

# 4

## Nature and Time

*Adele Doran and Seonyoung Kim*

---

### Learning outcomes

---

This chapter will provide you with:

1. A basic understanding of how nature-based tourism is defined and an awareness of related types of tourism.
  2. Knowledge on the motivations of nature tourists and what is driving demand.
  3. An appreciation of how the temporal dimensions of wildlife migration, valuing time in nature and vanishing natural resources, contribute to the attraction of nature-based tourism.
- 

### Introduction

Following on from the previous chapter's focus on climate and natural seasons, the purpose of this chapter is to explore the rich complexity of inter-relationships between nature and tourism, from temporal constructs. It will define nature-based tourism and explore what is driving demand. It will illustrate how temporal natural wildlife migrations and natural phenomena influence tourism demand. It will also assess how concern over vanishing natural resources is inducing some tourists to rush to visit before they are gone or irreversibly changed. Finally, it will examine the relationship between nature-based tourism and the temporal practices of slow tourism.

## Defining nature tourism

Nature-based tourism is tourism centred on the natural attractions or resources of an area. The term is closely associated with other types of tourism, such as ecotourism, adventure tourism, wildlife tourism, and wilderness tourism (see Table 4.1). Although these types of tourism often take place in the same environment (e.g., national parks, nature reserves, protected areas) and the terms are often used interchangeably, it should be noted that there is an ongoing debate about the definitions of and relations between these different types of tourism.

**Table 4.1:** Defining nature-based tourism and other related forms of tourism

Typology	Definition	Example activities
Ecotourism	“Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and creates knowledge and understanding through interpretation and education of all involved: visitors, staff and the visited” (Global Ecotourism Network, 2016).	Guided forest walks, mountain gorilla trekking, wildlife conservation volunteering holidays, Reforestation volunteering holidays
Adventure tourism	Trips that include “at least two of the following three components: a physical activity, natural environment, and cultural immersion” (Adventure Travel Trade Association, cited in UNWTO, 2014, p.10).	Walking, hiking, cycling, canoeing, kayaking, sky diving, bungee jumping, caving, rock climbing, trekking, mountaineering, snowboarding, skiing
Wildlife tourism	“Observing animals in their natural environment is the main purpose. This includes both land-based and water-based environments. The focus is on observation (wildlife watching tourism), but it can also involve interaction such as touching or feeding animals” (CBI, 2017).	Bird watching, safari tours, whale watching
Wilderness tourism	“travel to remote destinations throughout the world that may be designated wilderness, national park or other protected area” (Intel, 2014).	Trekking, camping and caravanning, canoeing, kayaking