

OVERTOURISM

"Take only memories, leave only footprints."

Chief Seattle (1786 – 1866), Native American chief

1. Overtourism Discussion

1. Why do you think so many more tourists are travelling today compared to the past?
2. Do you think this boom in tourism is a good thing or a bad thing? Why?
3. What are some reasons why people are left disappointed with somewhere they visited? Have you ever been disappointed after a trip somewhere? If so, why was that?
4. Have you ever experienced overtourism? How did it affect your experience?
5. Do you prefer to visit places with lots of other tourists, or do you prefer somewhere less popular?
6. Where could you go if you wanted to escape the crowds?
7. What are some ways that tourists have a damaging effect on the places they visit?
8. Which cultural, historical or natural places are suffering because of overtourism?

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2. Overtourism Vocabulary

- **overtourism** (noun) – *an excessive number of tourists in a place resulting in various problems and conflicts with local people.*
- **high season / low season** (nouns) – *the times in the year when most people want to travel (high season) or when the least people want to travel (low season).*
- **cruise** (noun) – *a holiday/vacation that takes place on a ship.*
- **package holiday** (BrE) / **vacation package** (AmE) (noun) – *a holiday/vacation where all components (transport/accommodation/tours) are organised by a travel agent.*
- **throng** (noun) – *a large number of people gathered together in a place; a crowd of people.*
- **budget / low-cost airline** (noun) – *an airline that keeps operating costs to a bare minimum in order to keep prices competitively low.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)

1. Thomas Cook offer **package holidays** to Spain including the hotel and a flight leaving from your nearest airport.
2. **Throngs** of people gathered in Times Square to see in the new year.
3. The proliferation of **budget/low-cost airlines** has meant that previously unaffordable holiday destinations are now available to all.
4. While you can save a lot of money by travelling in the **low season**, this isn't possible for families with school children.
5. Graffiti saying *"go home"* appeared in neighbourhoods of Barcelona which have been particularly hard hit by the effects of **overtourism**.
6. The **cruise** will call at seven ports in five countries over the next two weeks.

Overtourism vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Is overtourism a problem anywhere in your country?
2. When are high and low seasons? What are the pros and cons of travelling during these times?
3. How do cruises contribute to overtourism?
4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a package holiday?
5. Where would you find throngs of people in your city?
6. What do you think about budget airlines? Are they to blame for overtourism?

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3. Video: Too Many People Want to Travel

You are going to watch a video by The Atlantic called "Too Many People Want to Travel".

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-overtourism/

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. Why did museum workers walk out of a museum in protest?

   a) dangerous numbers of people *b) too many foreign people* *c) not enough pay*

2. Who caused safety hazards during the poppy super-bloom in California?

   a) Facebook influencers ***b) Instagrammers*** *c) YouTubers*

3. What made mass tourism possible?

   a) The Lonely Planet *b) social media* ***c) fossil fuels***

4. In the past, who was tourism for?

   a) the rich *b) the middle class* *c) the poor*

Sentence completion

5. Disneyland-style vacations didn't become common until the **20th century**.
6. When Western countries developed large middle classes that could afford to travel, **mass tourism** began.
7. A global middle class from middle-income countries like Brazil and India has emerged over the last **30** years.
8. Budget airlines have allowed people to travel **cheaply**.

Short answer

9. What has provided a way for people to find out where to go and what to do? **Social media**
10. Some cities are starting to put limits on whom? **Cruise ship visitors**
11. How many days did Greta Thunberg spend sailing across the ocean to make a statement on climate change? **6**
12. What are some positives of tourism? **Global connection and financial investments**

4. Overtourism Conversation Questions

1. How does overtourism lead to rising house prices?
2. How can social media lead to overtourism?
3. Should tourist numbers in popular destinations be restricted? Why or why not?
4. How can we balance people's desire to travel with the problem of overtourism?
5. If travelling became more expensive to combat overtourism, would it be fair that only the middle and upper classes could travel?
6. Is it hypocritical for tourists to complain about overtourism?
7. Is it hypocritical for local people whose economy is based on tourism to complain about overtourism?
8. What effects will we see in the future if the tourist industry continues to grow?

5. Overtourism Writing Task

Write about your opinion of overtourism. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this class. In your answer, you could include the following topics:

- The causes of overtourism.
- The problems associated with overtourism.
- Solutions to the problem of overtourism.

Alternative exam essay question

In order to reduce the number of tourists and avoid overtourism, large taxes should be put on flights and budget airlines should be banned. Do you agree or disagree?

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