Concepts related to Geotourism
(tourism with a geological purpose)

English/Arabic Version

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“The Earth retains memories of the past inscribed both in its depths and on its surface, in the rocks and in the landscape, a record which can be read and translated”

(Declaration of the Rights of the Memory of the Earth, 1991).

This brief document includes the major concepts of geotourism phenomenon which has grown rapidly in the last decade.

The list of geotourism concepts has been written in English and Arabic languages to help to expand the culture of geotourism.
Geotourism
Tourism which sustains and enhances the identity of a territory, taking into consideration its geology, environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage and the well-being of its residents (The International Congress of Geotourism, 2011).

Geotourism
A form of natural area tourism that specifically focuses on geology and landscape. It promotes tourism to geosites and the conservation of geo-diversity and an understanding of earth sciences through appreciation and learning. This is achieved through independent visits to geological features, use of geo-trails and view points, guided tours, geo-activities and patronage of geosite visitor centres (Newsome & Dowling, 2010, p. 4).

Geopark
A nationally protected area containing a number of geological heritage sites of particular importance, rarity, or aesthetic appeal. These Earth heritage sites are part of an integrated concept of protection, education, and sustainable development. A geopark achieves its goals through a three-pronged approach: conservation, education and geotourism (UNESCO, Global Geoparks Network, 2006).
**Geoethics**
Geoethics consists of the research and reflection on those values upon which to base appropriate behaviors and practices where human activities intersect the Geosphere. Geoethics deals with the ethical, social and cultural implications of geological research and practice, providing a point of intersection for Geosciences, Sociology and Philosophy (IAPG, 2012).

**Ecotourism**
Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the wellbeing of local people (TIES, 1990).

**Sustainable Tourism**
Tourism which is economically viable but does not destroy the resources on which the future of tourism will depend, notably the physical environment and the social fabric of the host community (Swarbrooke, 1998, p. 13).

**Special Interest Tourism (SIT)**
Travel for people who are going somewhere because they have a particular interest that can be pursued in a particular region or at a particular destination (Bhatia, 2006, p. 126).
A protected area
A clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values” (IUCN, 2008).

Interpretation
An educational activity which aims to reveal meanings and relationships through the use of original objects, by firsthand experience, and by illustrative media, rather than simply to communicate factual information (Tilden, 1957).

Geosite
A site or an "area", a few square meters to several square kilometers in size, with geological and scientific significance, whose geological characteristics (mineral, structural, geomorphic and physiographic) meet one or several criteria for classifying it as outstanding (valuable, rare, vulnerable, endangered) (El Wartiti et al, 2009).

Geotourist
An individual who visits a site with significant geological or geomorphologic characteristics to view it and to gain knowledge about its features (Allan, 2011).
**Geoheritage**
Geoheritage consists of all the significant Earth features and continuing processes that we wish to keep, sustain, conserve, manage and interpret for their natural heritage value (Osborne, 2000).

**Geodiversity**
the natural range (diversity) of geological (rocks, minerals, fossils), geomorphological (landforms, topography, physical processes) and soil and hydrological features. It includes their assemblages, structures, systems and contributions to landscapes (Gray, 2013).

**Caves**
Underground spaces created by natural geological and geomorphological processes, large enough to be examined in some way by humans (Garofano & Govoni, 2012).
المصطلحات الخاصة بالسياحة الجيولوجية:

التنوع الجيولوجي: Geodiversity

هو نطاق طبيعي من الصخور الجيولوجية والمعادن والاحافير والأشكال والعمليات الجيومورفولوجية وكذلك أيضا خصائص التربة. وهي تشمل تجمعات و علاقات و مكونات وأنظمة (Gray, 2004).

التراث الجيولوجي: Geoheritage

هو جزء لا يتجزأ من التراث الطبيعي الكلي - وهو يشمل الاماكن والأشياء التي لها دور رئيسي في تعزيز فهما ل تاريخ الأرض - صخورها،و ما تحتوي من معادن و المتحجرات، ومناظر الطبيعية (ProGEO, 2011).

السياحة الجيولوجية: Geotourism

"السياحة التي تدوم وتعزز هوية المنطقة وخصائصها الجيولوجية والبيئية والثقافية والتراثية ورفاه السكان المحليين" (The International Congress of Geotourism, 2011).

**The Geotourist**: "The individual who visits a geological and morphological site to see these properties and gain knowledge of them." (Allan, 2012)

**The Geopark**: "A region of national importance that contains a number of geological heritage sites of special, rare, or aesthetic value. These geological heritage sites are part of a comprehensive concept of protection, education, and sustainable development." (UNESCO, 2006)

**The Geosite**: "A site or area of several square meters to several square kilometers where it has a geological or scientific importance that fulfills its criteria (mineralogical, structural, geomorphological, and topographical) plus one or more classification as a high-value area (value, rare, weak and exposed to danger)." (El Wartiti et al, 2009, p. 415)

**Geoethics**: "Embraces the ethics of biology by conducting research and studies based on the values that are built on appropriate and ethical practices wherever human activities intersect with the earth's environment. It deals with the ethics of geological phenomena and SOC and environmental ethics and the interaction of research and practice in the field, and providing a point of intersection for Earth sciences, social sciences and philosophy."
تفسير الموقع: Interpretation

"نشاط تعليمي يهدف إلى توضيح المعاني والعلاقات فيما بينها من خلال استخدام مواد أصلية من خلال التجربة المباشرة وتقدم وسائل إيضاحية. وتشمل عملية التفسير بشكل توضيح القيم الطبيعية والثقافية والتاريخية المتعلقة بالمكان وتساعد الزوار في فهم أسباب الحفاظ وحماية مختلف أشكال ميراثنا الإنساني" (Tilden, 1957).

السياحة المستدامة: Sustainable Tourism

"السياحة التي هي قابلة للحياة اقتصاديا ولكنها لا تدمر الموارد التي سوف يعتمد عليها مستقبل السياحة، وبخاصة البيئة المادية والنسيج الاجتماعي للمجتمع المحلي المستضيف للسياحة" (Swarbrooke, 1998, p. 13).

السياحة البيئية: Ecotourism

"السفر المسول إلى المناطق الطبيعية الذي يحافظ على البيئة ويساهم في تحسين رفاه السكان المحليين" (TIES, 1990).

سياحة الاهتمامات الخاصة: Special Interest Tourism (SIT)

"السفر بالنسبة للأشخاص الذين يسافروا إلى مكان ما لأن لديهم اهتمام خاص يمكن ممارسته في منطقة معينة أو في وجهة سياحية معينة" (Read, 1980, p.195).

المنطقة المحمية: Protected Area

"منطقة من الأرض و/أو البحر مكرسة بشكل خاص لحماية وصون التنوع البيولوجي، وللموارد الطبيعية والموارد الثقافية المرتبطة بها، وتدار من خلال وسائل قانونية أو وسائل أخرى فعالة" (IUCN, 1992).
Geomorphology: Geomorphology is a science that focuses on the study of the landscapes (mountains, plains, rivers, valleys, deserts, and coasts) and their processes and evolution. This science is about the natural phenomena on the surface of the earth, such as caves and natural formations (Huggett, 2007).

Caves: Caves are areas underground formed by geological and geomorphological processes, large enough to be examined by humans (Garofano & Govoni, 2012).
References


IAPG (2012). What is Geoethics? International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG), IAPG website [last accessed 15 February 2014].


