

Arctic Tourism: Past, Present and Future

Opening the Arctic Seas:
Envisioning Disasters and Framing Solutions

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Two Centuries of Arctic Tourism



1807 Arctic travel guides and journals are published for:

- Mountaineers
- Anglers
- Hunters
- "Knapsack" Adventurers



1850's Mass tourism enabled by:

- Steamships
- Railroads
- Increased personal wealth
- More leisure time

Arctic Tourism Industry Now Very Diverse



- Mass Tourism
- Sport Fishing & Hunting
- Nature Tourism
- Adventure Tourism
- Cultural Tourism



Economic Importance of Arctic Tourism

- Arctic economies rely on tourism for sales revenue, jobs, personal income, and public finance revenues.
 - Norway: 370,000 cruise passengers visited Norway in 2007, double the number that arrived in 2000. Svalbard had 45 cruise calls, 17 more than in 2006.
 - Iceland: tourism is nation's second largest industry with annual growth of 9 % since 1990
 - Canada: Cruise ships doubled in 2006, from 11 to 22. Inuit-owned Cruise North Expeditions will enter market with 2008 trips to Ellesmere Island.
 - Russia: Northern Sea Route, White and Barents Seas now have cruise tourism. Kamchatka and Kola Peninsulas offer wildlife tours.
 - Alaska: 2007 cruise visitor volume was 1,029,800. This is an increase of 7.3 percent to between 2006 and 2007.
- Tourism development is goal for Greenland, Nunavut, Manitoba, Yukon, Sami, Russian Federation, and Native Alaskan economies.

Human Impacts of Arctic Tourism



Magnitude

- The single largest human presence in the Arctic are tourists.
- Tourists now exceed their host populations at ALL destinations.
- Majority travel by ship.

Social Issues

- Communities seasonally transformed
- Emergency and law enforcement resources strained.
- Social institutions often overwhelmed

Tourist Perceptions

- No terror threats in the Arctic
- Climate change publicity is priceless advertising.
- Response to scarcity – see the Arctic and its wildlife before it is “lost”.



Cultural Resource Conservation: A Difficult Challenge

Economic Benefits

- Provides jobs, income, government revenues.
- Provides on-site market for numerous Native products.
- Cultural preservation of native arts, language and practices.
- Participation in the market economy.



Cultural Impacts

- Additional tourists further stress increasingly scarce natural resources.
- Stressed resources results in stressed ways of life.



The Future: "Reduced Barriers to Entry"

Improved Access

- Reduced amount and duration of Arctic sea ice
- Weather conditions becoming more tolerable
- Improved transport technologies
- New and expanding infrastructure

Cost of Travel

- Increasingly affordable
- More personal wealth to facilitate travel

Time to Travel

- More leisure time
- Large population now entering retirement.

Jurisdictional Constraints Removed

- Allowable entry replacing prohibited access
- Closure of military bases and reduced security restrictions.

Allowable Entry Replaces Prohibited/Difficult Access



Allowable tourism entry, primarily motivated by economic development, strongly promotes Arctic regions that were previously inaccessible.

New entrants include:

- Russia
- Greenland
- Nunavut

Future Impacts Of Reduced "Barriers To Entry"

- Growing number of Arctic destinations.
- Length of seasons expanding.
- Duration of the tourist visit increasing.
- Collectively, the result will be
 - larger numbers of tourists
 - spending more time
 - in more locations.

New Destinations: North Pole, Northwest Passage, Northern Sea Route, Wildlife Habitats, and Heritage Sites



- 1984 the *Lindblad Explorer* pioneered tourism through the Northwest Passage.
- Since then, new polar routes transited by ice breakers, private yachts, charter vessels, and even submersibles.

Transits well documented in publications by Brigham, Armstrong, and Ellis.

Polar Tourism Marine Incidents



2007 *Explorer* sinks during Antarctic polar tourism cruise.

Marine Incidents Involving Polar Cruise Ships

MARINE INCIDENT	TOTAL EVENTS	EVENTS SINCE 2000	PERCENT SINCE 2000
Polar Cruise Ships Sunk, 1979 – 2007	8	5	63 %
Polar Cruise Ships Running Aground, 1972 – 2007	27	16	59 %
Pollution and Environmental Violations, 1992 – 2007	40	18	45 %
Disabling by Collisions, Fires, Propulsion Loss, 1979 - 2007	28	22	79 %

SOURCES: Public Media Sources, Ross A. Klein, Ph.D., and www.cruisejunkie.com

Summary of Cruise Ship Illness Outbreaks, 2002 - 2007

<u>Year</u>	<u># of Reports</u>	<u>Total Sick</u>
<u>2002</u>	43	3530
<u>2003</u>	44	3556
<u>2004</u>	42	3675
<u>2005</u>	35	4674
<u>2006</u>	54	6815
<u>2007</u>	33 (7 Polar Cruises)	4166

Can Arctic infrastructure respond to this incident?

SOURCE: United States Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Arctic Environmental Contaminants: New Human Exposures

Tourist exposure to Arctic environmental contaminants is an issue receiving little attention. Examples include:

- Cold War Legacy: Numerous contaminants, often located in isolated caches. Leakage is a serious environmental threat and exposure to those toxins is hazardous.
- Historic Structures: Abandoned canneries, whaling and sealing stations, and explorers' huts are simultaneously tourist attractions and health threats.
- Soviet Union's Environmental Pollution: Tourists potentially exposed to contaminants now that the Arctic's largest land mass seeks to attract tourism.

Navigating the Future



SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT HARM

- Information for Safe Operations
 - Ice Conditions
 - Weather
 - Hydrographic Charts
 - LRIT Long Range Identification and Tracking
- Guidelines for Safe Operations
 - IMO Guidelines for ships operating in Arctic ice covered waters (Govt.)
 - Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators Guidelines (Industry)
 - WWF Arctic: Ten Principles for Arctic Tourism (NGO)
- Infrastructure
 - Environmental Incidence Response
 - Ports
 - Search and Rescue
 - Medical Evacuation & Care
 - Navigational Aids
 - Salvage
 - Waste Disposal
- Human Resources
 - Mariners
 - Ice Navigators
 - Emergency Service Providers
 - Maintenance Personnel
 - Environmental Managers and Monitors

ARCTIC TOURISM: THE FUTURE IS NOW

GREENLAND CRUISE TOURISM: 2006

No. of calls = 157

No. different ships = 28

Total Cruise Tourists = 22,051

Greenland's Population: 56,901



"Tourism is growing – and a feeling of optimism generally pervades the tourist industry. However, this optimism is not shared at all places along the coast. A political decision needs to be made on the future of the country's infrastructure and thereby under which conditions the tourist industry can expect to be able to develop within the coming years."

Sources: Greenland Port Statistics for 2006;

Greenland Tourism & Business Council, 2006 Annual Report