

TOPIC: HEALTH AND TOURISM WELNESS

TYPE OF PAPER: Essay

Discipline: Healthcare and life sciences

Format or citation style: APA

Pages: 4pages

Student name:

Professor's name:

Course title:

Date:

VOLCANO TOURISM

Volcano tourism has been seen to have grown exponentially over the years. Thousands of tourists travel to volcanic sites like Hawaii where they can see volcanic eruptions occur. Volcanic tourism involves volcano enthusiasts visiting mountains that are currently erupting and get the opportunity to watch lava erupt from the earth as well as the thick ash and smoke that accompanies it. Volcanic reactions are known to occur as a result tectonic plate movement that occurs beneath the surface of the earth consequently, resulting in the increase in pressure hence causing the eruption of lava to occur (Nomura, & Yano, 2004).

There are several forms of volcano tourism pegged on the different kinds of volcanoes that exist in the present world. Volcanoes are not formed equally they vary in size, style of volcanic eruption, shape, and components. There are three most popular types of volcanoes namely; composite volcanoes, cinder cone volcanoes, and lastly shield volcanoes.

Composite volcanoes

Composite volcanoes identified as one of the steepest as well as the most common type of volcano worldwide. They are also referred to as stratovolcanoes due to their layered composition ranging from pyroclastic material to lava and ash (Nomura, & Yano, 2004). Composite volcanoes are found in hilly regions such as Mount Fuji that is located in the highlands of Japan and Mount Vesuvius found in Italy. The volcanoes are also known to

form mountains at a convergent plate boundary due to the internal pressure of the magma beneath. Mount Fuji has over the years identified as one of the most popular destination for volcano tourists. Its most current eruption took place in the year 1707 whereby it resulted in catastrophic damages as the lava from the mountain trickled down and burnt the adjacent farmyards and destroyed settlements for the people who resided at the edge of the mountain. Mount Fuji has also grown to become a popular destination for rock climbers (Nomura, & Yano, 2004). In equal measure, Mount Vesuvius was also known to have resulted in the loss of thousands of lives and destruction of a lot of property. The ash emitted during the eruption reduced visibility to only a few meters and as a result, many people developed respiratory complications. The outbreak of this mountain took place in 79 BC- and remembered as one of the most dangerous eruptions that have ever occurred (Nomura, & Yano, 2004).

Shield volcano

Shield volcanoes, as the name suggests, are named after their physical appearance which resembles a shield. They are usually expansive and have gentle slopes. This type of volcano produces smooth flowing lava which flows down its curves and given that lava takes a long time to cool down; it ends up occupying quite a large distance in the end. The shield volcano successfully forms after several years of volcanic eruptions that build up to form the great feature. It would prove important to note that eruptions in shield volcanoes are normally not explosive, but rather lava oozes out through vents on the side. If the eruption is taking place next to a body of water and the magma mixes with the water, there tends to form a fountain effect. Violent eruptions of shield volcanoes are good. A good illustration of a shield volcano is Mount Loa, which situated in Hawaii (Nomura, & Yano, 2004).

Cinder cone volcanoes

Cinder cone volcanoes are mostly made up of huge and block like fragments. They are usually quite steep and adopt a conical shape. During the eruptions of cinder cone volcanoes, massive remains of lava plummet closer to the vent while smaller debris further downhill. Over a period of several eruptions, ash and lava tend to bind together and form layers which give the mountain quite a gentle incline which becomes increasingly steeper as you go higher. Cinder cone volcanoes appear on the edge of shield volcanoes or composite volcanoes. They may also appear on their own with a centered vent. Cinder cone volcanoes are known to have pyroclastic eruptions which occur as a result of the buildup of ash and very high temperatures from the magma beneath causing it to expand and boil the surface rock that is holding it within and the lava explodes out and flows down its slopes. Lava shot out of a cinder cone is recorded to release very high velocity of up to 200 kilometers per hour. An illustration of a cinder cone volcano is Cerro Negro located in Mexico

(Nomura, & Yano, 2004). Despite the Marvel and spectacular scenes that volcano tourism has to offer, several risks accompany it. One of the risks is that during the occurrence of an eruption, the tourists may severely get burnt by the lava which is known to be over a thousand degrees hot. Hence causing a great danger to the visitors and surrounding vegetation and settlements established around the mountain (Heggie, W,2009).

Another risk to put into consideration is the ash produced during the eruption process. This ash is known to cause respiratory tract infections as well as permanent lung damage to humans (Heggie, W,2009). The ash also takes quite some time to clear off the air hence restricting visibility which might prove quite a challenge if there neighboring roads to the mountain. When the lava finally cools down, it is usually not very stable, and small fragments may be chipping off. This cause challenge for tourists who embrace rock climbing since their supports will not be firm on the rocks hence increasing their chances of falling (Heggie, W,2009).

In conclusion, volcano tourism has grown in popularity all over the world and has significantly contributed to the economies of countries that are privileged to have such unique features. To ascertain that the flow of volcano tourists is maintained, safety precautions should be retained to ensure that no dangers are posed to the tourists and they confidently visit the various volcanic sights all over the world. Additionally, proper and constant advocacy on safety information should be stressed on so as to inform volcano tourists on how best to avoid sustaining injuries when visiting the various volcanic sites. Sites in which the various volcanic features are located should also be well maintained so as to ensure that the sites are not exposed to pollution which might compromise the beauty and integrity of the amazing sites. The public should be sensitized on the importance of conserving the various volcanic sites around the world.

Reference

Heggie, T. W. (2009). Geotourism and volcanoes: health hazards facing tourists at volcanic and geothermal destinations. *Travel Medicine and Infectious Disease*, 7(5), 257-261.

Nomura, K., Yamaoka, K., Okano, T., & Yano, E. (2004). Risk perception, risk-taking attitude, and hypothetical behavior of active volcano tourists. *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment*, 10(3), 595-604

