

Advice on the exploitation and protection of grassland ecotourism resources in China

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Distribution and category of grassland eco-tourism resources in China Grassland in China is widespread along the west of northeast China , Inner Mongolia , mountains of northwest desert and Qinghai-Tibet Plateau , lying along 12 provinces between latitude 30-50° north , with an area of 3 57 billion mu . Being the first in the world for its diversities , grassland in China ranges from tropical-subtropical , temperate zone to alpine ones , consisting of 18 categories and 37 subcategories with more than 1000 grass types . There live on grass bountiful rare wildlife and produce many kinds of precious Chinese herbal medicines . What constitutes the grassland eco-tourism landscape is mainly the large-scale grassland on plateaus and plains .

Patterns of grassland eco-tourism resources exploitation and utilization The appealing resource foundation-grassland vegetation , integrated with its surroundings like hills , plains , rivers , watercourses and buildings will unfold a tranquil and enchanting tourism scenery . Special herbs , wild edible plants and specialized products can be supplied to tourists . Pleasantly cool weather is the primary attraction for summer resort . Inhabited by various ethnic groups of Mongolia , Kazakh , Tibetan , Manchu and Yugur , the unique ethnic customs are another important attraction of the grassland . Currently , there are different patterns of tourism products , which are typically natural grassland landscape , wildlife tour , grassland popular science education tour , science tour , grassland camping and custom tour .

Superior grassland eco-tourism resources Grassland can be characterized by the geographical position , weather condition , vegetation , eco-system features , and social and humanistic features . *Inner Mongolia steppe* is the largest natural pasture in China , lies across the east to the west , respectively , meadow-typical-desert steppes . *Xinjiang mountain steppe* is in the continental center with typical continental climate , as sub-mountainous meadow plant area , it has been a prominent pasture since ancient times . *Qinghai-Tibet alpine grassland* , over 4000 meters above sea level is the highest plateau on earth's surface , it is mainly large amount of alpine meadow and rangeland , with an area of 2 5 million km² .

Suggestions on exploitation and protection There are wide differences in grassland eco-tourism resources in China . The varieties of ethnic customs and traditions melted in nature are the superior resources , which can integrate eco tour , academic exchange , science and tech cooperation as well as eco education .

Local governments at all levels around grasslands are recommended , firstly , to have a correct understanding of the role of tourism in integrated utilization of grassland resources , and develop grassland tourism for the sake of the new economic growth engine ; secondly , based on profound grassland eco tourism survey in terms of topography , location conditions , infrastructures , and different markets , to analyze and assess the feature scientifically and utilize them by step and by focus ; thirdly , to strictly plan the spatial distribution of eco-tourism areas by function , and restrict the tourist amount to eco-environment capacity even in tourist relaxing areas ; fourthly , to adhere the principle of eco-bound in product design and project planning with the stress on eco-tourism .

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