

Planning and Management of Sustainable Tourism Spaces

Assignment 7

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Heritage Site Analysis: Taj Mahal, India

Introduction

The Taj Mahal is a world-famous cultural heritage site located in Agra, India. It was constructed between 1632 and 1648 by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal. It was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983 due to its exceptional cultural and architectural value.

Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

The Taj Mahal holds outstanding universal value because of its architectural beauty, symmetry, and artistic excellence. The white marble structure, intricate carvings, and balanced garden layout reflect the peak of Mughal architecture.

Criteria for Inscription

The site was inscribed under UNESCO Criterion (i) as a masterpiece of human creative genius, demonstrating exceptional craftsmanship and design.

Authenticity and Integrity

The Taj Mahal maintains high authenticity in design, material, and workmanship. Its integrity is protected through buffer zones and regular monitoring.

Conservation Strategy

Major threats include air pollution, tourism pressure, and environmental degradation. Mitigation strategies include pollution control, visitor regulation, and conservation programs.

Conclusion

The Taj Mahal is a heritage site of global importance. Sustainable conservation and tourism management are essential to preserve its outstanding universal value for future generations.