

TOURISM AND VISITS TO PROTECTED AREAS

Brief reference to continental Portugal

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This paper presents a brief history of the relationship between tourism and protected areas with a view toward planning, an essential and determining factor for tourism to be understood as an element in the promotion of sustainable development. It also seeks to explain how this will generally occur in protected areas. Finally, it offers an overview of the Portuguese reality in this domain, based on official data of visits to parks, coupled with a questionnaire to heads of the departments responsible for managing these areas.

KEY WORDS: *tourism, protected areas.*