

Accessible Tourism - Definitions

Able bodied people and people with a disability exist on a continuum – there are those who have low and high abilities in the many facets of their life, and the frequency and duration of these abilities will differ. At some stage, most people will break a leg, have to carry heavy luggage or need to care for young children, and will require assistance to travel as easily as possible. As people age and their physical and possibly mental abilities deteriorate, many will face similar travel barriers as those with a permanent disability.

The term Accessible Tourism can be defined as:

the business of providing positive travel information, products and experiences for all visitors including those with access needs

Some further information on Accessible Tourism:

accessible tourism is intended as the set of services and facilities capable of allowing persons with specific needs to enjoy a holiday and their leisure time with no particular barriers or problems. This complete holiday experience is termed seamless travel. This approach to tourism has broader benefits than just for people with disabilities and seniors as it assists families with young children and people from different cultural or linguistic backgrounds.

ENEA 1999

In the context of tourism the term access needs can be defined as:

physical, intellectual, and sensory or communication barriers to travel. Not limited to wheelchair access or mobility concerns.

This definition is inclusive of the mobility, vision, hearing and cognitive dimensions of access.

The term people with a disability can be defined as:

all persons who, owing to the environment being encountered, are restricted in their ability to perform certain activities or tasks and have special needs during travel, in products, services and environments.

ABS 2003

In the context of tourism the term equitable access can be defined as:

a person with a disability has a right to equal access to tourism products and services in the same way as people without a disability.

The Universal Design Education Online defines the term universal design as:

an approach to the design of all products and environments to be as usable as possible by as many people as possible regardless of age, ability or situation.

Universal Design Education Online 2004