

TOO MANY PEOPLE WANT TO TRAVEL

Watch the [video](#) titled “Too Many People Want to Travel” by the Atlantic.

1 WARM UP: LANDMARKS

Task 1: Identify the country and the landmark shown in each picture.



1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____



7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____

Task 2: Discuss the following questions as a class.

- How often do you travel, and where has been your favourite place to visit?
- When travelling, do you get frustrated with other tourists? Explain.
- Does your city receive a lot of tourism? Could you summarise how tourists are generally viewed by locals in your city?

2 VIDEO: VOCABULARY

Task 1: Match the words from the box to their synonyms.

To be inundated by	Unprecedented
To spur on	To erode
	To distort

1. _____: to wear away, to gradually destroy.
2. _____: to be flooded with, to be overwhelmed by.
3. _____: never-before-seen, not done before.
4. _____: to misrepresent, to change, to mislead.
5. _____: to encourage, to inspire.

Task 2: Match the words from the box to their definitions.

Budget airlines	Carbon-neutral	Gentrification
Digital nomads	Overtourism	

- a. _____: Wealthy people moving into a poor area, raising costs.
- b. _____: Low-cost airlines with basic services.
- c. _____: Balancing the CO2 produced with the amount removed.
- d. _____: Too many tourists in one place.
- e. _____: People who work online while travelling.

Task 3: Write example sentences related to travel using the words from tasks 1 and 2.

Take a few minutes to prepare, then share your sentences with the class.

3 WORKING WITH WORDS: VIDEO QUOTES

Task 1: Use the words from the box to complete the [video](#) quotes.

unprecedented overtourism inundated by eroded budget airlines

1. Historic cities are _____ tourists. Sensitive habitat destroyed. Monuments damaged. This phenomenon is known as overtourism, and it's affecting the planet in _____ ways.
2. There's a way in which tourists can alter the experience of visiting something such that they ruin the very experience that they've been trying to have. That's the essential condition of _____.
3. But that's not the only factor, _____ like Ryanair allowed tourists to fly cheaply and Airbnb has increased the supply of lodgings.
4. And the rise of Instagram across the world has spurred on overtourism in a big way. Social media has provided a way for people to find out places to go, things to do, things to see, and in some cases, it has also really _____ the tourist experience.

Task 2: Use the words from the box to complete the [video](#) quotes.

inherent dark sides global connection carbon-neutral

5. Climate activist Greta Thunberg made a statement by choosing to take a six-day journey on a _____ schooner rather than fly across the Atlantic, and in Europe the "flight shame" movement has taken hold.
6. It is not the _____ fault of individuals that the planet is warming. It's the fault of how we run our energy systems.
7. Alongside the problems, there are upsides to tourism, like _____ and financial investments in the places that need it.
8. Tourism as a general point is a really great and amazing thing, and this is just one of the _____ of it.



4 VIDEO: COMPREHENSION

Task 1: Watch the [video](#), then choose the correct answer to the questions.

1. What is the central issue discussed in the video?
 - a. The dangers faced by museum workers.
 - b. The impact of overtourism on the planet.
 - c. The rise of social media platforms.

2. What is overtourism, as described in the video?
 - a. The excessive use of fossil fuels in travel.
 - b. The rapid development of tourism in Western societies.
 - c. The phenomenon where tourists negatively affect their own experiences.

3. According to the video, when did mass tourism begin in the 20th century?
 - a. When Instagram became popular.
 - b. When budget airlines like Ryanair started operating.
 - c. When middle-class people could afford to travel.

4. What is one of the main factors contributing to the increase in overseas trips from rapidly developing countries?
 - a. The increase in the global middle class.
 - b. The rise of Instagram.
 - c. The availability of budget airlines.

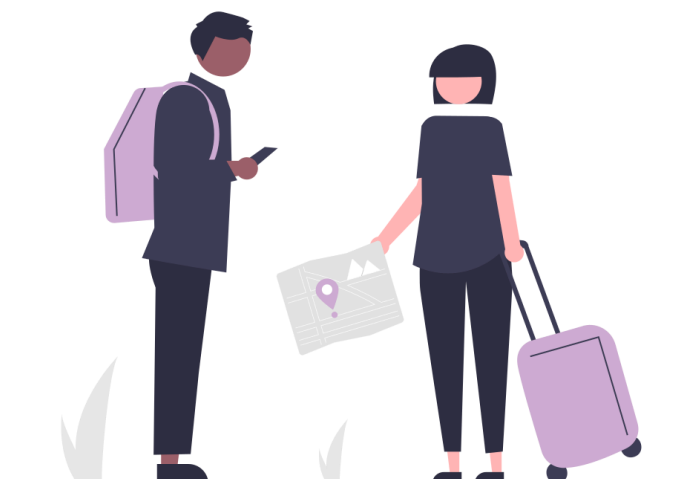


5. How has social media, such as Instagram, contributed to overtourism?
 - a. By providing information about places to go and things to do.
 - b. By eroding the tourist experience.
 - c. By promoting individual responsibility.

6. In response to overtourism, what measures have cities taken, as mentioned in the video?
 - a. Taxing tourists more heavily and regulating Airbnbs.
 - b. Encouraging more people to take cruises.
 - c. Reducing flight prices.

7. According to the video, what is the environmental impact of a round-trip flight from New York to London?
 - a. Higher than the emissions from a car over a year.
 - b. Equivalent to a year of car emissions.
 - c. Lower than the emissions from a car over a year.

8. What is the "flight shame" movement mentioned in the video?
 - a. A movement promoting responsible flying.
 - b. A movement against the aviation industry.
 - c. A movement for electric-powered aeroplanes.



5 TRAVEL: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Task: Discuss the following questions as a class.

This is your chance to practise speaking, so say as much as you can, and have fun!

1. Historically, how was international viewed, and who was it for? How is this different from the modern day?
2. How do you feel about the crowds at the Mona Lisa? Do you like touristy places?
3. Discuss how tourists can make working conditions worse for the local people. Conversely, discuss how tourists can improve working conditions for the locals.
4. How can overtourism ruin the very experience tourists are trying to have?
5. Do you think some people only travel to get the perfect selfie, or to update their social media profiles? Do you know anyone who is guilty of doing this?
6. Discuss the ways in which social media has enhanced and, on the other hand, eroded the travel experience.
7. Would you go to a specific travel destination if it was recommended by an influencer? What other factors persuade you to visit a specific location?
8. How has the rise of the global middle class affected tourism?
9. How does the prevalence of Airbnb impact local economies?
10. Do you prefer to stay in Airbnb's, hostels, or hostels when you travel? Explain.
11. How could tourist taxes benefit and harm economies that rely on tourism?
12. Due to environmental concerns, do you think air travel should be restricted? What would the consequences (positive or negative) of such restrictions be?
13. Do you support movements such as "flight shame" or "Just Stop Oil"? Are there any similar movements in your country?
14. Despite the negatives of overtourism, what are the positive aspects of tourism?
15. Do you agree that people should go on vacations or travel around their own country in order to save the environment, and their national economy?
16. Describe your ideal 3-week vacation. Give as much detail as possible, such as where you would go, what you would do, who you would go with, etc.

6 TRAVEL: DEBATE

Study the statements, then decide if you agree or disagree with them, explaining why. Use the language in the table at the bottom of the page to help structure your answer.



John

Social media filters and editing distort the reality of travel experiences.



Oli

The travel industry often exploits local communities for profit.



Beth

The rise of digital nomads is contributing to the gentrification of once-affordable destinations.



Amy

Travel bloggers often prioritise their personal brand over genuine cultural engagement.

Express an opinion It seems to me that... I feel that... I'm absolutely convinced that... In my opinion,... I believe / suppose / feel (that)...	Express disagreement I don't agree with you about... I can't accept your view that... I have a different opinion... I'm not sure if... I'm not convinced that...
Express pro's and con's There are two sides to this point... On the one hand...,on the other hand... An argument for / against is... Some people think that...,others say that... The advantages / disadvantages are...	Summarise So, in conclusion... To summarise.. Overall, it is clear that... As a result.. The bottom line is...

7 TRAVEL: IDIOMS

Task 1: Match the idioms from the box to their definitions.

Take the high road	Have a one-track mind
Off the beaten path	Cross that bridge when you get to it

1. Focus only on one thing and ignore everything else.
2. Refers to places or experiences that are not popular or well-known.
3. To choose a morally superior or more ethical approach in a difficult situation.
4. Refers to dealing with problems when they happen, not before.

Task 2: Complete the following sentences using the idioms correctly.

- a. Maria _____ about studying for her exams; she doesn't think about anything else.
- b. When his friend lied during the argument, Jake decided to _____ and tell the truth instead of getting angry.
- c. I know we might need extra funding for the project, but let's _____.
- d. We found a beautiful beach that was _____, away from the crowded tourist spots.

Task 3: Practice using the idioms by discussing the following questions as a class.

1. What are the benefits of taking the high road during arguments or disagreements?
2. Do you need to have a one-track mind to be super successful? Explain.
3. What are some places you've visited that were off the beaten path?
4. How can crossing bridges when you get to them help reduce stress in your life?

Task 4: Create 4 sentences using the idioms. Take a few minutes to prepare, then share them with the class.

8 SPEAKING: HOW DO YOU FEEL?

Task 1: Give each of the images a title. Then describe how you feel about the following images, using the adjectives from the box or adjectives of your own.

Captivating
Overrated

Chaotic
Serene

Picturesque
Crowded

Overwhelming
Exhilarating

Vibrant
Frustrating



1. _____.



2. _____.



3. _____.



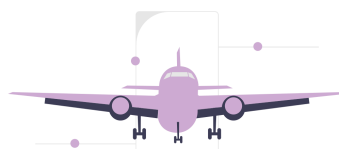
4. _____.



5. _____.



6. _____.



9 HYPOTHETICALLY SPEAKING...

Let's finish the lesson with a fun speaking game! Read each question, decide what you would do, and then provide a detailed explanation, weighing the pros and cons.

1. Would you rather explore the depths of the ocean in a submarine or journey to outer space in a spaceship?

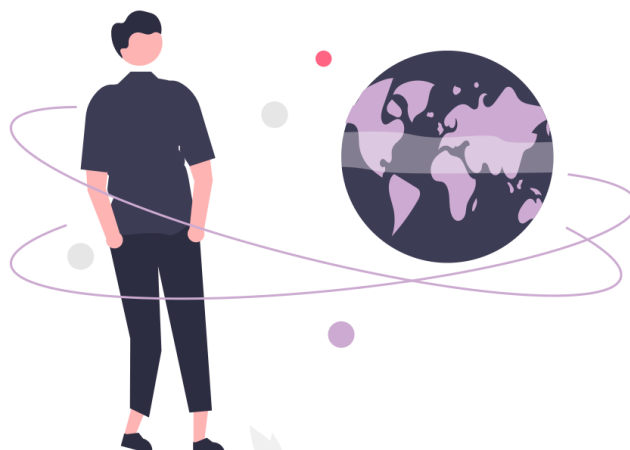
2. Would you rather travel back in time to visit a historical event or fast forward to witness a future event?

3. Would you rather have unlimited first-class flights for life or stay in luxury accommodations at any destination for free?

4. Would you rather backpack through Europe with a tight budget and sleep in hostels or take a luxurious cruise around the world?

5. Would you rather backpack through Europe with a tight budget and sleep in hostels or take a luxurious cruise around the world?

6. Would you rather travel with no physical possessions, relying on the kindness of strangers, or have a bottomless wallet but no connection with the locals?



HOMework

1 OVERTOURISM: A GLOBAL CONCERN

Task 1: Read the article that explores the global problem of overtourism.

Overtourism relates to a growing global problem as people try to deal with the negative consequences of excessive tourism. This phenomenon arises when the number of visitors to a particular location exceeds its capacity to handle them sustainably, resulting in adverse effects on the environment, local communities, and the overall visitor experience.

One of the primary consequences of overtourism is the strain it places on natural resources and ecosystems. Iconic destinations like Venice, Barcelona, and Machu Picchu have faced environmental degradation due to overcrowding. Pollution, overconsumption of water, and damage to fragile ecosystems are common side effects that can ruin a tourist destination.

Local communities feel the negative effects of overtourism the most. They experience disruptions to their daily lives, rising living costs, overcrowded public spaces, and displacement due to the growth of tourism-related industries. In some cases, residents are even forced to leave their homes to make way for vacation rentals and hotels.

Moreover, the visitor experience suffers as overcrowding diminishes the charm and authenticity of the destinations. Long lines, packed streets, and congested landmarks can lead to frustration, making it harder for travellers to connect with the culture and history of a place.

Addressing overtourism requires a complex approach. Sustainable tourism practices, including stricter visitor caps, improved infrastructure, and diversified marketing efforts, can help distribute tourist flows more evenly and reduce the pressure on hotspots. Destinations must also engage with local communities and involve them in decision-making processes to ensure that the benefits of tourism are shared fairly.

Task 2: Write detailed answers to the following questions.

1. What is overtourism, and why is it considered a global problem?
2. What environmental issues are associated with overtourism?
3. Describe the negative effects local communities experience.
4. How does overcrowding negatively impact the visitor experience?

