

Tourism

Tourism is an enjoyable leisure activity and an important part of the global economy. It has been estimated that 1/10 jobs worldwide are supported by the tourism industry. However, tourism can cause social disruption and damage the natural environment. This sheet describes the positives and negatives of tourism.

Positives of Tourism

Tourism is a popular leisure activity.

People go on holiday to relax and have fun.

Tourists can experience different cultures.

Travelling abroad opens our minds.

The tourist trade is vital for some economies.

It creates employment in services like accommodation, transport and entertainment.

Some areas rely on tourism for their income.

Tourism attracts investment from multi-national companies.

It helps to improve the standard of living.

Summary

Tourism has many benefits. Firstly, tourism is an enjoyable leisure activity. People need to have a break and go somewhere to have fun. Tourism also gives us the chance to experience different cultures. This opens our minds and we learn to understand how other people live. These experiences can make us more tolerant.

The tourist trade is vital for some economies. Tourism creates employment, especially in services like accommodation, transport and entertainment. This may give local people career opportunities which they wouldn't otherwise have. Furthermore, tourism attracts investment from multi-national companies which can help to improve the standard of living for local people.

Negative Effects of Tourism

Tourism can have a negative effect on the natural environment.

The building of facilities and infrastructure can destroy the habitat of wild animals.

Beautiful beaches are spoilt by the building of hotels.

Tourism creates pollution and waste.

A rise in the cost of living affects local people.

The prices of goods, services and housing may increase significantly.

Summary

I think that the disadvantages of tourism outweigh the advantages. Firstly, tourism can harm the environment. The building of facilities and infrastructure destroys the habitat of wild animals. Furthermore, tourists tend to leave a lot of rubbish. It is awful to see beautiful beaches covered in litter.

In addition, tourism displaces local people. Tourists bring in a lot of money and this means that the cost of living, such as the price of food, rises above the means of local people. Furthermore, the prices of housing and services may increase significantly. This means that some local people may no longer be able to afford to live there and must move.

Practice Question

A lot of places in the world rely on tourism as a main source of income. Unfortunately, tourism can also be a source of problems if it is not managed correctly.

Describe the advantages and disadvantages of tourism in the modern world. Do you think that benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks?