

Ecotourism

1 (1) _____

Tourism will always have an impact on the places visited. Sometimes the impact is good, but often it's negative. For example, if lots of people visit one place, then this can damage the environment. The question is – how can we minimize the problems without preventing people from travelling and visiting places?

(2) _____

The main aim of ecotourism is to reduce the negative impact that tourism has on the environment and local people. The idea is to encourage tourists to think about what they do when they visit a place.

(3) _____

It's great to talk about protecting the environment, but how do you actually do this? There are a number of key points. Tourists shouldn't drop litter, they should stay on the paths, they shouldn't interfere with wildlife and they should respect local customs and traditions.

(4) _____

Some people see ecotourism as a contradiction. They say that any tourism needs infrastructure – roads, airports and hotels. The more tourists that visit a place, the more of these are needed and, by building more of these, you can't avoid damaging the environment.

(5) _____

But, of course, things aren't so black and white. Living in a place of natural beauty doesn't mean that you shouldn't benefit from things like better roads. As long as the improvements benefit the local people and not just the tourists, and the local communities are consulted on plans and changes, then is there really a problem?

(6) _____

In 2002 the United Nations celebrated the 'International Year of Ecotourism'. Over the past twenty years, more and more people have started taking eco-holidays. In countries such as Ecuador, Nepal, Costa Rica and Kenya, ecotourism represents a significant proportion of the tourist industry.

2 Comprehension

Put the headings a–f in the correct place 1–6 in the text.

- a Is more infrastructure always bad?
- b What is ecotourism?
- c Is tourism always good?
- d How popular is ecotourism?
- e What exactly does ecotourism mean?
- f Is ecotourism really possible?

Read the sentences and write *T* (True) or *F* (False).

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1 The writer thinks that tourism should be stopped. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Ecotourism is about making more money from tourists. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Tourists should think about their behaviour. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 It doesn't matter where people walk. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 More roads and buildings are built because of tourism. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 It's good when local people are asked for their opinions. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Ecotourism is becoming less popular. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 For some countries ecotourism is very important. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3 Vocabulary

Find these words in the text and choose the correct meaning, a or b, for each one.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 impact (l. 3)
a to have an effect or influence
b to make something less good | 5 reduce (l. 15)
a to do something again
b to make something smaller |
| 2 damage (l. 7)
a to improve
b to have a negative effect | 6 interfere (l. 30)
a to handle or change something although you have no right to do this
b to worry about something |
| 3 minimize (l. 10)
a to ignore something bad
b to make as small as possible | 7 contradiction (l. 37)
a two ideas that can't both be true
b something that helps people |
| 4 prevent (l. 11)
a to stop
b to exist at a particular time | 8 benefit (l. 52)
a be paid for
b have the advantage |

4. En t'aidant du texte, complète les phrases pour donner du sens (les numéros renvoient à chaque paragraphe)

1. The impact of on the is sometimes negative because they can it.
2. With ecotourism, tourists are encouraged to about what they when they a place.
3. Tourists throw trash on the ground and they feed the wild animals. They stay on the paths and they respect local traditions.
4. Eco tourism is not always positive because, and still need to be built.
5. But if the better roads and infrastructure benefit the,, then it's a good thing.
6. Since 2002 , and people have started taking eco-holidays.