

It's World Tourism Day on 27 September. Visiting new places can be great, but there's a bad side to tourism too. Read this article to find out more.

Before reading

Do the preparation task first. Then read the article and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

1. tourism
2. an industry
3. accommodation
4. resources
5. a cruise ship
6. to harm something
7. sustainable
8. a community

Definition

- a. things that can be used to create something else, e.g. money, water, land
- b. all the businesses that make a product or provide a service
- c. the group of people who live in an area
- d. the business of travelling to other places for fun and entertainment
- e. able to continue in the future because it isn't bad for the environment
- f. places to stay and live, e.g. houses, flats and hotels
- g. a large ship that tourists stay on and which takes them to different places
- h. to damage or hurt something

World Tourism Day

Do you like travelling to other places, cities and countries? Many people do. Tourism is a huge industry – it's as large as or larger than the oil, food and car industries. It creates so many jobs that one in every ten people in the world works in tourism.

However, for many people and places, tourism is not a completely positive thing.

What problems can tourism create?

Some places receive millions of tourists a year, which creates problems for local people. When tour buses block roads, it's hard for local people to get to work or school. Often, international companies open up, and small shops and restaurants close down. Another problem is accommodation – in Barcelona and New York, for example, many flats and houses

are used as tourist accommodation, so homes for local people have become expensive and hard to find.

Tourism can be bad for the environment too. Natural areas are destroyed to make space to build hotels and tourist facilities, and building them consumes a lot of energy and resources. Historic buildings are damaged, such as those in Venice by large cruise ships entering the city. These ships also harm animal and plant life. More tourism means more crowds, noise, rubbish and pollution.

What is World Tourism Day?

The United Nations World Tourism Day is a day for thinking about tourism and its effects on people and places. It is celebrated every year on 27 September. On this day, people meet to discuss tourism and try to solve the problems that tourism creates. The meetings are organised by a different country or group of countries every year.

What can we do to make tourism less harmful?

Some governments have already taken action. In Barcelona and New York, there are now limits on short-term rental accommodation. The number of cruise ships entering Venice is limited now too.

Importantly, individual tourists can help by choosing more sustainable ways of visiting places. For example, if tourists visit Venice on a cruise ship but they sleep and eat all their meals on the ship, does the local community in Venice really benefit from their visit? If not, it could be better to choose a different form of tourism, one that benefits the city and local people more.

We also need to reduce pollution and climate change. Is it necessary to fly to your destination or can you take a train instead?

If we can make tourism more sustainable, everyone can benefit, and people can continue to enjoy visiting these places in the future.

Tasks

Task 1

Choose the best answer.

1. _____ per cent of the world's population have jobs in the tourism industry.
a. One b. Ten c. Twenty
2. The article says that international companies may _____ small shops and restaurants.
a. help b. open c. replace
3. Tourism may increase the _____ of accommodation for local people.
a. price b. quality c. amount
4. Old buildings in Venice have been damaged by _____.
a. animals b. cruise ships c. local people
5. World Tourism Day always takes place _____ every year.
a. on the same day b. in the same country c. in a single country
6. Tourists should think about _____.
a. which places they really want to visit b. who benefits from the money they spend c. ways to reduce the cost of travelling
7. We can make tourism more sustainable by choosing _____ forms of transport.
a. cheaper b. greener c. faster
8. The article's overall message is that tourism needs to _____.
a. stop b. increase c. change

Task 2

Write the words in the correct group as they are used in the article.

tourist	tourism	accommodation	problem	crowd
energy	resources	rubbish	pollution	community

Countable nouns	Uncountable nouns

Discussion

Which places do you like to visit? Have you noticed any positive or negative effects of tourism where you live?

Answers

Preparation task

1. d
2. b
3. f
4. a
5. g
6. h
7. e
8. c

Task 1

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. b
5. a
6. b
7. b
8. c

Task 2

Countable nouns	Uncountable nouns
tourist	tourism
problem	accommodation
crowd	energy
resources	rubbish
community	pollution