Antarctic Tourism Graphics

An overview of tourism activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area
ANTARCTIC TOURISM GRAPHICS

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Submitted to the XXVIII ATCM by
the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition and
the United Nations Environment Programme
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I. INTRODUCTION

The objective of this paper is to graphically provide an overview of tourism activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area, informing Antarctic Treaty Parties on the type, level, geographical distribution and trends in tourism activities, and thus complementing the statistical data provided by the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO) and Ushuaia-based Instituto Fueguino de Turismo (Infuetur).1

II. METHODOLOGY

The focus of the paper is current Antarctic tourism activities, largely based on the 2003-04 season for which the best data set existed at the time of writing. Statistical data for the 2003-04 season were derived from the IAATO2 and Infuetur3 websites. Other sources of information used are articles recently published in peer-reviewed journals and Antarctic Treaty documentation.

The names of the sites visited by tourists are those used in the IAATO reports. The geographical coordinates of these sites were obtained from various sources, including:

- British Antarctic Territory Gazetteer;4
- United States Geological Survey Geographic Names Information System – Antarctica;5
- Australian Antarctic Gazetteer;6 and,
- SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica.7

Separate graphics were produced for tourist visits to sites of historical interest, and sites where activities such as climbing, camping, scuba-diving and kayaking were taking place.

1 ASOC and UNEP would like to thank Mr. Ricardo Roura for conceptualising the paper, Mr. Christian Lambrechts for producing the graphics and Dr. Tina Tin and Dr. Alan Hemmings for their contribution.
2 http://www.iaato.org
3 http://www.tierradelfuego.org.ar/antartida/cruceros
4 http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/Resources/APC/gazetteer
5 http://geonames.usgs.gov/anform.html
7 http://www3.pnra.it/SCAR_GAZE
In addition, a set of maps was generated to highlight the states in which Antarctic seaborne tourists originate, Antarctic tourism operators are located, and vessels engaged in Antarctic tourism are flagged. These maps were based on information available from IAATO and Infuetur.

To complement the above information, trends in Antarctic seaborne tourists between 1957-58 and 2003-04 is also presented.

III. OVERVIEW OF THE 2003-04 SEASON

The 2003-04 season was the one with the largest number of shipborne tourists since Antarctic tourism began in 1957 (Figure 1).

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The total number of passengers, staff and crew entering the Antarctic Treaty Area during 2003-04 was over 43,000 people (Table 1).^9

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Table 1 – Summary of the 2003-04 Antarctic tourism season (IAATO)\textsuperscript{10}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Passengers</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Crew</th>
<th>Total people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landed</td>
<td>19,771</td>
<td>1,563</td>
<td>12,075</td>
<td>33,409 (76%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruise Only</td>
<td>4,939</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2,530</td>
<td>7,479 (17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overflights</td>
<td>2,827</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2,849 (7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>27,537</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,573</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,627</strong></td>
<td><strong>43,737 (100%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The port of Ushuaia, Argentina, handles approximately 90 percent of Antarctic shipborne passengers. The 2003-04 season in Ushuaia can be summarised as follows:\textsuperscript{11}

- The operating season was 141 days (7 November 2003 - 26 March 2004).
- Twenty-five ships operated out of Ushuaia.\textsuperscript{12}
- These 25 ships conducted 157 trips to the Antarctic (28 percent/34 trips more than in the previous season), and the largest number of trips recorded.
- 75 percent of the trips (117) began and ended in Ushuaia; 22 percent (35) ended or started in Ushuaia; 3 percent (5) used Ushuaia only as a stopover.
- Ship capacity ranged between 46 and 1,200 passengers. Over 50 percent of the passengers travelled in ships of more than 300 passengers (Table 2).
- Thirteen of the ships were flagged in Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties (ATCPs); twelve were flagged in non-treaty states (Figure 2).
- Total seaborne passengers were estimated at 22,817 (an estimate 51 percent/7,731 passengers more than in the previous season).

Table 2 – Ship sizes through Ushuaia (Infuetur)\textsuperscript{13}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ship capacity n\textdegree passengers</th>
<th>Cruises n\textdegree (%)</th>
<th>Passengers n\textdegree (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-100</td>
<td>56 (36%)</td>
<td>2,683 (12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101-300</td>
<td>71 (45%)</td>
<td>7,150 (32%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 300</td>
<td>30 (19%)</td>
<td>12,984 (56%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>157</strong></td>
<td><strong>22,817</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{12} Excluding small vessels such as yachts.
\textsuperscript{13} Infuetur (2004) op.cit. at 12.
IV. ANTARCTIC TOURISM GRAPHICS

Ten maps were produced to show the level and geographical distribution in tourism activities. The maps are appended to the report.

Map 1 shows the distribution of all types of Antarctic tourism during the 2003-04 season. The map does not show tourism overflights.

It may be worth noting that a number of national programme facilities in Antarctica have been used to manage and/or support tourism activities. They include:

- Historic Site and Monument 61, “Base A”, Port Lockroy;\(^\text{15}\)
- Visitor Information Centre and nature trail at Arctowksi Station;\(^\text{16}\)
- Hard-rock airstrip at Fildes Peninsula, King George Island;\(^\text{17}\)

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\(^{14}\) Id. at 12.
\(^{16}\) Id. at 11.
• Some national programme facilities in Antarctica provide services such as postal services and commercial facilities (souvenir shops) that are also used by tourists.\textsuperscript{18}
• In the past, accommodation has been provided to tourists in a hotel built in 1983 at Fildes Station in King George Island.\textsuperscript{19}

There are private land based tourism support facilities in the Patriot Hills at 80° 19’ S, 81° 21’W.

\textbf{Map 2} shows the ten most visited sites in Antarctica in the 2003-04 season. All of the sites were in the Antarctic Peninsula. The sites are:

• Almirante Brown
• Cuverville Island
• Goudier Island
• Half Moon Island
• Jouglia Point
• Peterman Island
• Pleneau Island
• Neko Harbour
• Waterboat Point
• Whalers Bay

\textbf{Maps 3-6} show the distribution of camping, climbing, diving and kayaking activities during the 2003-04 season, all of which are reported to have taken place in the Antarctic Peninsula.

\textbf{Map 7} shows the distribution of the Historic Sites and Monuments visited by tourists during the 2003-04 season.

\textbf{Maps 8-10} show the states in which Antarctic seaborne tourists originate, Antarctic tourism operators are located, and ships engaged in Antarctic tourism are flagged.

\textsuperscript{18} A 1998-99 official inspection in the Antarctic Peninsula reported five permanent stations and one Historic Site and Monument (HS&M) providing facilities, in particular souvenir shops, for tourists, out of 17 stations and four HS&Ms. United Kingdom and Germany, op. cit. at 11.