

## Development of tourism – Patterns and contributing factors.

Spatial patterns of tourism are both concentrated and dispersed. The largest concentrations are in the Northern hemisphere especially in Western Europe and USA (1).

The concentration in Western Europe was the first main tourism source and destination and today Britain, France and Italy are still the major core areas of this concentration. This concentration is a relatively small area and the influence of tourism is wide spread. This concentration rapidly grew to include Spain and the Netherlands (2).

Historic factors can explain this concentration. This was the first part of the world to become industrialized and this led to higher wages and a new rich class which joined with the upper class to boost tourism numbers. When the unions also got involved people had more free time and earned better wages, and slowly tourism became possible for more people... (3) There is a link between income and tourism, because people have more spending money and in the richer nations there are more services for tourists like hotels and restaurants.

Another concentration is in USA, but this can be seen as several clusters including the west coast (California) and the east coast from Florida to New York...

When looking beyond the major concentrations the spatial pattern becomes dispersed and all continents are now involved in tourism (2). ...as countries become more developed and transport has improved the pattern has become more dispersed as people are able to travel long distances.

Early improvements in transport created the concentration in Europe especially with rail and later car... But steamships e.g. the Titanic, enabled people to travel beyond Europe and this led to tourism destinations becoming more dispersed especially to USA, and parts of Asia ... Modern transport enables people to move easily to destinations anywhere in the world. Modern rail networks span Europe and there are high speed passenger networks in many countries. Rail provides a cheap alternative to air travel and this together with coach services means that Europe has maintained its position as major concentration of tourism... Air transport has made global travel faster and able to be used by most people. Since the development of jet passenger planes and airlines specializing in global services the dispersed pattern of tourism is well established (4)...