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# **TOURISM & URBANIZATION: An Interconnected Evolution**

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# ABSTRACT

Although the urbanization process has been well documented throughout history, and the evolution of travel is studied with equal thoroughness, the connection between those two phenomena remains significantly unchartered. This research navigates the spatial dimension of travel evolution alongside the attendant expansion of the urbanization process. It defines the nexus between tourism as a global demand and the physical infrastructure that accommodated such a force. The built environment, manifested in both its urban forms and its systems of mobility, has been shaping and is shaped by many factors including tourism. This work further explores the historical relationship between urbanization and tourism such that the evolution of each has influenced the other. For example, some famous travel routes have capitalized on existing road systems that are built for entirely different purposes than tourism such as the travel via the Roman Road network. Another example is that some destinations have been created, shaped and evolved despite the travel infrastructure leading to them such as the case of pilgrimage sites. This research un-packs these relationships to provide better understanding of this interaction through history. Considered one of the world's oldest tourist destinations, Egypt is used to demonstrate the interlocking relationship of tourism and urbanization. The piece concludes that appreciating these two phenomena in isolation proves challenging insofar as the evolution of tourism through time can not only be attributed to the tourism demand but also to the shape and form of the destination and the mobile systems available in each era and locale. It also concludes that, many of the influencing factors towards the evolution of tourism were non-touristic but rather related to other urban and infrastructure development.

# KEYWORDS

History, Tourism, Urbanization, Mobility

# BIO

Amir is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning at UC Berkeley. He has been a tourism designer, land use planner and sustainable development expert with fourteen years of experience working with municipal governments, international organizations, and private sector firms on site planning, ecotourism strategies, master planning and landscape planning. He always engages local communities in any planning process, especially planning for ecotourism and agro-tourism facilities. He has worked extensively in areas adjacent to national parks and coastal areas that are designated as ecotourism destinations with focus on preservation of natural and cultural resources and he has also worked in upgrading urban areas that rely on tourism as a vehicle to the revitalization of their livelihoods. His recent areas of research focus on the Red Sea coast as a tourism destination and the process of tourism development that occurs in Egypt from the constitution level through policy down to implementation, with specific interest in mapping the entire process and identifying the weak areas in the process in order to propose adequate solutions. He has worked extensively in the MENA region and Africa, with specific tourism planning and design in the southern region of the Red Sea in Egypt, Agro-tourism planning for different sites in Saudi Arabia, the Cradle of Human Kind Park and the Kalahari in South Africa, the trail design in municipality of Skien in Norway and Jebel Akhdar (Green Mountains) in Libya.