

Preface

Tourism has been considered as an industry of worldwide significance. In fact, for many countries, tourism is the largest commodity in international trade. With the advent of industrialization people started moving in large numbers to places away from their usual places of residence and work with a view to seek change. This trend continued until tourism became a great mass phenomenon. This phenomenon is a visible result of the great technological developments which have changed the social geography of the world since the nineteenth century. In a more technical sense, tourism may be thought of as the relationships and phenomenon arising out of the journeys and temporary stays of people traveling primarily for leisure or recreational purposes. There is a growing recognition that tourism constitutes one end of a broad leisure spectrum. In a geographical sense, a basic distinction between tourism and other forms of leisure, such as that practiced in the home (e.g. watching television) or within the urban area (e.g. going to the local swimming pool) is the travel component.

Jordan has been a popular international attraction for some time and is especially popular with people from the world over. It is home to the one of the surviving Wonders of the World, the "Rose-Red City" of *Peïra*. It has immense tourism potential and resources such as *Wadi Rum*, the *Greco-Roman City of Jerash*, Biblical sites of both the Old and New Testaments, Islamic and crusader castles, *Aqaba*, the *Dead Sea* shores and a wide spectrum of cultural and natural heritage.

Tourism, in Jordan, acts as second largest foreign exchange earner after remittances. Besides, it also contributes considerable amount on employment, improving standard of living of the people, balance of payments and thereby facilitating overall developments of the country.

The objective of the present research work is to analyze in a systematic and comprehensive manner the role of geographical components in tourism planning and hotel development in Jordan. The aim is not only to increase our understanding of this important and growing industry but also to show a

geographical perspective can contribute to its planning, development and management in Jordan.

This research work is organized into eight sections. The first chapter discusses the significance, concept and various definitions of tourism. It also explains the limitations of study, problem statement, hypothesis, aims and objective and the information sources of the study. The second chapter highlights the geographical environment of tourism and its importance in Jordan. The third chapter comprises tourism resources, back-up services and organizational facilities in Jordan. The fourth section deals with the tourism planning and strategy for the development of tourism in Jordan. The fifth chapter focuses on the significance of tourism income in the economy of Jordan. The sixth part comprises the social impact of tourism in Jordan. The seventh chapter considers the growth and development of hotel industry and its role in tourism development in Jordan. The last chapter provides conclusion and is also concerned with the suggestions on the future of the tourism.

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