

Review of: "Tourists' Activities and their Impacts on Chinhoyi Caves Heritage Site, Zimbabwe"

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The article examines the challenges posed by tourist activities on heritage sites, focusing on their impact and potential strategies for mitigation. The authors underline the growing visitation to heritage sites and the corresponding need for protection due to their sensitivity to tourism-related destruction. While there's an inclination to prioritize protection over promotion of these sites, the authors question the local implementation of protection measures as tourism numbers increase in Zimbabwe, despite international agreements such as the UNESCO Convention.

Tourism's financial benefits and its influence on raising awareness about heritage preservation are acknowledged. However, the detrimental effects of tourism on heritage sites have also been observed since the 1970s. The authors highlight the importance of sustainable development in managing destinations, especially concerning the environmental and cultural integrity of heritage sites. UNESCO's efforts to safeguard natural and cultural sites of exceptional value are discussed, addressing historically significant sites worldwide facing precarious conditions.

The article delves into various types of tourist activities. These activities are presented through different perspectives, including financial and holistic views. Activities encompass a broad range of actions, from primary activities that tourists engage in directly at a destination to secondary actions that complement those experiences, such as photography, purchasing artifacts, vandalism, and pollution. The authors explore each of these activities in detail.

Vandalism is identified as a significant issue, encompassing intentional damage to property. Photography is discussed as a double-edged sword; it captures memories but may also raise ethical concerns, particularly at heritage sites. Pollution emerges as a consequence of tourist activities, with instances of waste mismanagement in regions of high tourist operations. The article also explores sightseeing and its environmental implications, emphasizing its sustainable nature. Additionally, the collection of historic artifacts is highlighted, with attention to looting and ethical considerations.

The research problem centers on the deteriorating impact of human activities on world heritage sites, which threatens sustainable tourism development. The article acknowledges UNESCO's listing of endangered sites and the urgent need to address this issue to prevent the degradation of these sites and their potential economic contributions.

The research objectives are clearly outlined, focusing on identifying tourist activities at heritage sites, assessing their impact, and proposing strategies to mitigate their negative effects. The study methodology involves interviews with both tourists and site staff, supplemented by observations and documentation of activities.

While the article provides a comprehensive exploration of the impact of tourist activities on heritage sites, some areas could benefit from further elaboration. For instance, the discussion could delve deeper into the specific consequences of each tourist activity and provide more context on the challenges faced by heritage sites in Zimbabwe. Additionally, the proposed strategies for minimizing negative impacts could be detailed further to offer practical insights for site managers and policymakers.

Overall, the article sheds light on a pressing issue regarding the preservation of heritage sites in the face of growing tourism. It underscores the need for sustainable practices and cooperative efforts to ensure the longevity of these sites while reaping their economic benefits.