

World Tourism Day on 27 September is about deciding the tourism we want for the future. That means thinking not just about the economy but also about the impact on people and the planet.

## 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. .... an impact
2. .... a sector
3. .... mass tourism
4. .... to overwhelm
5. .... to regulate
6. .... carbon emissions
7. .... a privilege
8. .... conscious consumers

#### Definition

- a. an area of economic activity
- b. to be too much to deal with
- c. to control something with rules, laws or another system
- d. the powerful effect that something has on a person or a situation
- e. people who know and think about what is happening around them when they buy and use things
- f. the business of providing holidays for very large numbers of people
- g. carbon dioxide produced by cars, planes, factories, etc., thought to be harmful to the environment
- h. an advantage that only one person or group of people has, often because they have money or a special position

## World Tourism Day

Every year on 27 September the United Nations World Tourism Day is celebrated. It began in 1980, and the event is hosted by a different country or group of countries every year. On World Tourism Day, the United Nations calls for investments in people and the planet, not just economic productivity.

### Why do we need World Tourism Day?

It may seem curious that tourism has its own special day, but maybe it's not so surprising when you think of the enormous number of people employed in this sector. Tourism and

travel is one of the world's biggest industries. According to 2019 research, over 333 million people – that's about one in ten working people worldwide – were employed in tourism and travel. Now, this huge global industry is growing again after the pandemic, creating serious issues for people and the planet.

### How does tourism affect local people?

With mass tourism, fascinating places are becoming overwhelmed by millions of tourists. Enormous tour buses block roads and make getting to school or work difficult for residents. International chains take over from local businesses, tourist apartments take over from ordinary housing, and rising prices force local people out of their homes.

Barcelona in Spain and Venice in Italy are two examples of places where the local population have demanded that tourism is controlled more tightly. In Barcelona, regulations related to short-term rental accommodation were introduced to help local people have access to flats. In Venice, the number of large cruise liners entering the port is now controlled to protect the historic city and its natural environment from further damage. Locals also complained about the huge crowds of cruise passengers, who were putting pressure on the city's resources but contributing little to the economy. Maybe tourism in the 21st century will continue to be regulated to protect people and local environments.

### How does tourism affect the environment?

Mass tourism is bad news for our planet too. The industry destroys natural habitats to build tourist facilities and consumes large amounts of energy and natural resources, such as land, soil and water. Pollution is also a negative consequence of travel and tourism, including solid waste and sewage pollution, noise pollution and air pollution. Carbon emissions from tourism are more than five per cent of global emissions, and this figure is going up. The tourism and travel industry continues to contribute to the climate crisis.

### Can we be responsible tourists?

In the words of Bruce Poon Tip, producer of the documentary *The Last Tourist*, 'travel is a privilege, not a right'. *The Last Tourist* encourages us to be 'conscious consumers' when deciding where and how to travel. As tourists, we need to think more carefully about the impact of our choices. If we decide to stay at a beautiful resort, who is going to benefit from our money? Is the hotel owned by people from the local community? And how can we minimise our contribution to pollution and climate change? To protect the beautiful places we love to visit, and the people who live in them, we need to rethink tourism and act responsibly.

## Tasks

### Task 1

Write a number (1–6) to put the topics in the order they are mentioned in the article.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Examples of solutions to problems caused by tourism
- \_\_\_\_\_ World Tourism Day
- \_\_\_\_\_ How people can travel more responsibly
- \_\_\_\_\_ The number of people working in tourism
- \_\_\_\_\_ Problems that tourism can cause for local residents
- \_\_\_\_\_ The impact of tourism on energy consumption and pollution

### Task 2

Are the sentences true or false?

	<b>Answer</b>	
1. UN World Tourism Day started over 40 years ago.	True	False
2. The priority for World Tourism Day is how to help the economy.	True	False
3. About a third of workers worldwide are involved in the travel and tourism sector.	True	False
4. Sometimes, tourism can make life more expensive for local people.	True	False
5. In Venice, large cruise ships were causing problems for both people and the environment.	True	False
6. Barcelona and Venice are mentioned as examples of how tourism can be controlled to limit its negative impact.	True	False
7. The tourism industry puts extra pressure on local resources and creates extra pollution.	True	False
8. The message of the documentary <i>The Last Tourist</i> is that we need to stop taking foreign holidays.	True	False

### Discussion

Have you noticed any positive or negative effects of tourism where you live?

## Answers

### Preparation task

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

### Task 1

1. World Tourism Day
2. The number of people working in tourism
3. Problems that tourism can cause for local residents
4. Examples of solutions to problems caused by tourism
5. The impact of tourism on energy consumption and pollution
6. How people can travel more responsibly

### Task 2

1. True
2. False
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. True
7. True
8. False