

Book Review

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TOURISM AND RECREATION IN MARINE ENVIRONMENTS. Editor: Michael Lück. CABIPublishing, Nosworthy Way Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 8DE UK, 2008. ISBN 9781845933500, 590 pp.

Marine wildlife tourism is spreading around the world. Watching whales, encountering sharks, scuba diving, and snorkeling nowadays are so widespread that almost all of us have already taken part in one of the manifold activities connecting our landlocked lifestyle to the seas. But aren't there many more aspects connected to marine tourism? Yes, there are indeed, and having the *Encyclopedia of Tourism and Recreation in Marine Environments* in front of you makes it clear immediately how many there are.

This almost 600 page, hard-cover volume is massive. It is a heavy—but still compact and robust—book with a widespread accumulation of innumerable catchwords around tourism and recreation at, in, and on the seas. Editor Michael Lück, well known in the field and for his previous books, such as *Nautical Tourism Development* or *Marine Wildlife and Tourism Management* (with co-editor James Higham), did a great job in collecting contributions from an impressive total of no less than 175 authors from very different disciplines, very many authors of whom are well-known experts in their field. Lück states at the beginning that “the sheer amount of entries and the many authors make this work special” (page V). He is right.

The editor himself has a strong background in tourism management. This is reflected by many contributions which deal with or relate to, respectively, this special topic. It also contributes to the overall impression that this encyclopedia—between the lines—generally deals with environmental issues as well as ways and means at how to reach ecological sustainability in the area of marine tourism. This is clearly of great value.

A large proportion of the entries directly relate to certain geographical areas and highlight their relation to marine tourism. This will be helpful for readers coming from a geographical background. Another emphasis is laid on the nautical realm. Be it the descriptions of vessel types or the mention of according events, the *Encyclopedia* serves as a practical handbook for basic terms. That also applies to a great variety of entries referring to biological issues (e.g., certain species, genera, or habitat types) and their relatedness to tourism and recreation.

Moreover, we can find a wealth of organizations dealing with marine conservation, as well as—most importantly!—the description of international agreements and conventions dealing with the world seas and oceans. This in itself can be used to get detailed insight into national and international efforts for the conservation of the marine environment.

The book is clearly laid out and well structured with texts printed in two columns. Although it is not difficult to locate individual entries, a visual register at the pages' edge would have been useful, too. To facilitate finding interrelations between paragraphs, the book uses bold letters highlighting cross-references to linked entries. Both the reference and the further reading sections are extensive, substantive, and contemporary. The further reading section could practically have been divided in books and articles but that is only a side note. On the other hand, the inclusion of websites almost everywhere where possible constitutes its own further reading sector. In times of the ever present Internet this way, of connecting the book to Web-based sources is necessary and is realized in an excellent way. Therefore, the *Encyclopedia* is a very handy tool to facilitate your own research on a special topic. This hugely contributes to its great value—in a very practical way.

Finally, there is a somewhat unknown logic in the distribution of figures throughout the volume. Sometimes they appear to have been included in a rather incomprehensible way, whereas some sections may have earned one or the other more sophisticated diagram or graph. Also, there appear to miss some basic terms (while there are a lot of them included). E.g., we do find an entry for water, but none for sea water. Likewise, the American Cetacean Society as an organization is included, but not so the European Cetacean Society. Also, I was wondering why South Africa as a major marine tourism destination is not highlighted in a separate entry.

But, to state it clear, the fact that I was beginning to search for dedicated entries in the way I did already speaks for the volume itself. Having it in your hands, you immediately think that there must be something said about almost everything with a relation to marine tourism. In far most of the cases, the *Encyclopedia* fulfills this expectation—and thus comes up to what you would want to see in an encyclopedia like this one. Therefore, I can wholeheartedly recommend this valuable book.

Fabian Ritter