourists	319
		8.3.2.1. What Motivates the Corporate Planners	
		and the Participants?	320
		8.3.2.2. How Do Corporate Planners Make their	
		Decisions?	320
	8.3.3.	Government Business Tourists	321
		8.3.3.1. What Motivates Government Event	
		Planners and Participants?	321
		8.3.3.2. How Government Planners Take Their Decisions	321
		Other Types of Organisers	321
8.4.		ess Tourism Supply	322
		Venues	325
	8.4.2.	Intermediary Suppliers: Event Managers, DMOs	
		and ITOs	327
		Government	328
	8.4.4.	Marketing in and for Business Tourism	330
		8.4.4.1. Product Design	330
		8.4.4.2. Positioning	332
		8.4.4.3. Marketing Mix	333
		8.4.4.4. Promotion	333

xii Contents

	8.4.5.	Optimising Management	335
		8.4.5.1. Optimisation of Business Tourism for	
		Local Development	335
8.5.	Profes	ssional Qualifications in Business Tourism	337
	8.5.1.	Certified Meeting Professional (CMP)	338
	8.5.2.	The CMP-HC Subspecialty	338
	8.5.3.	Certified Meeting Manager (CMM)	339
	8.5.4.	Global Travel Professional TM (GTP) Certification	339
8.6.	Concl	usions	340
		SECTION THREE: THE FUTURE	
Cha	pter 9.	Trends and Issues	
		Lidia Andrades Caldito, Frédéric Dimanche and	
		David Ward-Perkins	351
9.1.	Introd	luction	352
9.2.	Globa	ll Tourism Trends	355
		Emerging and Developing Market Segments	355
	9.2.2.	The Need for New Instruments to Face the	
		Challenges of Destination Planning	357
	9.2.3.	Qualified Human Resources in the Destination	358
		Experiential Tourism (and Co-Creation)	359
	9.2.5.	Service and Quality Management	361
	9.2.6.	New Marketing Practices	362
	9.2.7.	Big Data, Data Analytics, CRM	363
	9.2.8.	Measurement and Accountability	364
	9.2.9.	Focus on Social and Economic Responsibility	366
	9.2.10	. The Sharing Economy	367
9.3.	Trend	s in Russian Tourism	368
	9.3.1.	The Growth of Outbound Russian Tourism	368
	9.3.2.	Inbound Tourism	369
		Travel Technology	369
	9.3.4.	Domestic Travel Behaviour Patterns	370
	9.3.5.	Infrastructure	371
	9.3.6.	Centralisation and Decentralisation	372
	9.3.7.	Cultural Diversity and Pride	372

	Contents	xiii
9.4. Business, Cultural and Nature-Based Tourism Tren	ds in Russia	373
9.4.1. Business Tourism		373
9.4.2. Business Events		374
9.4.3. Cultural Tourism		375
9.4.4. Nature-Based Tourism		376
9.4.5. Concluding Remarks on Trends		377
9.5. Conclusions and Implications		378
Chapter 10. Conclusions		
Frédéric Dimanche, Lidia Andrades Caldi	to and	
Alexander Fedulin		383
10.1. Russia as a Tourism Destination: Problems, Solution	ons, and	
Prospects		383
10.2. Tourism Education in Russia: The Key to the Futu	re	386
10.2.1. Key Success Factors in Tourism Education	and Training	387
10.2.2. Deficit of Practical Focus: How to Find		
Improvement?		387
10.2.3. Increasing the Internationalisation and		
Globalisation of Tourism Education		389
10.2.4. Regional Tourism Education Clusters as a		
New Approach to Professional Tourism Tr	aining	390
10.3. A Final Note		392
Glossary of Terms		395
Authors and Contributors		403
Index		409

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Frédéric Dimanche and Lidia Andrades Caldito

Section One

Foundations

Chapter 1

Introduction

Frédéric Dimanche and Lidia Andrades Caldito

This book is one of the outputs produced as a result of the NETOUR-TEMPUS project. NETOUR is a Network for Excellence in Tourism through Organisations and Universities in Russia. It was created in 2012 to work on a TEMPUS project funded by EACEA, a European Union. Russian universities together with universities from Spain, France, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Finland cooperated to positively impact society by fostering tourism through higher education.

Specifically, the main objective of NETOUR was to boost the competitiveness and sustainability of tourism in the Russian Federation. When tourism development is managed in a sustainable way, multiple positive effects may result, benefiting society as a whole. So NETOUR intends to contribute to socio-economic progress through sustainable tourism development practices. NETOUR actions are oriented towards enhancing the qualifications of tourism management students as a mean to generate better skilled and more efficient tourism professionals for the future.

As part of NETOUR, a situational analysis of the tourism sector in Russia was performed by the consortium. As a result, major tourism segments were evaluated and significant challenges, threats, weaknesses and strengths were diagnosed. Afterwards, NETOUR supplied guidelines to improve tourism curricula delivered at Russian universities in line with some sector needs that were identified. One of the main conclusions was the need to enhance students' understanding of sustainable tourism

^{1.} www.netour.eu

^{2.} Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index en.php

management and to improve their qualifications. This book aims to fill a gap in this regard. We are hoping that it will become a reference handbook for teachers who may be inspired to develop new courses on the subject in Russian Universities, and for young professionals who see the need to enhance their understanding of tourism management issues.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).³ tourism development may induce positive impacts in three different spheres: environmental, economic and socio-cultural. The positive economic impacts generated by tourism are quite obvious, since tourism generates substantial economic benefits such as job creation, tax revenues and income. However, environmental impacts are more controversial, although tourism, when managed properly, may contribute to the preservation of the environment in various ways. For instance, tourism may support the conservation and protection of fauna, flora and natural heritage with direct financial support, or may indirectly subsidise it by contributing to government tax revenues. Tourism development also plays a key role in educating visitors and locals about natural resources, and consequently, fosters people's environmental awareness, and assists in preserving the environment. In addition, tourism may be a driver for destinations to enhance their environmental and planning policies, sometimes even pushing the formulation of regulatory frameworks. Lastly, from a socio-cultural outlook, it has been observed that tourism contributes to taking pride in cultural traditions and local heritage, enhancing locals' self-esteem and confidence. As a consequence, locals present a greater willingness to take risks and to start local tourism enterprises which may promote the authenticity and singularity of the destination. Such local initiatives, as well as others from outside, are likely to help maintain and create local jobs. Another important outcome from the expansion of tourism is that it encourages changes in the value systems of local communities that are confronted to tourists. Tourism is also known as a force for peace that may stimulate the adoption of democratic values that contribute to societal progress.

Of course the list of potential negative impacts derived from the uncontrolled growth of tourism should not be ignored. But in this introduction of a handbook on tourism management, we want to emphasise that good

^{3.} http://www.unep.org/resourceefficiency/Business/SectoralActivities/Tourism/Fact sandFiguresaboutTourism/ImpactsofTourism/tabid/78774/Default.aspx

practices performed by well-educated professionals will have positive effects on a destination, a region or a country.

Thinking about the positive and negative impacts of tourism should give the reader an idea of how important good management is. This book will show how the tourism sector has, more than any other sector, the potential to facilitate socio-economic progress in a way that it generates direct, indirect and induced effects over other economic sectors. This is why we adopt in this book a value-chain management approach, where we try to expose the many connections that exist between the different tourism actors and other agents. We expect the reader to understand the need for cooperation between all tourism stakeholders within a destination and to maximise the outputs of tourism. Ultimately, tourism professionals should be aware of how their performance affects the global economy of their country and citizens' welfare.4

The primary target of this book is young university students and future tourism professionals. We hope they will adopt a managerial vision that allows them to optimise the available resources at a destination so as to maximise the positive effects of tourism and minimise the negative ones. Ultimately, this book serves to achieve the NETOUR objective of enriching tourism curricula at Russian universities and support Russian academics with materials to be used when delivering tourism management courses. Of course, tourism students and professionals from other countries such as those from the Commonwealth of Independent States will also benefit from this book. The authors' will is that the book becomes an instrument to enhance students' qualifications and employability. It should help future tourism professionals understand the global context in which tourism destinations and enterprises develop their activities. Ultimately, readers of this book will be capable of promoting and managing a sustainable model for tourism development in the Russian Federation and other countries.

The book is organised in three main sections (see Figure 1.1). The first section, called foundations, consists of this introduction, a chapter about the current situation of tourism in Russia, a chapter on general knowledge related to tourism management, and a chapter on tourist behaviour.

More specifically, Chapter 2 starts with a review of tourism in the Russian Federation, a brief history and some figures to provide the

^{4.} OECD-UNWTO-WTO. (2013). Aid for travel and value chains in tourism. Retrieved from https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/a4t_e/global_review 13prog e/tourism 28june.pdf



Figure 1.1: Structure of the book.

framework in which Russian students will develop their professional activity. Then Chapter 3 addresses the principles of destination management, presents the tourism system and its components. The focus then moves on to sustainable destination management as strategic tool to compete in world tourism markets, to attract tourists and to provide them with memorable experiences. But in a highly globalised tourism market, delivering memorable experiences is not an easy task. So Chapter 4 helps understand the motivations and behaviours of tourists. In this chapter the main variables affecting tourists' choices are presented, together with reflections about how destinations and tourism firms may provide memorable experiences to their customers. New tourist segments, such as the connected and mobile tourists are presented. The reader will realise that traditional market segmentation based upon socio-demographic variables may not be as effective as before.

The second section of the book, Chapters 5–8, focusses on specific and significant tourism markets in Russia: cultural tourism, nature-based tourism, health tourism and business tourism. Those sub-markets were selected

because of their relevance for Russia. Culture (Chapter 5) is the distinctive aspect that may characterises Russia's image as a tourism destination. Then, nature-based tourism (Chapter 6), still an emerging segment, is described as a great potential for development given the size of the Russian territory and the diversity of its landscapes and natural resources. Chapter 7 focuses on health and wellness tourism. Russia has a strong and rather unique tradition with spas and sanatoriums, inherited from the Soviet times when rest and relaxation was fundamental to maintain the labour class's health. Finally, Chapter 8 deals with business tourism and the MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) sector, a strategic segment with strong economic benefits for urban destinations.

The third and final section of the book concludes with Chapters 9 and 10. Chapter 9 identifies and discusses the main global trends in the tourism sector as well as the challenges to be faced by the Russian Federation to effectively compete in the international tourism marketplace. Ultimately, Chapter 10 concludes the book and addresses the importance of tourism education in Russia.

The objective of this book was to provide a text that could be accessible and that can be used for teaching and for learning about tourism. Our objective was not to write an exhaustive manual on tourism planning and development. Rather, we wanted a balance between some essential tourism management-related knowledge and a discussion of the reality of tourism development in Russia. We had to summarise some materials and make some choices regarding content, at the risk of ignoring some relevant topics. The objective was to provide students and tourism professionals with relevant information they could rapidly use and put to work towards the development of tourism in their respective destinations. A number of examples and cases are presented in each chapter to help students make the link between theory and practice. Lastly, at the end of each chapter, discussion questions are suggested for students to apply their knowledge and understanding to a current situation.

This book is a unique collective effort. The NETOUR project gave all authors opportunities to meet and work together for three years on various tasks related to tourism in Russia. For the EU-funded project, Europeans travelled to Russia and Russians came to England, Finland, France and Spain for meetings. This gave all participants a rare opportunity to learn about each other and to experience different approaches to tourism development, management and marketing. Although there may not be such a large gap between Russian and European approaches, differences, due to history and cultures, remain and needed to be understood.

8 Frédéric Dimanche and Lidia Andrades Caldito

Although not all NETOUR project participants have collaborated as coauthors on this book, all have, directly and indirectly, made a significant contribution to this edited book. We are grateful and thank them all for their involvement.

We hope you will find this book interesting and useful.

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