

# Domestic Tourism in Asia

Diversity and Divergence



Edited by Shalini Singh

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# Contents

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<i>List of Figures, Tables and Boxes</i>	<i>ix</i>
<i>List of Contributors</i>	<i>xiii</i>
<i>Foreword by Linda K. Richter</i>	<i>xix</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>xxi</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>xxv</i>
<i>List of Acronyms and Abbreviations</i>	<i>xxvii</i>
<b>1 Domestic Tourism: Searching for an Asianic Perspective</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Shalini Singh</i>	
Introduction	1
Making the case: Domestic tourism in Asia	3
Asian domestic tourism: The problematic	11
Asian domestic tourism: A discourse	13
The future: Endogenous scenarios	23
In this book	25
<b>2 Zen and the Art of Tourism Maintenance: A Meditation on So-Called Proto-Tourism in Vietnam</b>	<b>31</b>
<i>Victor Alneng</i>	
The quest for the proto-touristic	31
Pilgrims in cable cars	31
Zen tourists at the bamboo grove	33
The formal and real 'subsumption' of tourism	38
Zen and the art of tourism maintenance	40
The secret of so-called proto-tourism	43
<b>3 Cultural Solutions to Ecological Problems in Contemporary Japan: Heritage Tourism in Asuke</b>	<b>51</b>
<i>Christopher S. Thompson</i>	
Introduction	53
Situating Asuke	58
The origin of Japanese domestic tourism	59
Rural decline and local tourism in post-war Japan	60
Asuke's distinctive heritage asset	62
'Heritage politics' in Asuke	63
Reflecting inward, not outward, for local socio-cultural solutions	64

	Origin of the Asuke Yashiki concept	65
	Asuke Yashiki: Finalizing the blueprint	67
	Asuke Yashiki's financial viability	70
	Analysing Asuke Yashiki's success	72
	Asuke Yashiki in the New Millennium	73
	Cultural tourism and Japan's urban–rural dynamic	76
<b>4</b>	<b>Pilgrim Culture of Tīrthā in India: Enculturation of New Age Movements within Age-Old Rituals</b>	<b>81</b>
	<i>Shalini Singh</i>	
	Introduction	81
	Sojourns of the Indian masses: An overview	82
	The tradition of <i>tīrthā yātrā</i>	89
	Analysing current practices: Critical observations	95
	Evolving <i>tīrthā</i> rituals	100
<b>5</b>	<b>From Community to Holiday Camps: The Emergence of a Tourist Economy in Mongolia</b>	<b>107</b>
	<i>Amartuvshin Dorjsuren</i>	
	Introduction	107
	Leisure/holiday/travel potential of Mongolia	107
	Socialism and domestic tourism	109
	The impact of domestic tourism on the nomadic lifestyle of Mongols: An exploration	119
	Contributions and conflicts of domestic tourism in Mongolia	122
	Conclusions	126
<b>6</b>	<b>'Domestic' Tourism and Its Discontents: Han Tourists in China's 'Little Tibet'</b>	<b>129</b>
	<i>Christopher Vasantkumar</i>	
	Introduction	129
	A day on the grasslands	131
	Tourist supernovae	138
<b>7</b>	<b>Year Zero! From Annihilation to Renaissance: Domestic Tourism in Cambodia</b>	<b>151</b>
	<i>Trevor H. B. Sofield</i>	
	Introduction	151
	Tourism as a sector for post-conflict development	157
	Heritage and history: The Khmer Empire and Angkor	158
	Angkor as pilgrimage tourism	161
	Concurrence	166
	Festivals and special events	169
	<i>Pithy Banghos Kleng</i> – the Kite Festival	172
	Conclusions	176

<b>8</b>	<b>Kyrgyz Tourism at Lake Issyk-Kul: Legacies of Pre-Communist and Soviet Regimes</b>	<b>181</b>
	<i>Nicola J. Palmer</i>	
	Introduction	181
	Kyrgyzstan: Past influences	182
	Domestic tourism in the context of Kyrgyzstan	183
	The importance of Lake Issyk-Kul	184
	Pre-communist era travel patterns in Kyrgyzstan	185
	Soviet-era tourism in Kyrgyzstan	187
	Lake Issyk-Kul: Pre-communist era and Soviet era tourism legacies	189
	Conclusions	192
<b>9</b>	<b>Indigenous People and Domestic Visitors of Taiwan</b>	<b>197</b>
	<i>Geoffrey Wall and Janet Chang</i>	
	Introduction	197
	Relationships between indigenous people and tourism	197
	Indigenous people and tourism in Taiwan	200
	The colonial legacy and tourism in Wulai	201
	Souvenir purchases and product evaluation in Wulai	204
	Danayigu Ecological Park	207
	Marketing aboriginal products	208
	Conclusions	214
<b>10</b>	<b>No, We Are not 'Eco-Tourists': Hill-Walking and Eco-Tourism in Hong Kong</b>	<b>219</b>
	<i>Chan Yuk Wah and Fung Yip Hing</i>	
	Introduction	219
	Eco-tourism in different contexts	220
	Hiking and hill-walking	223
	The SARS effect on eco-travel	225
	Packaging nature: Theme park eco-tourism	226
	Conclusions	230
<b>11</b>	<b>Crafting Filipino Leisure: Tourism Programmes in the Philippines</b>	<b>235</b>
	<i>Maria Cherry Lyn S. Rodolfo</i>	
	Introduction	235
	Definition and measurement of domestic tourism	236
	Domestic tourism development	237
	Conclusions	248
<b>12</b>	<b>Awaiting Attention: Profiling the Domestic Tourism Sector in Sri Lanka</b>	<b>253</b>
	<i>Ranjith Ihalanayake</i>	
	Introduction	253



	Tourism sector in Sri Lanka	255
	Conclusions	264
<b>13</b>	<b>Film-Induced Domestic Tourism in Singapore: The Case of <i>Krrish</i></b>	<b>267</b>
	<i>Audrey Yue</i>	
	Introduction	267
	Domestic tourism in Singapore	267
	Creative co-produced film economy in Singapore	271
	Film-induced tourism: Domestic tourism and <i>Krrish</i>	272
	Conclusions	278
<b>14</b>	<b>Cultivating Domestic Tourism with Global Advantage: Malaysia and Singapore Compared</b>	<b>283</b>
	<i>Joan C. Henderson</i>	
	Introduction	283
	Background: Malaysia and Singapore	284
	Tourism and tourism resources in Malaysia and Singapore	288
	Tourism policies and promotion	289
	Domestic tourism: A supply perspective	291
	Domestic tourism: A demand perspective	293
	Domestic and outbound compared	295
	Future prospects	296
	Conclusions	297
<b>15</b>	<b>Holiday-Making and the Leisure Space of the Macao People</b>	<b>301</b>
	<i>Louis Tze Ngai Vong and Cindia Ching-Chi Lam</i>	
	Macao background	301
	Leisure 'space' of the Macao people	302
	Nature attractions and green holidays in Coloane	303
	Gong Bei as the rear garden of the Macao people	305
	Macao as a rising Las Vegas in Asia	307
	Festivals as a distinct genre of holidaying	308
	Lunar New Year	308
	Mid-Autumn Festival	309
	Conclusions	312
<b>16</b>	<b>Epilogue: Domestic Tourism in Asia – Contexts and Directions</b>	<b>315</b>
	<i>John K. Walton</i>	
	<i>Index</i>	325

# List of Figures, Tables and Boxes

---

## Figures

1.1	Political map of Asia	5
1.2	Asia: Major physiographic features	7
1.3	Asia: Major religions	10
1.4	Domestic tourism dynamics: A framework for investigation	26
2.1	Map of Vietnam	32
2.2	Enterprising local photographers catering to pilgrim/tourists – as much an integral part of the business-as-usual of the pagoda as the monks and the nuns	37
2.3	The gates of Trúc Lâm meditation centre and pagoda, which features a large sign board instructing visitors on the proper dress code	42
3.1	Guests waiting for the next course at the annual Asuke Tsukimi-kai (Moon Viewing Society) dinner held at Sanshu Asuke Yashiki in late September 2007	52
3.2	Map of Aichi Prefecture showing the location of Asuke in relation to Nagoya and Gifu and Nagano prefectures, as well as Mikawa Bay	54
3.3	Map of Sanshu Asuke Yashiki in relation to the Korankei Gorge, Mount Iimori and the Tomoe River	55
3.4	The Kaedemon Gate at Sanshu Asuke Yashiki	56
3.5	The 200-year-old farmhouse inside the Sanshu Asuke Yashiki compound	56
3.6	Domestic tourists shopping for traditional seasonal foods made at Sanshu Asuke Yashiki from barnyard booths positioned under the fall foliage	57
3.7	An Asuke Yashiki bamboo artisan teaching visiting Ohio University students a traditional cutting technique	76
4.1	Regional distribution of domestic trips with the purpose of travel (2002–2003): Percentage of trips accounted for by each region for any given purpose of travel	83

4.2	Rural and urban distribution of day trips with the purpose of travel (percentage of all day trips)	86
4.3	Major Hindu temples of India	91
4.4	India: Hindu pilgrim and tourist places	98
5.1	Map of Mongolia	108
5.2	Bayan Uul holiday camp, near Ulaanbaatar (1998)	113
5.3	Bayan Uul holiday camp, near Ulaanbaatar (2008)	113
5.4	Avargatoson Sanatorium offers hydrotherapy, for which <i>ger</i> camps are set up all around the lake	118
5.5	<i>Ger</i> camp development in Terelj National Park	124
5.6	<i>Ger</i> camps in Terel National Park are particularly busy over the weekend due to the influx of visitors from Ulaanbaatar	125
7.1	Map of Cambodia	154
7.2	Placing bets on a cockfight, Bayon temple frieze	160
7.3	Cambodians worshipping at Buddhist shrines established inside the main temple of Angkor Wat (June 2007)	162
7.4	Cambodian families picnicking on the banks of the moat surrounding Angkor Wat, Cambodia (November 2006)	168
7.5	Cambodians relaxing in their ubiquitous hammocks at a picnic spot, Kulin waterfall, near Angkor	168
7.6	Cambodian crowds at the annual Boat Festival, Phnom Penh (October 2007)	170
7.7	Annual Ploughing Festival, Phnom Penh, with the King's Pavilion in the background and one of the princesses sowing the first rice seeds	172
7.8	Galloping horses depicted in a wall frieze of Angkor Wat	175
7.9	'Monumental' statues, Sangker River picnic spot, Battambang	175
8.1	Lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan	182
9.1	Map of Taiwan showing location of Wulai	202
9.2	Atayal woman with facial tattoo	203
9.3	Brochure covers for domestic tourists to Amis aboriginal cultural village	213
10.1	Map of Hong Kong	221
11.1	Regional travellers in the Philippines	237
11.2	The Philippines: Major tourist destinations	239
11.3	Map of Puerto Galera	245
12.1	Map of Sri Lanka	258
13.1	Map of Singapore	268
14.1	Present-day Malaysia and Singapore	285
15.1	Map of Macao	302
15.2	Holiday park in Taipa village	303
15.3	Picnicking in Coloane	304

## **Tables**

1.1	Selected Asian countries: Current population size	6
1.2	Selected Asian countries: Glossary of former names with year of change	7
1.3	Selected Asian countries: Glossary of vernacular names	8
1.4	Selected Asian countries: Current political status	8
1.5	Selected Asian countries: Human Development Index (HDI)	9
4.1	India: Domestic visitor volume	84
4.2	Population distribution on the basis of religions	88
4.3	Rural and urban distribution of Indian domestic tourists by origin and purpose (2002)	88
4.4	Relative ranking of states by purpose of visitation of Indian domestic tourists (2002–2003)	89
5.1	Domestic tourism centres during the socialist period in Mongolia	111
11.1	Domestic and foreign tourism targets	241
11.2	Distribution of target visitors within the Philippines (1000s)	241
11.3	Visitor arrivals in Puerto Galera (2000–2006)	244
12.1	Economic contribution of Sri Lankan tourism	256
12.2	Sri Lankan tourism arrivals in the regional context	257
12.3	Domestic visitors in Sri Lanka: Gross estimate (2003–2006)	260
14.1	Malaysia's domestic hotel guests by region (2003)	294

## **Boxes**

11.1	Each Filipino makes two trips and visits two places	238
11.2	Observance of holiday economics in the Philippines	242



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# Foreword

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Shalini Singh's research has always sought to fill in the gaps in academic work on tourism. In this eclectic collection, she has edited a volume of amazing variety. This time her focus is on the neglected area of domestic tourism, in general, and Asian domestic tourism, in particular.

Tourism as a field of academic enquiry blossomed with mass international tourism in the 1960s when wide-bodied jets made travel affordable for millions. Overlooked even then was the fact that for countries as different as the US and India most of the tourism was domestic. Moreover, the issues surrounding international tourism were primarily economic: the impact on the balance of trade; foreign exchange leakage; the ability of international tourists to make viable the attractions of the host country; and, of course, the multiplier effect and the impact of international travelers on employment.

While disciplines other than economics would take up the study of tourism and come to recognize its more problematic impacts, the focus remained on what international tourists were doing to, and for, the host nation and the impact of policy. Although pilgrimages, business travel and special events are acknowledged to have their share of domestic tourists, government planning and academic study have remained fixed on the international traveler. This is especially the case of Asian tourism, where attention is focused on tourists from European and North American countries.

This collection not only explicitly concentrates on domestic tourism in Asia, it also explores in breathtaking complexity the variety of motivations and types of forms this travel has assumed.

Undoubtedly, domestic tourism has been facilitated by the growing affluence in the region; but as these chapters demonstrate, domestic tourism in Asia has been neglected and overlooked in poorer nations because of the narrow stereotypical notions of what constitutes tourism and how even the impoverished may participate as visitors. Even ten years ago most researchers could not have imagined domestic tourism in Mongolia or Cambodia. The tiny land masses of Hong Kong or Singapore would have made us doubt the feasibility of their citizens escaping their urban environments by 'hill-walking' or the construction of artificial retreats from the city. This volume illustrates the incredible richness and variety that domestic tourism can take.

Singh has brought together an impressive array of scholars who use a wide range of methodologies to probe these divergences. This book is certain to

encourage greater research into this overlooked and rapidly developing phenomenon. One can expect further research in Asia, as well as the use of many of the techniques employed in this work to be employed in studies of other regions.

Moreover, future research – in part thanks to this book – can be expected to go beyond domestic tourism to the study of the increasing numbers of tourists who will be both domestic travelers and international tourists.

Ultimately, a healthy global tourism industry in the 21st century will be one that affords the citizen an opportunity to explore the sacred and the secular attractions within their own country, and the affluence to put those experiences in context through travel abroad.

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*January 2009*

# Preface

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Reflections of my school days enliven a sense of excited impatience. As the seasonal two-month closure drew nigh, the hot and dusty Indian summers would make it unbearable to follow the disciplining regimens of school schedules. But the weather could not detract from family travel plans or dampen our spirits. Almost everyone was 'going somewhere' – and if not, then they must be staying behind to host their visitors. Some had cleverly intertwined hosting with guest-ships in an itinerary ideally suited to their kind of extended 'family' of friends and relatives who need to be 'touched', if not rounded up at a single rendezvous.

My early-age travels were invariably consecrated to family holidays – journeying with family to relatives and friends or joining relatives on their homeward journeys. Their everyday locales converted into my tourism periphery, endowed with a seasonal second home and local-area amenities and attractions – iconic and commonplace, and relished by residents and visitors alike. Travelling to these places was no less a delight: the Indian railways served up a recreational travel and sightseeing itinerary. In particular, I nostalgically remember the 'toy' trains that would chug visitors and locals to and from Himalayan towns. Off we went to meet, visit, picnic and savour the change of place, make new friends and partake in the life and living of our hosts. These childhood travels are so vividly etched that I am perpetually grateful to my parents and our gamut of friends and relatives for all the fun we had back then.

Our early schooling years graduated into university life, during which family travels began to space out. Occasionally, these were interspersed with student group travels and tours. Now we travelled in larger numbers and farther away from friends and relatives. Despite the large group size, responsibilities and accountabilities imperceptibly crept into our experiences in strange ways. In the company of same-age fellow travellers, there is a tendency to negotiate and re-negotiate mutual compatibilities, both within and outside the collective. A brief list of warnings (actually 'don'ts' and penalties) formed our guiding principles. Straying away from these was an individual choice and brought potential disrepute for the trespasser. I am grateful to my springtime mentors for such precious learning opportunities.

Ironically, my quest for 'life' brought me to the Centre for Tourism Research and Development in Lucknow, India – a literal waterhole for tourism students. Here, I could acquaint myself with the wisdom of subject experts.

While, for the most part, I fell in line with their assertions, I often wondered what the ‘fuss’ over tourists and tourism was all about. In my minimal travel experiences, I could not recall any explicit commotion over places and people. It had been so simple. A sense of mutual respect and responsibility had always been my travel mantra, and I wore this talisman to academic conferences, nationally and internationally. The centre became my Mecca, where I was fulfilled by the exchanges on our own travels as well as by the readings. I continue to cherish those times and bonds established.

Budget, more than time, permitted international travel to conferences in Asian countries with relative affordability. On these occasions, I began to realize the *raison d'être* of the fuss over the ‘make-believe’ world of tourists and tourism. Reflecting back on my own travel experiences in my home country (India), I wondered if I had really been a ‘tourist’ in the literal sense of the word. I realize that although my in-country travels and visits were ‘ordinary’ trips, the getaways were not only a refreshing change, but also economically budgeted enriching times, which were spatially and temporally suited to my needs.

Now I live and work far from home and country, in Canada. During the summer months, I make my annual pilgrimage to my home in India. My stay in India (approximately three months) is interspersed with research-related travel and work, conference travel, and visits to friends and relatives, besides some family time. All of these engagements are recreative and enjoyable. It is always nice to return home after being away for some time.

On my recent return to Canada, the immigration official enquired after my destination and purpose for leaving the country, while scrutinizing my travel documents. My spontaneous response was: ‘I was in India – I was “visiting” home.’ Immediately, the officer demanded to know what I was doing in Canada. I paused before replying: ‘I live and work in Canada – I have a home here too!’ My Indian passport and my Canadian residency card validated my claims of dual residency. This makes me wonder if I qualify as a domestic tourist in both or either countries.



This book is inspired by my continuing bewilderment with the phenomenon of tourism. Despite the wealth of literature available on the subject, we seem to be missing a critical link – that of resident travels in one's own country. Two separate events have prompted this title. First, having completed an edited volume on *Tourism in Destination Communities* (CAB International, 2003), I realized that although the book strongly pleads and argues for a community orientation, specifically in regard to resident in-country leisure migrations, its purpose is defeated by the lack of our understanding of this aspect of tourism. Second, while co-editing a special issue of *Tourism Recreation Research* on domestic tourism in Asia in 2004, we were confronted with problems that could dampen the spirits of even the most impassioned. These crises led me to question whether there is any such thing as domestic tourism. However, having made a contribution to this themed edition, I realized that this arena was an un-traversed 'goldfield' – in want of attention from courageous explorers.

Since then the idea for an edited book on the theme began to grow upon me. Before taking the plunge, I sought the advice of professors T. V. Singh and Erik Cohen, who helped me to chisel the concepts further. The first call attracted some collaborators and strong appreciation for the proposal. I owe much to these early responses for strengthening my resolve. Headhunting fetched better outcomes. Although the soliciting and editing processes have been trying, there is no room for any complaints. Perhaps it behoves me to confess my obstinacy on certain accounts: I insisted on adhering to the conventional definition of domestic tourism – the 'in-country' travels of 'resident populations'. This overly simplistic criterion excluded 'diasporic' citizens and expatriates, regional tourists and other non-resident groups as these could blur the salience of native tourism. Readers may be disappointed by the absence of any contributions on or from Middle Eastern and Eurasian countries. Here was my second subjectivity – that of putting the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) classification to use in order to limit the study region and, hence, the omission of many of the so-called Asian countries. All possible measures were made to incorporate as many Asian nations within this book as possible. Despite all sincere efforts, some 'legitimate' countries such as Thailand, North and South Korea, Pakistan, Indonesia, Fiji, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Maldives sorely failed to be included here.

Throughout this book I intended to explore domestic leisure travel and holidaying in Asia, asking how different or similar are the vernacular travel styles and patterns from tourism, in general, and in what ways, if at all, does domestic tourism and its modern/international counterpart interface in Asian countries? These queries forced us to dig through historical-geographic records to generate scenarios from the past. Such a premise posed a genuine problem as many existing Asian countries have reconfigured political boundaries (generating new place names), let alone revolutionized cultures and



economies. Changes such as these altered my hypothesis to acknowledge that present-day tourism within Asia constitutes native and nativized elements. The contents of the book have been arranged in approximate compliance with this proposition.

This anthology describes our journey amongst the native peoples of Asian countries. As a result, an exhaustive itinerary must not be expected. But the volume certainly leads us along some untried paths that open into uncharted avenues for scholarly pursuit. I look forward to the furtherance of this initiative. For my part, I remain an inveterate sojourning domestic tourist in India.

# Acknowledgements

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The writing of this book has initiated fresh and fostered familiar acquaintances from Asia and beyond. This confluence of academics from within and outside tourism studies has been a source of encouragement and delight throughout the process. Together we formed a small and interesting bunch – to whom I extend my sincere gratitude.

A few named gurus have been influential in giving shape to my fragmentary ideas on the theme. Thanks are extended to Erik Cohen and T. V. Singh, both of whom examined my fuzzy ideas with patience and helped me to refine these into focus. T.V. Singh's consistent encouragement was particularly endearing. I am fortunate to have Linda Richter and John Walton join in to contribute their expertise. Linda's steadfastness, despite her calamitous circumstances, and the critical acuteness of John were heartening. At my workplace, Ann Marie Guilmette's long sufferance of my obsessions with this project deserves accolade – was it her fascination of my indulgence or that of the theme?

My earnest indebtedness is to the contributors: their belief in the theme and the book as a whole, alongside their patience, has made this publication a reality. I am especially enriched by the works of these researchers, many of whom I would never have known if it were not for this book. I would be remiss not to mention the role of TRINET (the Tourism Research Information Network) in bringing us together. Special thanks go to Margaret Swain and Jaap Lengkeek, whose attention to the introduction (Chapter 1) helped to bring out the nuances of the theme in the context of the region.

I am grateful for the small grant awarded to me by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC institutional) at Brock University, Canada, that went a long way in aiding the preparation of the manuscript. Loris Gasparrato deserves acknowledgement for lending cartographic assistance. Many thanks go to Ronald D'Souza for copyediting with assurance. Finally, I am pleased that Earthscan agreed to publish this work, for which I acknowledge Tim Hardwick and his team for their professional chaperonage.

I dedicate this collection to all holiday-seekers who journey near and far – much wisdom awaits those who sojourn their country: my respect for their quests.



# List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

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AFCD	Agricultural, Fishery and Conservation Department
AMRY	Association of Mongolian Revolutionary Youth
APSARA	Authority for the Protection of the Sites and Administration of Angkor
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ATA	Asuke Tourism Association
BTMICE	business travel meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions
CBT	community-based tourism
CECD	<i>Creative Economy Cultural Development Strategy</i>
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CITouR	Centre for International Tourism Research
DC-CAM	Documentation Centre of Cambodia
DOT	Philippine Department of Tourism
EMA	ecological mitigation area
EU	European Union
FSS	Film-in-Singapore Scheme
FUNCINPEC	Front Uni National pour un Cambodge Indépendant, Neutre, Pacifique et Coopératif
GDP	gross domestic product
GNH	gross national happiness
GNI	gross national income
GNP	gross national product
ha	hectare
HKFCA	Hong Kong Federation of Countryside Activities
HKHAC	Hong Kong Hiking Association China
HKTA	Hong Kong Tourist Association
HKWP	Hong Kong Wetland Park
HSDV	<i>Household Survey on Domestic Visitors</i>
km	kilometre
lb	pound
LTC	leave travel concession
m	metre
m <sup>2</sup>	square metre
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (Japan)

MCM	money–commodity–money
MRTT	Ministry of Road, Transport and Tourism (Mongolia)
MTPDP	<i>Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan</i>
NCR	National Capital Region (the Philippines)
NGO	non-governmental organization
NRI	non-resident Indian
PAP	People's Action Party
PAS	Parti Islam SeMalaysia
PRC	People's Republic of China
RORO	Roll-On Roll-Off programme
S\$	Singapore dollar
SARS	severe acute respiratory syndrome
SCC	social carrying capacity
SLR	single-lens reflex (camera)
SSHRC	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
STB	Singapore Tourism Board
STPB	Singapore Tourist Promotion Board
TAR	Tibetan Autonomous Region
TW\$	Taiwan dollar
TPO	Transcultural Psychosocial Organization
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations Commission on Human Rights
UNMO	United Malays National Organization
UNTAC	United Nations Transitional Authority of Cambodia
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
US	United States
VFR	visit(ing) friends and relatives
VNAT	Vietnam National Administration of Tourism
WTO	World Tourism Organization
WTTC	World Travel and Tourism Council

# Domestic Tourism: Searching for an Asianic Perspective

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*Shalini Singh*

## Introduction

Before tourism emerged as an international phenomenon, leisure jaunts and recreational travel were invariable adjuncts to people's way of life and living (Adler, 1989; Enzensberger, 1996). Most home-grown modes of travel and tours have more or less retained their popularity. Leisure migrations of pilgrims and other budget travellers, such as those visiting friends and relatives (VFR) and the culture, as well as health-seekers, are acknowledged illustrations of in-country travel practices. In this regard, therefore, the leisure travels of ordinary natives<sup>1</sup> within their own country have perpetuated strands of tradition into the New Millennium. Today, even as new traditions in travel and tourism are being formed, adopted or adapted, the *genius loci* continues to modify and determine suitable genres of tourism that withstand the test of time.

In the language of contemporary tourism, journeys and visits within a person's home country are discussed under domestic tourism. Given this simplistic criterion, and despite the absence of supportive data, domestic tourism can be assumed to far exceed its international counterpart in most countries of the world. Yet, from an academic and policy-making perspective, holiday and leisure travel in one's own country is, at best, a poor and under-valued cousin to international tourism – an established fact of all aspiring economies, and particularly true in the Asian region (Richter, 1989). Indeed, this is unfortunate since despite the apparent infrastructural and economic backwardness, domestic tourism is a ubiquitous feature of these countries, with ample economic and cultural significance. Its lack of visibility to researchers is questionable and raises a genuine concern for the disciplinary credibility of tourism (see Michaud, 1991; Hughes, 1992; Alneng, 2002; Aramberri, 2004; Gladstone, 2005; Young et al, 2007).

Not many scholars in tourism studies have engaged themselves in the

theme of domestic tourism, whereas relatively more social anthropologists, social historians and urban planners have all contributed to the field of domestic holiday-making and leisure travel, especially in Western Europe and the US. The reasons for such a dearth of literature on this subject are usually ascribed to a paucity of hard and reliable data, which, in turn, reflects deeper issues – namely, disagreement on a standard set of criteria, complex colloquial terminology and incongruent socio-cultural contexts (see Brown, 1935; Crick, 1989). In essence, diverse cultural entities may present variegated representations of domestic holidaying and travel. Nonetheless, despite awareness of scholarly neglect, few tourism academics have ‘braved’ an initiative into this arena. Some of the earlier known studies on domestic tourism present a genuine concern for the lacunae (Richter and Richter, 1985; Jafari, 1986; Hughes, 1992; Pearce, 1996). The few known studies on the topic of domestic tourism are reported in conjunction with international tourism (see, for example, Williams, 1979; Helleiner, 1990), while others may be considered to be need serving (by way of market studies or to inform policy) (Mitchell, 1969; Rian, 1969; Williams, 1979; Canadian Tourism Commission, 1996) or regionally based (Christaller, 1963; Clawson and Knetsch, 1963; Pigram, 1983; Verbeke, 1988; Williams and Balaz, 2001). More recently, some tourism journals have published special issues that have addressed the theme directly (*Annals of Tourism Research*, vol 13, 1986; *Tourism Recreation Research*, vol 29, 2004) or tangentially (e.g. the special issues of the *Journal of Tourism Studies* on VFR, *Tourism* on sacred and spiritual travel, and *Tourism Recreation Research* on tourism in developing countries – International Geographical Union 1988 papers). A few publications, such as the edited works of Harrison (2001) and Ghimire (2001), are peripheral attempts on the theme since they typically focus on the ‘less developed world’ and ‘developing countries’, respectively. A recent treatise, entitled *From Pilgrimage to Package Tour* by David Gladstone (2005) is an acclaimed contribution to the theme – in which the author justifies the title in his investigation of the ‘much, much larger universe of (domestic) tourists’ (Gladstone, 2005, p130) in low-income (also developing world) countries – namely, India and Mexico. Gladstone’s selection of the two locales identifies suitable exemplars for the theme. Likewise, any comprehensive study on domestic tourism would be considered inconclusive without a substantial, if not major, examination of Asian native holidaying and travel – a critically salient aspect of Asian tourism. Richter’s exploration of *The Politics of Tourism in Asia* (1989) is, indeed, a seminal work in this regard, as it brings into focus the unique circumstances that characterize the Asian countries. On a smaller canvas, two separate studies (Kaur, 1985; Singh, 1989) on the Indian Himalaya are legitimately professed claims on the topic. Most of these studies, particularly Gladstone’s, open up fresh avenues for exploration, as they challenge existing stagnant discourses in international tourism research.

Hence, two postulations prompt a comprehensive study on the theme of domestic tourism in Asia: first, the fact that native tourism in the non-Western world scarcely abides by the tenets or the language of international tourism (see Helleiner, 1990; Gladstone, 2005). Second, domestic tourism, particularly in Asia, is understood to constitute the largest, and most unaddressed, proportion of the tourism 'iceberg'. The following is an elaboration, however provisional, on some potential fields for investigation.

## **Making the case: Domestic tourism in Asia**

*Travel is one of the most ancient and common aspects of human life ... how do we justify historically isolating something called tourism from something that has always existed, as if it were something unique.* (Enzensberger, 1996, p122)

The basic premise to be explored here is that domestic tourism requires an Asian perspective, which acknowledges that it is typically fulfilled through the established practices and settings. Furthermore, quite unlike international/modern tourism that relies heavily on global systems, where researchers refer to super- and supra-structures as being crucial to its rituals, Asian domestic tourism seems to have evolved and sustained itself in the absence of heavy investments and commercialization as being vital to its rituals. Although domestic tourists require transport and safe shelter, their experience often emerges from the everyday environment of the place visited. Such settings tend to be the unpretentious by-product of the physical, economic, socio-cultural and political environment in which people conduct their everyday lives in intuitive ways. Jafari (1979, p4) refers to such *naturally charming, tourismagnetic gifts as background tourism elements* that are 'plentiful' and almost 'free' because they are founded on the distinctive character and flavour of place and people.

The 'natural charms' of ordinariness is, then, a visible expression and valuable source for developing an understanding of the character of the tourism phenomenon, as expressed through place (location attributes) and the resident community (community identity and values), together with the impact of the visitors in their interactions with these dimensions of a place, or vice versa. Furthermore, not only do the native visitors have the freedom to choose their leisure style, but the native hosts, too, have the necessary empowerment to partake of (instead of merely offering) their hospitality in their own terms. Often, residents can both offer and partake of the hospitality provided for tourists. For instance, residents and visitors eat in the same restaurants and enjoy the same space or events and festivities. Mongolia's *Naadam* festival celebration is an interesting example of such sharing (Thompson and



Matheson, 2008). Such informal exchanges are alien to large-scale international tourism and are worth scholarly exploration.

Systems of domestic tourism develop under the influence of various political regimes that impart their own quirks, affecting the commercial and collective provisioning of tours and travelling inhabitants of those countries (e.g. Lee, 2006; Michaud and Turner, 2006). Native holidaying may oscillate between or constitute a combination of self-provisioning by way of privately owned second homes and/or the homes of relatives and friends, and collective facilities in the public and quasi-public sectors, and the commercial sector, whether large or small scale. The 'big picture' of the range of provisioning and facilitation brings to light the purpose and approach with which governments envisage and embrace the phenomenon, both for its nationals and for those from other countries. Frequently, the quality gap between the provisions for resident hosts and native guests tends to be lesser than that between the national hosts and international guests, as envisaged by the governance. Admittedly, such combinations are all too common regionally and globally.

Another distinguishing feature of domestic tourism is that it displays people's ability to negotiate interchanges based on their own value judgements without getting trapped in the formalized tourism system. This negotiation not only enables an understanding of the aspirations and traditions of hosts, but also delineates the changes and continuities in value systems that impart character to social groups. Involvement and participation of locals in tourism processes provide the most desirable contexts for the sustainable progress of people and places.

Finally, the economic viability of holidays and travels among natives is often more appealing than that of international tourism. Frequently, these not only eschew mega-investments; more importantly, the monetary exchanges, however small, occur directly at the grassroots level with the local provider. These and other socio-cultural, environmental and politico-economic potentials of domestic tourism justify academic investments in this particular topic.

## **The Asian context**

While it must be acknowledged that studying 'conventionally stylized ways' (Adler, 1989, p1366) of domestic tourism across continents is acknowledged to be a Herculean venture of encyclopaedic proportion, a pragmatic approach dictates a continent-wise handling of the theme. Cochrane's (2008, pxix) personal experience of the marvellously complex, challenging and charming 'way of life in Asia' is a fair assertion, albeit inconclusive for the purpose. Subsequently, the choice of the Asian region as a starting point can be argued for specific reasons, providing as it does an opportunity both for an introductory overview and for a comparison and contrast between countries.

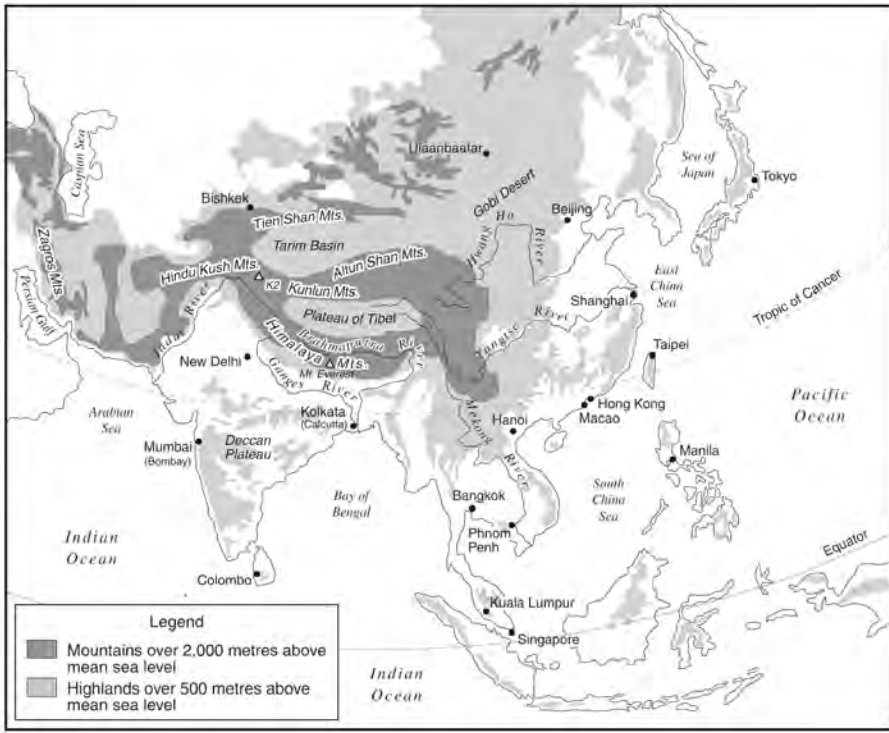


**Table 1.1** *Selected Asian countries: Current population size*

	<b>Country</b>	<b>Population</b>
1	People's Republic of China (mainland)	1,322,597,000
2	India	1,131,043,000
3	Indonesia	231,627,000
4	Pakistan	161,998,000
5	Bangladesh	158,665,000
6	Japan	127,718,000
7	Philippines	88,706,300
8	Vietnam	87,375,000
9	Thailand	62,828,706
10	Burma	48,798,000
11	South Korea	48,512,000
12	Nepal	28,196,000
13	Malaysia	27,544,000
14	North Korea	23,790,000
15	Taiwan	22,935,000
16	Sri Lanka	19,299,000
17	Kazakhstan	15,422,000
18	Cambodia	14,444,000
19	Hong Kong	7,206,000
20	Laos	5,859,000
21	Kyrgyzstan	5,317,000
22	Singapore	4,436,000
23	Mongolia	2,629,000
24	Bhutan	658,000
25	Macau	481,000
26	Maldives	306,000

Source: Population and Development in the UN System, [www.un.org/esa/population/index.html](http://www.un.org/esa/population/index.html)

Second, the region enjoys a distinctive reputation for its geophysical, socio-cultural, economic, historical and political attributes. Geographically, Asia is not only the largest continent, but is also endowed with the highest peaks, coldest deserts, broadest mountain ranges and a very extensive coastline (see Figure 1.2). More important still is the exuberance of Asia's historical and cultural diversity, socio-political mosaic and economic heterogeneity. Each of its countries is a compendium of numerous languages, dialects and ways of life. Although the Asian region is home to the two oldest civilizations – Indus Valley and Huang He – many of its countries share a common political history of European colonialism. The region's colonial history is a significant benchmark in its tourism history, especially in regard to the hill stations of the British Raj, the seaside/beach resorts of Cambodia, Vietnam, Japan and even China. The entire region thus boasts of ancient and recent patrimonies of living and historic significance (see Tables 1.2 to 1.4).



**Figure 1.2** Asia: Major physiographic features

Source: Shalini Singh

**Table 1.2** Selected Asian countries: Glossary of former names with year of change

Previous name	Year	Current name
Persian Empire	1935	Republic of Iran
Siam	1939	Kingdom of Thailand
Republic of Formosa	1945	Taiwan
Dutch East Indies	1949	Republic of Indonesia
French Indo-China	1949	Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Malaya, Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore	1963	Malaysia
East Pakistan	1971	People's Republic of Bangladesh
West Pakistan	1971	Republic of Pakistan
Ceylon	1972	Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Democratic Kampuchea	1975	Kingdom of Cambodia
Burma	1989	Union of Myanmar
Kirghizia (USSR)	1991	Republic of Kyrgyzstan

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia#Country\\_name\\_changes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia#Country_name_changes)

**Table 1.3** *Selected Asian countries: Glossary of vernacular names*

Common name	Vernacular name
People's Republic of Bangladesh	<i>Gônoprojatontri Bangladesh</i>
Kingdom of Bhutan	<i>Druk Yul or Dru Găkhap</i>
Burma (also Union of Myanmar)	<i>Pyi-daung-zu Myan-ma Naing-ngan-daw</i>
Kingdom of Cambodia	<i>Preăh Réachéanachâkr Kâmpŭchea</i>
People's Republic of China	<i>Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó</i>
Republic of India	<i>Bhārat Gaṇarājya</i>
Indonesia	<i>Republik Indonesia</i>
Japan	<i>Nihon-koku</i>
Kazakhstan	<i>Qazaqstan Respublikası</i>
Kyrgyzstan	<i>Kyrgyz Respublikasi</i>
Laos, PDR	<i>Sathalanalat Paxathipatai Paxaxon Lao</i>
Maldives	<i>Divehi Rāje ge Jumhuriyyā</i>
Mongolia	<i>Mongol uls</i>
Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal	<i>Sanghiya Loktāntrik Ganatantra Nepāl</i>
North Korea	<i>Chosŏn Minjujuŭi Inmin Konghwaguk</i>
Islamic Republic of Pakistan	<i>Islāmī Jumhūriyah Pākistān</i>
Republic of the Philippines	<i>Republika ng Pilipinas</i>
South Korea	<i>Daehanminguk</i>
Taiwan (also Republic of China)	<i>Jhonghuá Mínguó</i>
Kingdom of Thailand	<i>Ratcha Anachak Thai</i>
Socialist Republic of Vietnam	<i>Cộng hòa xã hội chủ nghĩa Việt Nam</i>

*Note:* some countries such as the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Macau (SAR), Hong Kong (SAR) and Singapore are not distinctly identified in their vernacular language.

*Source:* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia>

**Table 1.4** *Selected Asian countries: Current political status*

Country	Since	Country	Since
Japan	660 BC	Macau	1949
Mongolia	1206	India	1950
The Philippines	1521	Cambodia	1953
Nepal	1768	Malaysia	1963
Bhutan	1907	Maldives	1965
Indonesia	1945	Singapore	1965
Pakistan	1947	Bangladesh	1971
Korea	1948	Sri Lanka	1972
Laos	1949	Kyrgyzstan	1991
People's Republic of China	1949	Kazakhstan	1991
Taiwan	1949	Hong Kong	1997

*Source:* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia>