Reading

What Is Ecotourism?

The concept of ecotourism has been gaining publicity over the past couple of decades. It arose out of the "green movement"—a growing interest in developing practices in all aspects of daily life that preserve rather than injure the natural environment. Ecotourists str ve to have minimal impact on the places they visit, in terms of both the local ecology and the local culture. Some followers take the concept even further and define ecotourism as travel that aims not only to avoid harming the environment, but also to make a positive contribution to the local ecology and culture.

The types of vacations[1] that fit into the category of ecotourism vary widely. Ecotourism might involve travel to a natural destination such as a national park or a nature preserve to learn about the natural environment and, in some cases, to volunteer on environmental protection projects. It could be a few weeks spent with local artisans learning how to do a traditional craft. Trips that involve hiking or rafting through w lderness areas with no regard for the natural habitats one passes through would not be included in the definition of ecotourism. Neither, of course, would be trips with a focus on hunting.

Ecotourists seek out accommodations that follow environmentally friendly practices such as using renewable resources and recycling. Ecotourists look for hotels and tour companies that hire mainly local staff, keeping tourist dollars within the local economy. Ecotourists might choose to join a bicycling or walking tour rather than a bus tour that adds to air pollution and allows tourists to see the local area only through a barrier of glass windows.

Ecotourists often shun cruise ships, because these are among the biggest culprits in the tourism industry in terms of environmental pollution. Massive cruise ships release large quantities of harmful emissions into the air as well as pollute the waters they sail through with fuel from their engines. The huge numbers of passengers on these ships generate many tons of garbage and wastewater, which is often dumped into the sea. Cruise ships also cause damage to coral reefs and other delicate ecosystems that they travel near. Perhaps in part because of the growing interest in ecotourism, some cruise companies are now making an effort to be more environmentally friendly. These efforts include recycling wastes and using fuel more efficiently. Vacationers who are interested in ecotourism and still get pleasure from cruises can travel with cruise companies that follow these practices.

[1]BrE: holidays

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Because of the growing interest in ecotourism, many companies advertise themselves as ecotourism companies, especially those that offer trips to remote, natural areas, the type of destination that ecotourists favor[2]. Travelers need to be wary and do their research carefully. Not all of these companies follow the principles of ecotourism. Some are simply trying to take advantage of the current interest in this type of travel. The positive side of this, however, is that it may actually be an indication that the movement is gaining in popularity.

Answer the questions about **What Is Ecotourism?**

Questions 1–7

Do the following statements agree with the information in the reading passage?

Write

TRUE *if the statement agrees with the information.*
FALSE *if the statement contradicts the information.*
NOT GIVEN *if there is no information on this in the passage.*

_____ 1. Ecotourism refers only to trips made to remote wilderness destinations.

_____ 2. Ecotourists are interested in preserving delicate natural areas.

_____ 3. Ecotourists prefer less expensive accommodations.

_____ 4. Ecotourists strive to support the local economy where they travel.

_____ 5. Many large cruise ships injure the environment by dumping garbage into the sea.

_____ 6. Hunting trips can be included in the category of ecotourism.

_____ 7. An ecotourism trip might include volunteering to work on local projects.

_____ 8. Some cruise companies are changing their practices to become more environmentally friendly.

_____ 9. Cruise ships do not recycle paper and plastic because it is too expensive.

[2]BrE: favour

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My Words

Write the words that are new to you. Look them up in the dictionary and write their definitions.

Words	Definitions

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Word Families

noun	accommodations	The accommodations on our trip were very comfortable.
verb	accommodate	It's a small hotel that can accommodate only about fifty guests.
adjective	accommodating	We found our hosts very accommodating.

noun	avoidance	Avoidance of environmental damage is an important part of ecotourism.
verb	avoid	We can avoid damaging the environment if we are careful to follow certain practices.
adjective	avoidable	Following certain practices makes damage to the environment avoidable.

noun	concept	Ecotourism is a concept that is growing in popularity.
verb	conceive	It is not hard to conceive of ways to protect the environment.
adjective	conceptual	Ecotourism has gone beyond the conceptual stage to become something that many people have put into practice.
adverb	conceptually	Ecotourism differs conceptually from regular tourism.

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noun	injury	Large cruise ships cause several types of injury to the environment.
verb	injure	Ecotourists try not to injure the environment.
adjective	injurious	Some practices, such as anchoring large cruise ships close to coral reefs, are injurious to the environment.

noun	publicity	The more publicity ecotourism gets, the more people will become interested in this type of travel.
verb	publicize[1]	Many companies publicize themselves as ecotourism companies, but not all of them follow ecotourism principles.
adjective	public	Tour companies make their services public through advertisements on the Internet and in magazines.
adverb	publicly	The need to protect the environment is being discussed publicly.

noun	wild	Many tourists enjoy photographing animals in the wild.
noun	wilderness	Many people enjoy spending time in the wilderness.
adjective	wild	Some tours are organized to destinations where wild animals can be observed.
adverb	wildly	Places such as Machu Picchu and the Galapagos Islands have become wildly popular ecotourism destinations.

[1]BrE: publicise

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Word Family Practice

Choose the correct word family member from the list below to complete each blank.

Ecotourism companies operate on the principle that **1**..... of harm to the environment is not only possible but an important part of pleasure trips. The basic **2**..... of ecotourism is to respect the places you visit, in terms of both the culture and the natural environment. Ecotourism companies offer a wide range of tours. Some include stays in luxury hotels, whereas others take travelers to remote destinations where only the simplest **3**..... are available. On some trips, travelers learn about the **4**..... plants and animals that live in the area. On others, they learn about the local traditions. On all trips, travelers are careful not to cause any type of **5**..... to the environment. Where environmental harm is concerned, they don't want to be among the culprits. If you are interested in ecotourism, it's easy to find out about trips being offered. Ecotourism companies **6**..... their trips in travel magazines and on travel websites.

1. avoidance	avoid	avoidable
2. concept	conceive	conceptual
3. accommodations	accommodate	accommodates
4. wilderness	wildly	wild
5. injury	injure	injurious
6. publicity	publicize	public

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Dictionary Skill

Parts of Speech
Volunteer can be a noun, a verb, or an adjective.

Read the dictionary definitions below. Then read the sentences and write the letter of the correct definition for each sentence.

vol-un-teer [vol-un-TEER]
A *noun.* a person who offers to do work for no pay; a person who freely offers a service
B *verb.* to work for no pay; freely offer to do something
C *adjective.* done by volunteers

_____ 1. Many environmental protection projects depend on *volunteer* work.

_____ 2. A *volunteer* not only provides a service but also has the opportunity to gain valuable experience.

_____ 3. Many people *volunteer* to spend their vacation time helping out on environmental protection projects.

Listening

CD 1 Track 18

Listen to the conversation. Complete the form below. Write ***NO MORE THAN ONE WORD*** *for each answer.*

Excellent Eco Tours

Customer Name: *Bob Henderson*

Trip: **1**..... *Adventure*

Dates **2**..... *12–25*

Type of **3**..... : *campground*

How did customer hear about us?

Saw **4**..... *in a travel magazine*

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