

An Effective Strategy to reduce Tourism Crimes

Akmal Ramadan Amin
Lecturer at the Faculty
of
Tourism and Hotel Management
Alminia University, Egypt

Introduction :

The reasons for this interest in tourism crimes is that the tourism development in different world countries are attributed to a number of positive impacts partially and wholly . Tourism is the biggest sector that produces the national income of many non-petroleum countries, with regard to some petroleum countries like the UAE, they rendered tourism industry a top priority as the main sector of the gross national income (*Saudi Supreme Commission of Tourism 2003*).

Tourism also represents an important factor in the balance of payments. Statistics shows that foreign exchange receipts, which came from tourism, reached \$476bn. all over the world in 2000 (*World tourism Organization 2000*).

Tourism and travel sector is considered as the main source of labor and employment. Statistics shows that tourism and travel sector absorbs more than 192m people around the world according to the estimates of the International Counsel for Travel and Tourism with 73m. from the above-mentioned number are working directly in the tourism industry. On the other hand, tourism development contributes in increasing the investments in infrastructures represented in roads, bridges, airports, ports, museums and conference buildings etc, the thing that will raise the luxury standard of tourists and residents alike. Tourism development also helps develop rural and remote areas, which will contribute in achieving a balanced regional development, and limits the local immigration to the big crowded cities. This is always accomplished through the role of tourism sector by funding the public budget of the countries which is represented in taxes and customs etc (*Salah , Wahab2003*).

So we have to realize that crime affects tourism in many ways, firstly the impact on labor, travel and tourism agencies which lose its labor. The second is on airlines, which suffer from the decrease in demand. The greater impact of crime is represented in the states' efforts to confront it, the thing that costs the state huge amounts of money to support the security measures and secure the tourist places and tourist movement. As tourism has emerged as the major global industry concerns over visitor safety have become paramount. European , North American states and Australia routinely issue travel advisories warning their citizens to avoid countries and airports where tourists have been targeted by some kinds of crimes. .At the same time these countries used to warn their citizens from visiting some destination to avoid the normal crimes against tourists (*The Australian Travel Advice to visit some countries 2005*)

The most important prerequisite for a successful tourism industry is a situation where crime is under control and the safety of tourists can be guaranteed. For this reason I am going to divide this paper in divided the following points :

The relationship between Tourism And Crimes.
The factors Contributing to the tourism crimes.
The main elements of analyzing the tourism crimes problem.
An Effective Strategy to reduce Tourism Crimes.
The conclusion.

The relationship between Tourism and Crimes:

Despite all the publicity given to crime against tourists, there has been little theoretical attempt to understand the relationship between tourism and crime, is crime simply another negative externality of tourism or are there other explanations for this relationship?

Most currently accepted explanations have been borrowed from the sociological literature on crime. Crotts has identified two theories drawn from human ecology that help us better understand this relationship (Crotts 1996).

These two theories are routine activities theory and hot spot theory:

1-Routine activities theory sees criminal acts as a routine activity for those persons pursuing a criminal lifestyle. Routine activities theory requires three basic elements: a suitable victim or target, a motivated offender, usually someone who has adopted a criminal lifestyle, and a relative absence of "capable guardians" law enforcement officers, security guards, etc, to police tourist areas (Crotts 1996).

2-Hot spot theory on the other hand looks at locations which "provide convergent opportunities in which predatory crimes can occur" (Crotts 1996). Hot spots are "described as crimogenic places where there are lots of bars, nightclubs and strip joints catering to tourists and providing ancillary services such as prostitution and drugs (Ryan 1993). Tourists frequenting these areas, whether looking for these activities or not, are much more likely to be victimized by crime. Some of the crime these areas generate is of course victimless crime since tourists themselves often engage in deviant behavior (drugs) that has criminal consequences.

There are many tourists capable of criminal behavior (drug trafficking, paedophilia), but by and large the tourist as perpetrator of crime is insignificant in the relationship between tourism and crime (Ryan 1993). Ryan offers a useful tourism-crime typology that identifies five types of scenarios:

The first is the tourist as accidental victim who just happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and is specifically targeted because he/she is seen as an easy mark.

The second is the tourist location as crimogenic venue, with its night life, hedonistic culture and myriad potential victims--some inebriated, others high on drugs.

The third is tourism as a provider of victims. This occurs because tourists are much more prone to taking risks on vacation and less likely to observe security measures they routinely adopt at home. As the number of tourists increase so does local hostility to tourism, thereby increasing the willingness to cheat, rob or even assault the visitor.

The fourth sees tourists as an imported demand for deviant activities. Visitors escape for two weeks and indulge in anti-social and self-destructive behavior that could lead to crime - binges and rowdyism, drug taking and soliciting prostitutes.

The fifth identifies tourists and tourist resources as specific targets for criminal action. This involves the singling out of tourists for hostage taking/murder since they are considered legitimate targets as symbols of global capitalism and are engaged in a sponsored activity of the state, the avowed enemy of terrorist groups (Ryan 1993).

Despite friendly warnings from hotel staff, taxi drivers, and assorted locals, visitors are less likely to observe the normal precautions they would at home. So valuables are left in clear view in locked or unlocked motor vehicles or unattended on a beach. Hotel rooms and visitor apartments are not properly secured, and cameras, money, and jewelry left temptingly lying around (Crofts 1993). Furthermore, being unfamiliar with their new environment, visitors sometimes end up on deserted beaches or in certain neighborhoods that most local residents avoid. They are also much more likely to be politely accommodating to hustlers, drug peddlers and assorted miscreants, thus opening themselves up to possible victimization (Crofts 1993).

In short, they are easy and preferred targets viewed as having lots of "portable wealth" on their persons or in their rooms. They are also viewed as less likely to report a crime because of the hassle/time involved. If they do report a crime they are probably less able to identify their assailant (unfamiliarity, racial differences), or to return as a witness if the assailant is apprehended and brought to trial.

Tourism is an interactive relationship among tourists, local businesses, and host governments and communities. Growth in tourism, however, has also led to increased opportunities for, and incidences of crime (Wahab, Salah 1996). Indeed, a long-established relationship exists between increases in crime and tourism; major economic crimes (e.g., robbery, burglary) in some highly popular tourism venues have a "similar season to tourism," (Wahab, Salah 1996) for several reasons:

First, tourists are lucrative targets, since they typically carry large sums of money and other valuables.

Second, tourists are vulnerable because they are more likely to be relaxed and off guard—and sometimes careless—while on vacation.

Finally, tourists are often less likely to report crimes or to testify against suspects, wishing to avoid problems or a return trip (Traveler Safety and Security 1980-2000).

I argue that tourism crimes generally involve one of several scenarios:

- The tourist is an accidental victim, in the wrong place at the wrong time, targeted as an easy mark.
- The location is conducive to crime, due to its nightlife, hedonistic culture, and myriad potential victims. (Ramadan, Akmal 2000).

Factors Contributing to Crimes Against Tourists:

Understanding the factors that contribute to Crimes Against Tourists will help to determine good effectiveness measures, recognize key intervention points, and select appropriate responses. These factors as a following:

Tourism industry and Crimes:

-The industry itself provides victims, as tourists are more prone to taking risks while on vacation, and less likely to observe safety precautions. Furthermore, as tourists' numbers grow, so too can local hostility toward tourists, thereby increasing the chances that they will be cheated, robbed, or assaulted. Terrorist or other groups may specifically target tourists, singling them out for hostage taking or even murder (*Pelfrey, W. 1998*).

Crimes and its impact on tourism destination:

-Crimes against tourists can impede tourism by significantly damaging a location's image. Therefore, the most important prerequisite for a successful tourist industry is a reputation for having crime under control and guaranteeing tourists' safety. Furthermore, media coverage of crimes against tourists often tends to be out of proportion to the actual risk, having a profound effect on public perception of safety at particular locations (*Pelfrey, W. 1998*).

Although theft is the most common crime against tourists, they are vulnerable to other crimes as well, including physical and sexual assault, credit card fraud, and scams (e.g., being sold "bargain basement" antiques or imitations of expensive watches). In areas with many adult entertainment venues, tourists tend to congregate and be disproportionately targeted by offenders. Furthermore, crimes against tourists tend to occur in areas with higher overall crime rates (*Traveler Safety and Security 1980-2000*).

Tourists and their contribution:

-Tourists may unwittingly contribute to the problem through excesses and dangerous practices in sport and leisure activities, driving, gaming, and drinking—some of which is routine "vacation behavior." They may also contribute to their victimization by:

- carrying and flashing large sums of money;
- visiting dangerous locations, or walking in isolated areas or dark alleys, especially at night;
- leaving valuable items in public view; and
- looking like a tourist (e.g., driving a rental car, carrying a backpack, carrying a camera, consulting a map, appearing lost) (*Ryan 1993*).

-As mentioned, tourists cluster in particular locations. Hotels, motels, downtown centers, shopping malls, bars, restaurants, tourist attractions, beaches, and airports are all potential points of encounter for victims and offenders. Tourist clustering also affords terrorists opportunities to commit acts against large numbers of people. Some tourist areas are also popular retirement areas, so the potential for crimes against the elderly increases significantly (*Harper, D. 2001*).

Tourists as Offenders

-It is worth noting that tourists may be the perpetrators, as well as the victims, of crime. The "tourist culture" can lessen tourists' sense of responsibility. They may riot at sporting events, for example, or cause disturbances on aircraft. They may also solicit prostitutes, buy illegal drugs, or smuggle goods out of the country. Furthermore, terrorists may pretend to be tourists (to target legitimate ones) (*Crotts 1993*).

The tourist location and its impact:

-The physical characteristics of tourist locations may also contribute to crime. For example, a visitor staying in an older hotel with a dimly lit parking lot, and no private security officers or video monitoring, might be at risk.

Moreover, tourist areas are characterized by anonymity and a high turnover of population, allowing offenders to conceal themselves, particularly when the police have to deal with massive increases in traffic volume and other routine work unrelated to crime. In addition, many popular tourist locations are renowned for their scenic, isolated nature, inviting adventure some tourists to explore remote surroundings (*Ronald W. Glensor & Kenneth J. Peak 2004*).

The main elements of analyzing the tourism crimes problem:

We should ask what is the main elements of tourism crimes problem. The following are some critical questions we should ask in analyzing our particular tourism crimes problem. The answers to these and other questions will help us to choose the most appropriate set of responses to reduce this kind of crimes. (*Ronald W. Glensor & Kenneth J. Peak 2004*)

Locations/Times

- Where do tourism crimes occur? Indoors or outdoors? In densely populated areas or remote areas? At repeat locations? In high-risk crime areas? Near major attractions?
- Where are tourists staying when the offenses occur (e.g., hotels, motels, private rental properties)?
- When do the crimes occur (day or night, day of week, time of year)? (*Ronald W. Glensor & Kenneth J. Peak 2004*).

Incidents

- How many crimes (and what percentage of total crimes) in the Egyptian jurisdiction per example involve tourists?
- What percentage of crimes are committed by tourists, as well as against them?
- What are the general circumstances surrounding the crimes (e.g., was a rental car involved, were the tourists lost)?
- What types and amounts of property are stolen, if any?
- What percentage of tourism crimes do you estimate are reported to the police?
- What percentage of reported offenses are false? (*Ronald W. Glensor & Kenneth J. Peak 2004*).

Victims

- Who are the victims (by gender, age, occupation)? Are there any noticeable demographic patterns among them?
- Where are they from? Are they regional, national, or international tourists?
- What percentage of victims are injured during the crimes? How serious are the injuries?
- How do they typically react to their victimization? Are they cooperative with the police? Willing to stay or return to testify against the offender?
- What victim activities or attributes may have contributed to the crimes (e.g., drinking, flashing large sums of money, frequenting dangerous areas or exploring remote locations, having an alternative safety and property)?

- What percentage of attempted crimes have been thwarted by tourists or by other people? (*Ronald W. Glensor & Kenneth J. Peak 2004*).

Offenders

- What are the offenders' demographics (age, gender, race, place of residence and so forth)?
- Are they local, or from out of town?
- Do they appear to specialize in victimizing tourists?
- Are they part of a loosely or formally organized group, or working alone?
- What are their motives (economic, political, personal)?
- What percentage of offenders commit crimes against tourists for money to buy drugs? What percentage either are or appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol during the offense?
- What percentage of offenders are repeat offenders? How prolific are the worst offenders?
- Do they use different techniques against tourists from those used in other crimes?
- What types of weapons do they use, or threaten to use? (*Ronald W. Glensor & Kenneth J. Peak 2004*).

Current Responses

- Do the police have a good working relationship with tourist-related businesses?
- Are funds provided to cover victims' travel expenses if they have to testify against offenders?
- Have police and private security employees been trained in crime prevention and reduction measures involving tourists?
- Is there a special police unit trained specifically to protect tourists and to assist tourism businesses with crime prevention measures?
- Are local citizens aware of the harm tourism crimes can cause to the community, and of their role in preventing it?
- Are tourists informed about crime prevention measures (e.g., through brochures)? (*Ronald W. Glensor & Kenneth J. Peak 2004*).

An Effective Strategy to reduce Tourism Crimes:

Working with the tourism industry to identify and address crime-related concerns.

Police representatives should participate on tourism boards and work with hotel/motel, convention, and visitors' bureaus to understand tourism-related problems and concerns, and to develop joint crime prevention programs. Police should provide ongoing information about local crime to tourism officials (*The Egyptian journal of Public Security 2000*).

Training police and private security staff to recognize and address tourist-related safety concerns.

Police and private security staff should know what particular crime risks tourists face, what resources are available, and how to access those resources (e.g., visitors' bureaus, emergency and social services, health departments). They should also be prepared to help tourists access emergency shelters, transportation systems, and foreign embassies, and help them navigate the

various criminal justice processes .To deal with crimes against tourists, the Egyptian police has created special units with selected personnel specifically to protect tourists. Both agencies require that officers be highly trained in tourism issues, as well as visible to and gregarious with tourists; work closely with related local associations and bureaus; advise rental property employees regarding crime prevention techniques; and recommend that tourist-industry employees (especially those in the security field) undergo thorough background checks—and be heavily punished if found guilty of committing tourism crimes(*The Egyptian journal of Public Security 2000*)..

Facilitating tourist victims' testimony in criminal cases.

Tourist victims usually will not return to their vacation spots to give testimony, as it is costly and time-consuming. Many jurisdiction specially in the rich countries have a Victim Fly-Back Program to help victims return to testify. The Egyptian legislature have to consider, statutes allowing crime victims to testify from their home via teleconferencing (*Ramadan, Akmal 2000*).

Imposing additional taxes in tourist areas to support special security measures.

In some tourist areas, property owners pay a special fee to support security and other services that increase the area's appeal and reduce safety risks to tourists.

Encouraging hotels and motels to adopt practices that will reduce guest victimization (*Ramadan, Akmal 2002*).

Among the practices we should encourage are:

- requiring that guests show identification before reentering the building,
- installing electronic room locks that are changed after each guest checks out,
- providing safety deposit boxes,
- installing surveillance cameras, and
- employing full-time security officers.
- encourage hotels and motels to provide safety tips on their website or in-house cable TV channel.

Offering rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those who commit serious crimes against tourists.

The tourism industry may be willing to help finance reward programs. The Egyptian government has to develop such a program, in conjunction with the tourist industry.

Educating tourists to reduce their risk of victimization.

Police in tourist areas should develop an array of methods for educating tourists about crime prevention as the following(*Ronald W. Glensor& Kenneth J. Peak 2004*):

- creating a website with a dedicated tourist menu that provides safety tips on such topics as rental and use of cars, and use of automated teller machines (ATMs), credit cards, and other financial instruments; lists emergency telephone numbers; has regularly updated tourism crimes bulletins; provides information about any specialized tourist police or auxiliary patrols.

- equipping tourism officers with a cellular phone so they can quickly access information, translation services, or other assistance for tourists.
- establishing a 24-hour police information counter, installing "tourist telephones" (those specifically designated for tourists needing information and providing safety tips) and broadcasting precautionary messages at airports;
- establishing a tourist hotline for reporting crimes and related problems.
- encouraging positive media contacts regarding the tourist police program and tourist safety.
- including having tourist officers take journalists on "ride-alongs".
- producing a video that provides information about the tourist area, the tourist police program, travel safety tips, and how to get around the area, for showing on inbound aircraft and in airports.
- providing information to foreign consulates and embassies, so they can educate their citizens about travel to your area.
- developing a means to inform travelers of the safest places to stay (for example, some cities have a crime-free hotel/motel certification program that allows hotels/motels to qualify for special advertising based on their safety record).

All tourist information should be available in the languages most commonly spoken by visitors to the area (*The International Guide for safety in Hotels 2003*).

Conducting surveillance at high-risk locations.

Surveillance should be based on local intelligence about problem areas and times. In general, surveillance is time-consuming and costly, and is effective at reducing crime only if it results in the apprehension of especially prolific offenders.

Changing the physical environment to reduce opportunities for tourism crimes .

Such measures might include putting up appropriate signs for tourists at key locations (e.g., near airports) to prevent their becoming lost or a traffic hazard, or inadvertently going into high-risk areas (*The International Guide for safety in hotels 2003*).

The conclusion:

The most important prerequisite for a successful tourism industry in any country is a situation where crime is under control and the safety of tourists can be guaranteed. According to the Department of Public Security in Egypt, violent crime Egypt is likely to continue at high levels in the foreseeable future, with increases expected in crimes such as assault and rape.

The image which individuals have of a specific destination plays a crucial role in such a destination's marketing success. This is because the decision-maker acts upon his/her image, beliefs and perceptions of the destination rather than the objective reality of it. There is no point in the Government spending millions marketing Egypt overseas if prospective visitors are confronted on a daily basis by horror reports about crime and crime against tourists in the local and international press. There can be little doubt that an increase in the crime rate means fewer amusements for tourists and thus the loss of tourist dollars. If it is impossible to prevent the tourism crimes, at least we should try to reduce it.

To conclude we should admit that There are no easy solutions to this problem, but I argue that we can examine our efforts of responses to tourism crimes by using useful measures such as:

- reduced numbers of offenses against tourists across the various offense types,
- reduced calls for tourist-related police service,
- reduced number and severity of injuries caused by crimes against tourists,
- reduced total average loss (both of cash and property) incurred by victims,
- increased tourist and local citizen perceptions of safety, and
- increased tourist reporting of crimes.

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An Effective Strategy to reduce Tourism Crimes

ملخص باللغة العربية

إستراتيجية نظرية للحد من الجريمة السياحية

الجريمة السياحية تعد أحد المعوقات التي تواجه صناعة السياحة في أى بلد من البلدان ولاشك أن الإدارة الحكومية السياسية والأمنية تعمل على الحد من تلك الجريمة حفاظاً على الاستثمارات الضخمة في هذا المجال وحفاظاً على سمعة المقصد السياحي والتي قد تسفر عن خسائر جسيمة لا يمكن تداركها على الرغم من توافر كافة العناصر الأخرى التي تؤكد إزدهار المقصد السياحي ورواجه.

وفي هذا الشأن قمنا بهذا البحث النظري بهدف الوصول لإستراتيجية أمنية نظرية تهدف بتطبيقها العملي إلى الحد من الجريمة السياحية والوصول بها إلى نسب الأمان وتجدر الإشارة أن هذه الدراسة لا تتعلق بمقصد سياحي معين وإنما تنطبق على كافة المقاصد السياحية فهي بمثابة رؤية أمنية جنائية شاملة.

وقد قسمنا هذه الدراسة لثلاث محاور المحور الأول: عرضنا فيه العلاقة بين السياحة والجريمة من خلال النظريات المختصة في علم النفس الجنائي وهما نظرية الجريمة السياحية كسلوك تلقائي مصاحب للتدفق السياحي ونظرية المقصد السياحي ذاته في وقوع تلك الجريمة.

أما المحور الثاني فقمنا فيه بطرح عدة أسئلة تحليلية لعناصر الجريمة السياحية ومن ضمنها موقع الجريمة وتوقيت الحدوث وملابسات الجريمة وأركانها ونوعية الضحايا ومدى إسهاماتهم ونوعية المجرمين أو المعتدين ودوافعهم والإستجابة الواقعة من السلطات المختصة.

أما المحور الثالث والذي نراه عصب تلك الدراسة فكان عن الرؤية أو الإستراتيجية المقترحة للحد من تلك الجرائم وتمثلت في عدة نقاط أهمها التنسيق بين الأجهزة الأمنية والأجهزة السياحية والتدريب الأمني بإعتباره عنصراً جوهرياً في الحد من تلك الجرائم وضمن العدالة الجنائية السليمة من خلال إدلاء الضحايا بشهادتهم القانونية وتدريب الموارد البشرية في المنشآت السياحية والفندقية على مواجهة تلك الجرائم والنوعية الأمنية للسائحين للحد من تعرضهم لتلك الجرائم.

وإنتهينا إلى أهم النتائج التي توصلنا إليها من خلال هذا البحث والتي تهدف بتطبيقها العملي إلى الحد من الجريمة السياحية والوصول بها إلى نسب الأمان.