

Geographies of Tourism: The Singapore Story

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Abstract

This presentation explores the geographical footprints of Singapore's tourism development from the 1980s till the present. Specifically, it examines key tourism policies over the years including the 'Tourism Product Development Plan' (1986), Tourism 21 (1996) and Tourism Compass 2020 (2010) and how these plans have shaped the very geography of Singapore. Three geographical concepts are introduced: scale, landscape and place. While early tourism development emphases have mainly been local in scale, focusing on the cultural landscapes of Singapore (1980s), this has shifted increasingly to regional (1990s) and global (from late- 2000s) projects cementing the city-state's ambitions to be a tourism business hub. The Singapore Story is therefore one of perpetual change and adaptation, a case of dynamic geographies in action.