Tourism on the Move in a Changing Climate

Rising temperatures, higher sea levels and degraded habitats will have serious impacts on almost every sub-sector of the tourism industry. But options exist to help the industry adapt to climate change.

### Mountain and Snow Tourism
- **RISKS**: Rising temperatures will mean that fewer resorts will be able to rely upon sufficient snowfall.
- **ADAPTATION**: Winter sport resorts can adopt marketing strategies as year-round destinations, with longer ‘green seasons’ helping to offset shorter skiing seasons.

### Forest and Lake Tourism
- **RISKS**: Severe droughts and pest infestations have led to widespread forest dieback in North America.
- **ADAPTATION**: Winter sport resorts can adopt marketing strategies as year-round destinations, with longer ‘green seasons’ helping to offset shorter skiing seasons.

### Biodiversity and Agricultural Tourism
- **RISKS**: As temperatures rise, species shift towards the poles and to higher elevations where possible. Extinctions are increasingly likely as climate change progresses.
- **MITIGATION**: The built environment accounts for 20% of the sector’s climate impact, retrofitting or even greener new builds would cut emissions.

### Cities and Urban Centre Tourism
- **RISKS**: Sea levels are estimated to rise 0.45–0.82m higher than present by the end of the century if emissions continue to rise at the current rate.
- **ADAPTATION**: The decline in sea ice is expected to add to already rapid increase in Arctic cruises.

### Beach and Coastal Tourism
- **RISKS**: Degraded beaches reduce the desirability of destinations, and beach erosion can reduce the prices that operators can charge for accommodation.
- **ADAPTATION**: The built environment accounts for 20% of the sector’s climate impact, retrofitting or even greener new builds would cut emissions.

### Ocean and Sea Life Tourism
- **RISKS**: Distributions of fish and other marine fauna are changing as the ocean warm, impacting recreational fishing and marine animal watching.
- **ADAPTATION**: The decline in sea ice is expected to add to already rapid increase in Arctic cruises.

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**Key Findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5)**

- Climate change is already affecting the tourism sector.
- Likely impacts on tourism in the future can be expected.
- How the industry can respond.
- What tourism can do to reduce its emissions.

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