



## **Countryside**

A territorial entity that, alongside the rural, normally refers to non-urban spaces. Its perception, evaluation and policy proposals vary according to different social and cultural settings. In the capitalist and industrialized West, the dominant post-agricultural countryside – a consequence of the move from ‘productivist’ to ‘postproductivist’ societies – still tends to evoke images of harmony and consensus, and the countryside is perceived as an ideal place (see **Sense of place**) for **leisure** and tourism activities. These transformations meant that the notions of the countryside as a resource for agricultural production, as an aesthetic landscape to be conserved, and as a place for **recreation**, had to be

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reconfigured. Until recently, recreational and tourism activities in the countryside were closely associated with its rural character, and were passive and relaxing (see **Quiet enjoyment**). Lately, new demands and expectations have brought more challenging and active tourism (see **Adventure tourism**), requiring new approaches to the management and **planning** of the countryside.

See also **Rural tourism**

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