



## Overtourism

### Can tourism become too successful?

As more people travel than ever before, some beautiful places are paying the price.



**Listen to the article**

Scan the QR code or visit the link.



Thousands of tourists crowd the streets and beach in Positano, Italy.

### WARM-UP

Discuss the questions with a partner.

1. Have you ever visited a place that felt too crowded or too busy? How did it feel?
2. What benefits does tourism bring to a city or a country?

In recent years, the city of Barcelona has seen something strange. Frustrated locals walked through crowded tourist districts carrying water pistols, gently spraying surprised visitors at sidewalk cafés. The playful protest carried a serious message: “Tourists go home.” For a city that welcomes more than 30 million visitors a year, the moment revealed a growing tension between those who live in a place and those who simply pass through.

The problem has a name: overtourism. It happens when a destination attracts more visitors than it can comfortably handle. Cities like Venice, Amsterdam, and Kyoto have all felt the **strain**. A sudden **surge** in arrivals can crowd the streets, push up prices, and slowly change a neighborhood until it no longer feels like home to its **residents**.

The numbers are striking. Venice, a city of fewer than 50,000 residents, can receive up to 100,000 tourists in a single day. Recently it introduced a five-euro entry fee for day-trippers—the first of its kind in the world. Amsterdam has frozen new hotel construction, and even Mount Everest now sees traffic jams of climbers waiting near the summit.

Still, tourism is not the enemy. It creates jobs, supports small businesses, and connects cultures. The real question is balance. Some call for stricter rules to **regulate** visitor numbers; others believe the answer is smarter, more **sustainable** travel. As the backlash grows louder, no easy answer is in sight.

***Who really owns a city—the people who live there, or the millions who come to see it?***

### VOCABULARY

A. Match the words (1–5) with their meanings (A–E).

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|------------------|--|
| 1. surge —       | A. a person who lives in a particular place              |
| 2. strain —      | B. able to continue for a long time without causing harm |
| 3. resident —    | C. a sudden, large increase                              |
| 4. regulate —    | D. pressure caused by too much demand                    |
| 5. sustainable — | E. to control an activity using rules                    |

### TRUE OR FALSE

Read the statements and circle T (True) or F (False).

1. Too many visitors can overwhelm a place. T F
2. Venice charges day-trippers a five-euro fee. T F
3. The article says tourism is only harmful. T F
4. Everest has seen crowds near the summit. T F
5. There is one simple solution to overtourism. T F

### DISCUSSION

- 1 Have you ever visited a place that felt too crowded? What was it like?
- 2 Has tourism changed a place you know well? How?
- 3 Why might residents and tourists see the same city so differently?
- 4 Do you think entry fees or visitor limits are fair? Why or why not?
- 5 Who do you think a famous city really belongs to—its residents or its visitors?



## 01 CRITICAL THINKING

### RANK & DEFEND

Rank these effects of overtourism from **best (1)** to **worst (5)** for the people who live there.

- A** More jobs and income for local people
- B** Higher rents that push residents out
- C** Better transport and public services
- D** Damage to nature and historic sites
- E** Crowded streets and loss of local character

## 02 LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT

### USE THE LANGUAGE

Complete each line so you can use it in the discussion.  
Change the form if you need to.

**surge strain residents regulate sustainable**

- 1 A sudden \_\_\_\_\_ in tourists can change a city overnight.
- 2 Too many visitors put a real \_\_\_\_\_ on local life.
- 3 I think \_\_\_\_\_ should matter more than tourists.
- 4 Cities should \_\_\_\_\_ tourism before it gets out of control.
- 5 For me, \_\_\_\_\_ travel is the only kind worth doing.

## 04 WRITING

### YOUR OPINION

### Should popular cities limit the number of tourists they allow?

Write 150–200 words, using ideas and vocabulary from the article.

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### YOUR VIEW

Which effect is the most serious for a place with too many tourists? Why?

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## 03 SPEAKING CHALLENGE

### ROLE • TASK • PRESENT

In small groups, work through the three steps below.

- ROLE** You are the local council of a town that has suddenly become a tourist hotspot.
- TASK** Agree on two rules to manage visitors and protect residents.
- PRESENT** Share your plan with the class and explain why it is fair to everyone.

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