

Sports tourism

Sports tourism, or more correctly, **Sport Tourism** refers to travel which involves either observing or participating in a sporting event staying apart from their usual environment. Sport tourism is a fast-growing sector of the global travel industry and equates to \$7.68 billion.



Classification of sport tourism

There are several classifications on sport tourism. Gammon and Robinson suggested that the sports tourism are defined as Hard Sports Tourism and Soft Sports Tourism, while Gibson suggested that there are three types of sports tourism included Sports Event Tourism, Celebrity and Nostalgia Sport Tourism and Active Sport tourism.



Hard and soft sport tourism

The “hard” definition of sport tourism refers to the quantity of people participating at a competitive sport events. Normally these kinds of events are the motivation that attract visitors visits the events.

The “SOFT” definition of sports tourism is when the tourist travels to participate in recreational sporting, or signing up for leisure interests. Hiking, Skiing and Canoeing can be described as soft sports tourism. Perhaps the most common form of soft sports tourism involves Golf to destinations in Europe and the United States. A large number of people are interested in playing some of the world`s greatest and highest ranked courses, and take great pride in checking those destinations off of their list of places to visit.



Sport events tourism

Sport event tourism refers to the visitors who visit a city to watch events. The two events that attract the most tourists worldwide are the Olympics and the FIFA World Cup. These events are held once every four years, in a different city in the world. Sports tourism in the United States is more focused on events that happen annually. The newest trend in college basketball is to start the season off with annual tournaments such as the Maui Invitational held in Hawaii, and the Battle for Atlantis which is played in the Bahamas. Sports tourism is a growing market and many different cities and countries want to be involved.



