



WHEN TRAVEL HURTS

WHY IS **OVERTOURISM** A PROBLEM?

Lesson Goals

Social Knowledge

- Understand the concept and impact of overtourism, as well as the factors causing it.
- Understand the status and negative effects of overtourism in some countries and the actions that governments are taking.
- Develop creative and actionable projects to mitigate overtourism.

Language Competencies

- Use persuasive language and vocabulary related to tourism and sustainability.
- Practice and develop communication, critical thinking, problem solving, and presentation skills.

1 ENGAGE

- A 1. Top Three Travel Destinations.**
Tell your class your top 3 travel destinations and explain why.

Do you enjoy traveling?
What are your **top 3** travel destinations?



2. Discussion:

What are the top destinations chosen by your class? What are the common factors and reasons for preferring these places for travel?



B Game: Travel Word Race

1. In teams, take turns writing one word or phrase related to **tourism**. The team with the most words wins.

journey travel jet lag
tourist traps tour guide
explore **TOURISM** noise pollution
good memories expensive

2. Look at the words contributed by your class and discuss the questions below.

- Which words describe problems or challenges in tourism?
- Can you think of any examples where tourism has caused problems?

2 EXPLORE



Picture This!

Look at the photos in page 3 and discuss the questions in the box.

- What are your first impressions of these images? How would it feel to be there?
- Why do you think so many people want to visit these places?
- Based on our discussion so far, how would you describe the term "**overtourism**"?

Bali, Indonesia



San Sebastian beach, Spain



Venice, Italy

The Taj Mahal, India



B Let's vote!

Do tourist crowds bring joy or chaos? Tick the box and share your thoughts.

Definitely more joy! Tourist crowds offer benefits in many ways.

Chaos is definitely the result! Tourist crowds can pose several challenges.

C Overtourism: Benefits and drawbacks

What benefits and drawbacks of large numbers of tourists can you think of?

List your answers and compare with your classmates.

Benefits

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Drawbacks

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3 EXPLAIN

main

100%

always

Tips: Be careful of absolute and quantity words.

A Think and Debate: Agree or Disagree?



Read the statements below. Do you agree or disagree with them? Use the questions below to explain your opinions to your class.



Statement 1: Social media is the main reason overtourism exists, driving huge crowds to the exact same popular spots.

- ? How likely do tourists choose a destination just from seeing others visit it on social media, considering location, cost, and accessibility?
- ? How do word of mouth and traditional advertising contribute to the concentration of tourists?

Statement 2: For most destinations, tourism brings more harm than benefits.

- ? Is there any evidence supporting this claim?
- ? What would the area be like without tourism?

Statement 3: Hundreds of local residents protest overtourism, even using water pistols to target tourists and drive them away.

- ? Does driving tourists away violate their right to travel?
- ? Wouldn't local authorities take steps to prevent violence against tourists?



B 1. Reading for gist

Read the passage on page 5 about **Overtourism**. What is it about?

- a. The negative impact of overtourism on destinations, focusing on how government measures have successfully resolved the issues.
- b. The negative impact of overtourism on destinations and residents, along with residents' reactions and different government responses.
- c. The effect of overtourism on both tourists and residents, emphasizing how residents have adapted to the growing number of visitors.

2. Reading and matching

Read the passage again and fill in the blanks with the correct phrases. Write the correct number i-iv.

List of missing phrases

- i. ... it also affects the people living in these places ...
- ii. ... including some where people spray water at tourists ...
- iii. ... cannot afford homes and are forced to live in their cars ...
- iv. ... a loss of traditional values as local customs become commercialized ...

Overtourism

When Paradise is Lost

The allure of travel and exploring new cultures has led to an unexpected consequence: overtourism. This happens when too many tourists visit a place, causing negative effects on the destination and the people who live there. Many once-beautiful places are now struggling with this issue.

Mallorca, Spain, known for its stunning beaches and vibrant nightlife, is a clear example of overtourism. The rise of budget airlines and short-term rental platforms like Airbnb have brought in more visitors than the island can handle. As a result, the local **infrastructure** and resources are overwhelmed. The increase in tourists has caused housing prices to rise so much that some local workers, who are essential to the community, (1) . In response, residents have organized protests, demanding government intervention to control tourism and prioritize their needs.



Calo des Moro beach, Mallorca



Bali Handara Gate

Bali, Indonesia faces similar challenges. While renowned for its natural beauty and spiritual culture, Bali has seen a huge rise in tourism, especially in popular areas like Canggu and Ubud. Social media and the idea that these places are "must-see" spots have brought even more visitors. This has caused traffic problems, environmental damage, and (2) are unhappy with the changes and say that tourism has made life worse for them.

Barcelona's government is trying to reduce the negative effects of overtourism by raising tourist taxes and limiting cruise ship visits. However, many residents are still angry about the large number of tourists. Protests, (3) , show their frustration. A major concern is the rising cost of housing due to short-term rentals. Residents also worry about losing the unique character of their city and their quality of life because of the influx of tourists.



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While some governments have started taking steps to limit the number of visitors and promote responsible tourism, the success of these actions varies. The problem of overtourism is not just about tourists having a bad experience, (4) . It's important for tourists to practice responsible travel and support local communities in order to protect both the destinations and the people who live there.

3. Three key points

Read the full text again and remember **THREE KEY POINTS**. Tell your friends what you can remember.



C Vocabulary practice


Read each sentence and fill in the blank with a correct word from the box below.

rental	intervention	influx	infrastructure
renowned	commercialized	allure	overwhelmed

1. The sudden of tourists in small communities can strain resources and disrupt local life.
2. One way to reduce overtourism is to promote lesser-known destinations with the same natural as popular tourist spots.
3. Limiting short-term in city centers can help control the number of tourists and protect local communities.
4. Developing better in rural areas can help move tourists away from overcrowded urban centers.
5. When a destination becomes overly, it can lose its original charm, and visitors may seek more authentic alternatives.
6. Governments need to carefully plan in popular tourist regions to maintain balance between economic growth and environmental protection.
7. During peak season, the beaches often become with tourists.
8. Over time, some places lose their special charm because they are filled with tourists and big businesses.

D  **Big question: Why is overtourism a problem?**
Answer the big question. Share your opinions with your class.

4 ELABORATE

A  **1. Overtourism: Government and traveler perspectives**
Choose your side (Government or Traveler) and brainstorm ideas based on your roles.

Government

Discuss potential solutions for managing overtourism, considering policies and initiatives.

Traveler

Discuss how travelers can help reduce overtourism through their choices and behaviours.



2. Let's cooperate!

Prepare a plan to reduce the negative impacts of overtourism on the local community. Use the phrases in the box below.

Useful language

For government:

- Our priority is to... / We must prioritize...
- We recommend... / We need to focus on...
- It's important to invest in...
- Another effective strategy might be to...
- Imagine the positive impact we could create if we...

For traveler:

- As travelers, we can help by...
- We should avoid... / We should consider...
- It's important for us to ...
- Instead of ..., we could...
- Taking this action not only... but also...



3. Reflection discussion

Reflect on the solutions and discuss the questions below.

- Which solutions do you think are the most effective and why?
- What challenges might these solutions face in real life?
- How can travelers and governments work together to address overtourism?

As young people, what project do you think would work to help reduce overtourism?

B Homework assignment

In your group, brainstorm and propose a project to help reduce overtourism. Follow the steps below to help plan your project.

Brainstorm ideas

1. What problems do you notice in popular tourist destinations?
2. What is the specific goal of your project? (e.g., promote lesser-known destinations, propose strategies for governments, influence tourist choices, etc.)
3. What method will you use for the project? (e.g., develop an app, create a video, give a speech, write a proposal, etc.)
4. What steps do you need to take to bring your idea to life?
5. How likely is it that your project will succeed?

Prepare and present

Display them on a large-sized paper or through digital media. You can add drawings or diagrams to explain your ideas.

5 EVALUATE

A Let's reflect!

What have you learned today? Check the list.

- Understand** the concept and impact of overtourism
- Analyze and discuss** the benefits and drawbacks of large-scale tourism.
- Understand** the status and negative effects of overtourism in some countries and the actions that governments are taking.
- Develop** creative and actionable projects to mitigate overtourism.
- Use** persuasive language and vocabulary related to tourism and sustainability.
- Practice and develop** communication, critical thinking, and presentation skills
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B Let's write!

Write a 100-word paragraph about how you will commit to traveling responsibly in the future. Share the specific actions you will take.

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