



# TOURISM AND POLITICS



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:  
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1

## Warm up

In pairs, discuss the following questions.

1. What factors influence where you choose to go on holiday?
2. How does the political climate of a country affect tourism?
3. Can tourism be used as a tool for political diplomacy?
4. How do international politics impact the travel industry?
5. How do political tensions between countries affect the travel decisions of tourists?
6. Can political events within a country have a positive or negative impact on tourism?





## 2 Vocabulary: key words

Part A: Match the terms on the left to the definitions on the right.

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>nurture</u> (v)           | a. making too much use of a resource  |
| 2. <u>scapegoat</u> (n)         | b. becoming weaker  |
| 3. <u>over-exploitation</u> (n) | c. give someone more control over their life  |
| 4. <u>legitimise</u> (v)        | d. help something develop   |
| 5. <u>empower</u> (v)           | e. the evidence of the past such as historical sites and objects                      |
| 6. <u>assert</u> (v)            | f. act forcefully about something to show you have power                              |
| 7. <u>ailing</u> (adj.)         | g. make something seem acceptable that is not fair or honest                          |
| 8. <u>heritage</u> (n)          | h. publicly blaming someone for something bad even though it might not be their fault |

Part B: Fill the gaps with words from Part A.

1. The government is trying to \_\_\_\_\_ spending vast amounts of money on marketing campaigns as a way to attract tourists.
2. As the COVID-19 pandemic persisted, the \_\_\_\_\_ tourism industry sought vital support from governments to prevent further decline in visitor numbers.
3. Some people argue that tourism can \_\_\_\_\_ local communities and economies.
4. Environmental groups warn that tourism can lead to the \_\_\_\_\_ of natural resources.
5. Some politicians use tourism as a \_\_\_\_\_ for their country's economic problems.
6. Travel experts \_\_\_\_\_ that sustainable tourism practices are crucial for preserving natural wonders for future generations.
7. Critics argue that mass tourism can destroy the \_\_\_\_\_ of traditional cultures.
8. The government is taking steps to \_\_\_\_\_ sustainable tourism practices in order to protect the environment.



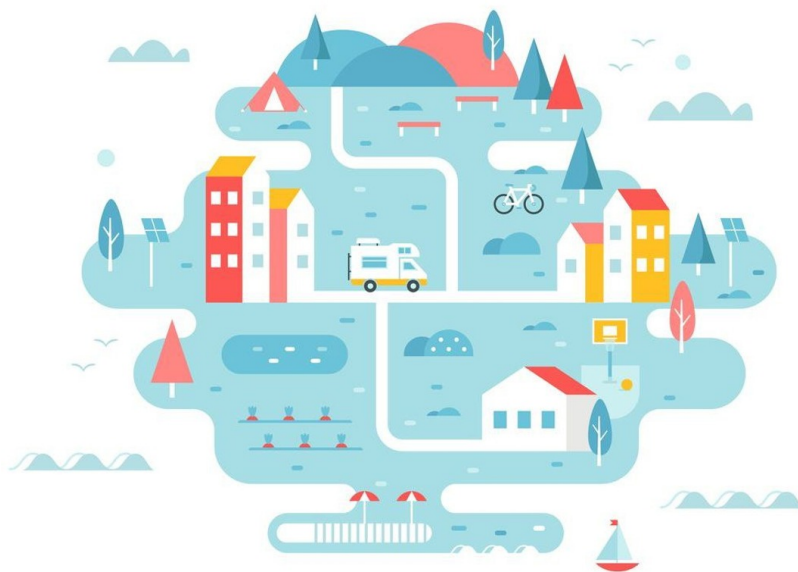
**Part C: Discuss the following question in pairs or small groups.**

1. How does the development of tourism infrastructure **empower** local communities to preserve their cultural **heritage**?
2. How can sustainable tourism practices **empower** communities to protect their **heritage** without **over-exploiting** it?

**3****Before you read**

You are going to read an article about the connection between tourism and politics (page three). First, rank the following benefits of tourism from 1 - 6, with 1 being the most important. Then read the text on the next page to find which reasons are mentioned in the article.

1.  Brings in foreign currency.
2.  Provides local jobs.
3.  Raises the profile of the country abroad.
4.  Gives incentives to invest in infrastructure.
5.  Spreads democracy.
6.  Hosts exchange ideas with tourists.





# Your choice of holiday destination is a political act.

## Connections between politics and tourism industry

1. Tickets, money, passports! We all know what to check for during that last-minute packing panic. But preparing for your holidays is about more than what you squeeze into your suitcase. It is about making a political choice.
2. Tourism is an industry tied up with national and international politics like no other. Tourists are a source of foreign exchange, governments promote themselves through visitors, and politicians quite often worry about the social freedom that tourism can nurture. For these reasons, tourists are welcomed but also scapegoated.
3. At the most basic level, tourism counts as an export industry. It is a source of foreign currency and can help to prop up a nation financially.
4. However, local people often see few of the benefits of hosting tourists. Large organisations tend to control much of the tourism industry. These frequently pay little local tax. Meanwhile, local people shoulder much of the burden of sharing their space and facilities with visitors.
5. Some indigenous people have asked foreign tourists to stay away. They have argued that tourism is threatening their culture, damaging their land's ecosystems, and is a form of colonialism. In Hawaii, attempts are being made to tackle some of the issues arising from the tourism industry's over-exploitation of the open and hospitable native culture.
6. Where you spend your holiday money, therefore, contributes to legitimising particular politicians and their policies. However, tourists don't just bring money into a destination. They also bring social and cultural values.
7. Tourism has been associated with liberalising social values, empowering minorities, and even spreading democracy. In Spain, for example, the growth of tourism was initiated under the dictator Francisco Franco as a means of propping up an ailing economy. It has been suggested that it helped to bring about democratic change.
8. Hosts and guests exchange observations and ideas. They form relationships. And they stimulate mutual creativity. It is only in the past 20 years that China began to allow its people to freely travel abroad after decades of forced isolation. Politicians are frequently fearful of the subversive ideas and awkward questions that travellers might bring back with them.
9. In Barcelona, a city dependent on tourism for its late 20th-century revival, tourists are being made increasingly unwelcome. The increasing costs of living for residents are blamed on tourists, rather than the broader challenges of inequality and financial stagnation.
10. Tourism is also a way for governments to assert their ideologies, both internally and externally. Visitors to Cuba for example can visit the Museum of the Revolution, reportedly one of the top things to do in Havana.
11. Research has shown that exhibits presented as a heritage to tourists prioritise certain stories and silence others. Over time, the official narrative becomes established, and other perspectives may be forgotten.
12. Meanwhile, tourism can also be a means of raising and modifying a country's image on the world stage.
13. So, there are a few things to consider when planning your holiday. Find out whether your travel provider is committed to investing in local taxes, jobs and suppliers. Research the attitudes of local residents towards tourism beforehand so that you can be a better guest. Finally, bring back more than a nice tan by swapping ideas, stories and phone numbers.

*Adapted from theconversation.com, by Brendan Canavan, Senior Lecturer in Marketing at the University of Huddersfield*



## 4 Checking understanding

What do you remember? Answer the questions according to the article.

1. What are large organisations **not** doing in order to help the local economy?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What about Hawaiian natives? Are they being over-exploited? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was the reason for the growth of tourism in Spain? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did China allow its citizens to start doing just 20 years ago? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What are tourists being blamed for in Barcelona? \_\_\_\_\_
6. According to research, what happens with the information that is given to tourists about a country's past? \_\_\_\_\_

## 5 Find the words

Find a word or phrase in the article (page four) which suits the definitions below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (phr. v, para. 2) connected to
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (phr. v, para. 3) support
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (idiom, para. 4) take on the responsibility of something difficult
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (collocation, para. 5) humans that are native to a particular place
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (collocation, para. 5) developing because of
6. \_\_\_\_\_ (adj, para. 8) doing the same thing to each other
7. \_\_\_\_\_ (noun phrase, para. 9) a period of little monetary growth
8. \_\_\_\_\_ (noun, para. 11) an account of events

## 6 Listening for gist



Listen to the podcast with the person who loves travelling and tick phrases you have heard.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> mutual            | <input type="checkbox"/> prop up                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> indigenous people | <input type="checkbox"/> financial stagnation        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> tied up with      | <input type="checkbox"/> shoulder much of the burden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> narrative         | <input type="checkbox"/> arising from                |



## 7

**Listening comprehension**

Listen to the recording again and choose the correct answer.

1. What was the main topic of the podcast?
  - a. technology and tourism
  - b. food and politics
  - c. tourism and politics
  - d. politics and culture
  
2. How did the caller describe the relationship between the government and the tourism industry in some countries?
  - a. The government was actively working to prop up the tourism industry.
  - b. The government was not involved with the tourism industry.
  - c. The government was actively working to shut down the tourism industry.
  - d. The tourism industry was actively working to prop up the government.
  
3. How did the caller describe the tourism industry in Nepal?
  - a. thriving
  - b. struggling
  - c. not affected by political instability
  - d. not mentioned
  
4. How did the caller feel about the relationship between tourism and politics?
  - a. It is not important.
  - b. They should not be connected.
  - c. It is important for there to be mutual understanding and cooperation.
  - d. It is the government's responsibility.
  
5. What advice did the caller give to tourists?
  - a. To not be aware of the political climate of a country before they visit.
  - b. To visit a country regardless of the political climate.
  - c. To be aware of the political climate of a country before they visit.
  - d. To visit only countries with stable politics.



## 8

**Talking point**

Answer the questions below in pairs or small groups.

1. What, in your opinion, are the worst things about tourism?
2. Do you think that tourists get blamed for a lot of problems that are not their fault? Why or why not?
3. Do you think that the number of tourists travelling to certain parts of the world should be restricted? Why or why not?
4. Do you agree with the author that we need to research attitudes towards tourists in a place before we choose it as a holiday destination? Why or why not?