Primate Tourism

A Tool for Conservation?

Primate tourism is a growing phenomenon, with increasing pressure coming from several directions: the private sector, governments, and conservation agencies. At the same time, some primate sites are working to exclude or severely restrict tourism because of problems that have developed as a result. Indeed, tourism has proven costly to primates due to factors such as disease, stress, social disruption, vulnerability to poachers, and interference with rehabilitation and reintroduction.

Bringing together interdisciplinary expertise in wildlife/nature tourism and primatology, experts present and discuss their accumulated experience from individual primate sites that are open to tourists, formal studies of primate-focused tourism, and trends in nature and wildlife tourism. Chapters offer species- and site-specific assessments, weighing conservation benefits against costs, and suggest strategies for the development of informed guidelines for ongoing and future primate tourism ventures.

Primate Tourism has been written for primatologists, conservationists, and other scientists. It is also relevant to tourists and tourism professionals.

Anne E. Russon is a Professor of Psychology at Glendon College, York University, Toronto, Canada, whose research focuses on learning and intelligence in captive Bornean orangutans. She is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board to the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (Indonesia) and several orangutan conservation agencies. She has edited two volumes for Cambridge University Press: with D.R. Begun, The Evolution of Thought: Evolution of Great Ape Intelligence (2004) and with K. Bard and S. Parker, Reaching into Thought: The Minds of the Great Apes (1996).

Janette Wallis has published extensively on a wide range of issues in primatology, including conservation. Currently, she is the Editor of the African Conservation Telegraph, the newsletter of the Society for Conservation Biology – Africa Section, and the Budongo Forest Research Station’s newsletter. She is on the board of directors for the Society for Conservation Biology – Africa Section, and Vice President for Conservation for the International Primatological Society. Previously, she has served as the Series Editor of the American Society of Primatologists’ book series.
Primate Tourism

A Tool for Conservation?

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