



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF GEOTOURISM THROUGH THE LENS OF GEOETHICS



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Premise



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Most of the world's population lives in large urban agglomerations that create a separation between natural and human worlds



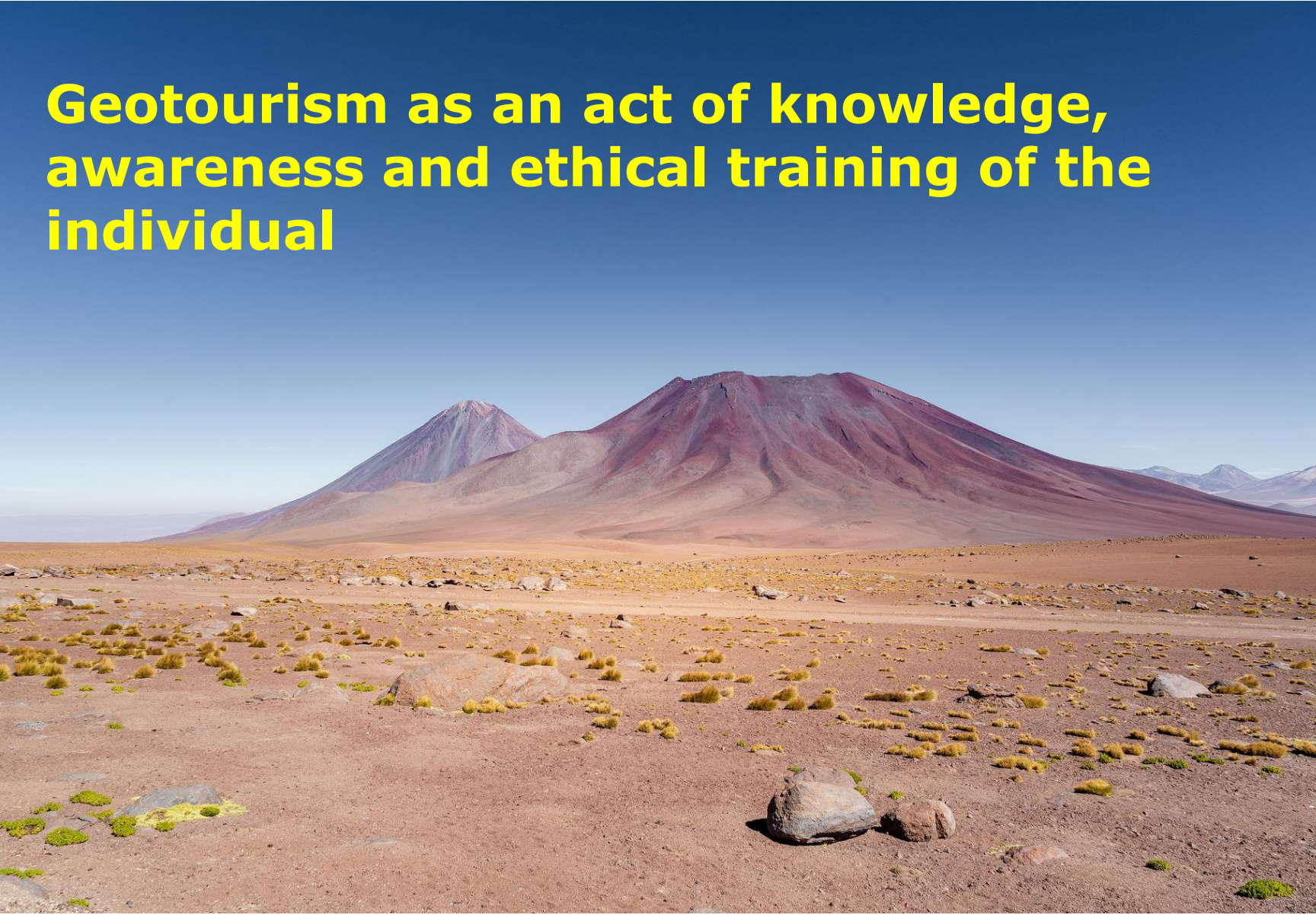
The role of geotourism



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**Geotourism as an act of knowledge,
awareness and ethical training of the
individual**



Definition of geotourism



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A photograph of Devil's Tower, a prominent monolith in the Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota. The tower is a dark, columnar rock formation rising from a grassy field. The foreground is filled with tall, dry grass and some small shrubs. The background shows a line of trees under a cloudy sky.

“a form of natural area tourism that specifically focuses on geology and landscape. It promotes tourism to geosites and the conservation of geodiversity and an understanding of Earth sciences through appreciation and learning. This is achieved through independent visits to geological features, use of geo-trails, and viewpoints, guided tours, geo-activities and patronage of geo-visitor centres” (Newsome and Dowling, 2010)

Going beyond human egocentrism



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Grasping the temporal evolutionary process restores the sense of the grandeur of the geological phenomenon and redefines in humans the perception of their position, their influence and necessity in the system of terrestrial relations, highlighting the inconsistency of their egocentrism.

Overcoming an ontological fracture



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In geotourism the geological element, by anthropic intervention, can become a human artefact without this implying denying its intrinsic natural character.

Geotourism as a complex experience



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The geotourist, through sensory, emotional and rational perceptions, can become the fulcrum where the ontological unity between the perceptive and the rational world is reconstituted.

The geoethical value of geotourism



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Geotourism is also the tool **to understand human ambivalence**, which on the one hand manifests itself as an inevitable anthropocentrism of species, on the other as awareness of the ecological non-centrality of the humans in the great cosmic architecture. Moreover, it allows the geotourist to reach a state of awareness that is not content with feeding on contemplative intellectual and/or aesthetic enjoyment, but through the aesthetic pleasure linked to the geotourist destination goes in search of that **sense of individual responsibility** capable of triggering the inner energy to effect a paradigm shift of the human-nature nexus.





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Thanks for the attention

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