

# Tourism in Transition

*Economic Change in Central Europe*

Allan M Williams  
and  
Vladimir Balaz

I.B.Tauris *Publishers*  
LONDON • NEW YORK

# LIST OF CONTENTS

Preface	ix
Chapter One	
Introduction: Tourism and Transition	1
Transition in Central Europe: path dependency and path creation	1
Tourism and the challenge of transition	3
Global changes in tourism production and consumption	7
The Czech and Slovak Republics: case studies of tourism in transition	10
Chapter Two	
Economic Transition and Tourism	14
Central planning and market economies	14
The twilight years of state-socialism	16
Tourism under state-socialism	19
The economic transition and tourism	24

## CONTENTS

Tourism policies during transition	38
Conclusions: uneven and hesitant interventionism	56
Chapter Three	
Transition and the Re-internationalization of Markets	59
Changes in international tourism consumption and behaviour	59
Changing domestic and international markets	60
The challenge of repositioning in international markets	68
The economic impact of international tourism	79
Conclusions: the role of internationalization	82
Chapter Four	
The Privatization and Development of the Private Sector	89
Privatization: neo-liberalism and 'political capitalism'	89
Privatization pathways	90
Tourism at the leading edge of privatization	100
Case studies of tourism privatization	116
Conclusions: privatization as a precondition for market relationships	128
Chapter Five	
The Economic Performance of Tourism Businesses: Ownership and Corporate Governance	130
Introduction: a leading economic sector?	130
Tourism in the National Accounts	131
Businesses structures and economic outcomes	134
Property rights, management and corporate governance	143
Conclusions: interpreting economic performance	156

## Chapter Six

Tourism and Uneven Regional Development	160
Tourism and regional restructuring	160
Uneven development during transition: de-industrialization and divergence	161
The regional structure of tourism	169
Re-internationalization and the changing regional structure of tourism flows	173
Conclusions: Tourism and regional divergence versus convergence	189

## Chapter Seven

Consumption: Collective Provision and Commodification	196
Domestic tourism under state-socialism	196
Social tourism versus commodification during the transformation	204
Changing patterns of domestic tourist preferences	218
Conclusions: New or old pathways in domestic tourism?	221

## Chapter Eight

Conclusions	223
Reflections on tourism in transition	223
Tourism and the state: strategic sector or policy neglect	224
Re-internationalization: global competition and spatial proximity	225
Privatization: Property rights and production	227
Tourism and uneven development	228
Consumption: Leisure time and tourism as casualties of transition?	230
Bibliography	232
Annexes	245
Index	252