

# **The Potential of Geotourism Development in Egypt**

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## **Abstract**

This research aims to present critically review relevant literature to develop a conceptual framework of geotourism development and to identify the importance of geotourism development in Egypt. Case study strategy applied in one geosite in Egypt is Wadi Al-Hitan. A convenient sample included 231 visitors and 30 official staff was selected, with 64.9% response rate. The data have been analyzed by descriptive statistics instruments such as frequency distribution and diagrams. The hypotheses have also been tested by the T-test and SPSS software version 16. The results revealed that majority of visitors were visit Wadi Al-Hitan for educational purpose. Also, the results mentioned that friends and colleagues as the most frequent source of information to gain necessary information before their visit to the site, followed by tourism company and then brochures. It revealed that there was not plan for developing geotourism in Wadi Al-Hitan. The results of the current research revealed that the importance of geotourism development including; preserve geological areas, increase economic benefits, develop infrastructure, increase awareness of the importance of geotourism, employment opportunities, and increase living standard. This research have number of limitations were; the research focused on one case study of Wadi Al-Hitan, the research area did not include all geosites in Egypt, the literature showed there had been clear lack of prior research studies on geotourism development in Egypt, in particularly Wadi Al-Hitan, and the future research should address more geosites in Egypt.

## **Keywords:**

Geotourism, geotourist, geosite, geotourism development, Egypt