

MAIN CONCEPTS AND TERMINOLOGY IN TOURISM

Tourist

Since the 1930s, governments and Tourist Industry Organizations have tried to monitor the size and characteristics of Tourist markets,. they needed a definition of a *Tourist* to delineate him from other travelers and to have a common base by which to collect comparable statistics. Naturally, various definitions have been established to define tourists based on three elements viz.

1. Purpose of Trip
2. Distance Travelled
3. Duration of Trip.

The first of these definitions was adopted by the League of Nations Statistical Committee in 1937 and describes an International Tourist, who “visits a country other than that in which he habitually lives for at least twenty-four hours”.

In 1963 United Nations sponsored a conference on travel and tourism in Rome. The conference recommended the definition of “visitor and “tourist” for use in compiling the international statistics.

For statistical purposes, the term “visitor” describes any person visiting a country other than that in which he has his usual place of residence, for any reasons other than following an occupation remunerated from within the country visited. The definition covers:

1. **Tourist:** Temporary visitors stay at least twenty-four hours in the country visited and the purpose of their journey can be classified under one of the following headings:
 - a. Leisure (recreation, holiday, health, study, religion and sport)
 - b. Business, family, mission, and meeting.
2. **Excursionist:** temporary visitors staying less than twenty-four hours in the country visited (including travelers on cruise ships).

In 1968, the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (now the UNWTO) approved the 1963 definition and encouraged other countries to use it.

Characteristics of a Tourist

1. **Free Will:** a tourist usually takes his journey on free will, without any coercion.
2. **Time Criteria:** the activity of the tourist involves the stay at the destination visited at least for 24 hours, which distinguishes him from day-trippers.
3. **Monetary Criteria:** another concept to delineate tourists from travelers is that their activity represents a discretion use of monetary resources. A tourist is always in the habit of spending money on the destination for enjoyment and other reasons. In the case of holiday tourists, those who are on business travel can be considered as tourists attending business meetings, conferences, and conventions outside the normal day-to-day activities of the employee-participant.
4. **Activity Criteria:** The tourist is the net consumer of economic resources within the region visited, meaning that he does not engage in any earning activity there. Tourists do not travel for the primary purpose of earning remuneration from points en route. This feature differentiates him from commercial travelers and seasonal workers. The money spent on the visit is the money derived from home, not money earned in the places of visit.
5. **Circular Trip:** the trips done by the tourist are circular means that return to the point of origin. Tourists make temporary departures from their residence, this feature distinguishes them from emigrants, who take up residence or become domiciled in new locations.

Traveler

A visitor is a traveler but all travelers are not visitors. A traveler is “any person traveling between two or more countries or between two or more locations within his/her country of usual residence”.

Two types of travelers are:

1. **Domestic traveler:** any person on a trip within his or her own country of residence irrespective of the purpose of the travel and means of transport used, even though she/he may be traveling on foot.
2. **International traveler:** any person on a trip outside his/her own country

of residence irrespective of the purpose of the travel and means of transport used even though he/she may be traveling on foot.

Same day visitor

A visitor who does not spend the night in the destination visited. It can be classified under two categories.

1. International same-day visitor: any visitor who does not spend the night in the country visited. The definition includes the following categories of visitors.

- i) **Cruise passengers:** who arrive in a country on a cruise ship and return to the ship each night to sleep on board, even though the ship remains in port for several days. Also included in the tourism group are, by extension, owners or passengers of a yacht and passengers on a group tourism accommodated in a train.
- ii) **Crew members:** who do not spend the night in the country of destination- tourism group also includes a crew of warships on a country visit to a port in the country of destinations, who spend the night on board the ship and not at the destination.

2. Domestic same-day visitor: a visitor who does not spend the night in the place visited.