Can Tourism Become Too Popular?

Every year, millions of people travel to famous **tourist attractions** around the world. They visit places such as the **Colosseum** in Rome, the **Trevi Fountain**, or even a **Walt Disney theme park**. Tourism brings many benefits. It creates jobs, supports local businesses, and allows visitors to learn about different cultures. In some countries, tourism is one of the most important sources of income.

Travelling has also become **relatively cheaper** than it was in the past. Budget airlines and online booking websites have made it possible for more people to enjoy a journey abroad. As a result, many **capital cities** now welcome millions of visitors every year. However, **here lies the problem**. When too many tourists arrive at the same time, they can **spoil the atmosphere and the beauty** of a place.

Many **residents** say that their streets are often **packed with sightseers**, especially during the summer. The old streets are usually **narrow**, making it difficult for both local people and visitors to move around. Some tourists also show little **respect** for local traditions. They may walk into churches **bare-chested**, **wade in fountains**, or even **attach love padlocks** to **historic monuments**. These actions are considered **inappropriate** and show **disrespect to** local communities and their history.

Because of these problems, local **authorities** have started to take action. Some cities have introduced new **regulations** and **restrictions** to protect their cultural heritage. They may **restrict** the number of visitors who can enter popular attractions each day. Some governments have even decided to **crack down on** tourists who **misbehave** by **giving out severe fines**. The

Task 1. True / False / Not Given

TRUE if the statement agrees with the passage.

FALSE if the statement contradicts the passage.

NOT GIVEN if the information is not mentioned.

1. Tourism is the largest industry in every country.
2. Travelling abroad is cheaper today than in the past.
3. Every resident dislikes tourists.
4. Some tourists damage historic monuments.
5. Local authorities want to stop tourism completely.
6. Cruise passengers usually stay for several days.
7. Sustainable tourism benefits both visitors and local people.

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aim of these laws is not to stop tourism but to encourage **respectful** behaviour and make travel more sustainable.

Another solution is to **cap the number** of large **cruise ships** that can **dock** at the same time. Cruise passengers often stay for only a few hours and leave without spending much money locally. If fewer ships arrive each day, cities may be able to **maintain** a better balance between tourism and daily life. Visitors who **stay overnight** usually spend more money in local hotels and restaurants and have more time to understand the culture.

Some travel experts, including a **deputy travel editor** at **The Independent** newspaper, have asked, "**What is going on?**" They argue that famous cities should not become a **commercial environment** that is **similar to** a theme park. This idea is sometimes called **Disneyfication**, where a real city slowly changes into a place designed mainly for tourists instead of local people.

Finding the right balance is one of the greatest **challenges** facing modern tourism. The **objective** is not to attract fewer visitors but to **achieve** sustainable tourism that benefits everyone. Travellers should remember that they are guests in another community. By showing respect, following local regulations, and behaving responsibly, we can help protect beautiful places for future generations. **Therefore**, both tourists and local authorities share the responsibility for making tourism a positive experience.

Task 2. Sentence Completion

Complete each sentence using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage.

1. Tourism creates jobs and supports _____.
2. Too many visitors can spoil the _____ and the beauty of a place.
3. Some tourists walk into churches _____.
4. Authorities introduced new _____ to protect cultural heritage.
5. The main _____ is to encourage respectful behaviour.
6. Cities may _____ the number of cruise ships.
7. Visitors who _____ usually spend more money locally.
8. Tourism should benefit both visitors and _____.

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