

ASPECTS OF TOURISM 34

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Managing Coastal Tourism Resorts A Global Perspective

Edited by

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Preface and Acknowledgements

Surprisingly, despite the fact that coastal tourism resorts are an immensely important tourist space and are dealt with in most post-graduate and undergraduate tourism courses, there are few books which focus solely upon them, and there has been limited critical assessment of their evolution, planning, development and management. Moreover, the majority of academic research undertaken in this area has been completed within Northern and Southern Europe at the expense of a wider global consideration, and is overly descriptive in nature, consisting of a collection of theoretically unconnected case studies. This book addresses this research vacuum by adopting a thematic framework in which to examine coastal tourism resorts in a selected range of environments across the globe. It incorporates a detailed analysis of a range of economic, sociocultural, political and environmental issues that are being experienced, to differing extents, by coastal tourism resorts that are at different life-cycle stages of development. By doing so, this book is more than a mere amalgamation of existing literature, as it aims to advance conceptual understanding of resort evolution and change. It is therefore aimed at undergraduate and postgraduate courses in tourism in which students are introduced to the importance of coastal tourism resorts and to issues that affect their planning, development and management.

The inspiration for this book may be traced back to my doctoral studies and to Professors Gareth Shaw (University of Exeter) and Allan Williams (London Metropolitan University), who nurtured and developed my interest in coastal resorts. Since completing this initial piece of research, the dynamics of coastal resorts have continued to remain a source of enormous fascination for us both. Gareth and I are deeply grateful to a great many people who together have enabled this book to come to fruition. First and foremost, of course, we are extremely indebted to the book's chapter contributors for volunteering to participate in this project, and for providing much interesting material. I would like to thank Bill Bramwell at Sheffield Hallam University for his insightful conversations, which enabled me to maintain enthusiasm for the book, and for his continued support. In addition, Gareth and I would like to express our

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