

Venice set to charge tourists to enter the city



Venice, Italy is one of the world's top tourist destinations. Before the coronavirus pandemic, around 20 million visitors a year visited the city. This caused many problems such as pollution from cruise ships and overcrowding. To deal with these problems, city officials are planning to charge tourists to visit the city's historical centre and its beautiful canals. According to Italy's *La Stampa* newspaper, entry into Venice could cost between three euros (\$3.50) and 10 euros. This could start in the summer of 2022. There are also plans to set a limit on the number of visitors who can enter the centre each day. Tourists may need to book their visit to Venice before they go.

Venice officials have talked for many years about the number of visitors flocking to the city. Environmentalists are worried about the damage cruise ships do to marine life in the Venice Lagoon. Heritage lovers want to protect Venice's famous squares and architecture from millions of tourists. This made Italy's Culture Minister, Dario Franceschini, say that there is a "concrete risk" of the United Nations culture agency UNESCO adding Venice to its list of World Heritage in Danger sites. However, Feliciano Vargas, a hotel worker, said Venice needed cruise ships. He said: "They spend big in a short time, before sailing out." A city official is worried that charging tourists a fee to enter will turn Venice into a "theme park".

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a)-e) below are true (T) or false (F).

- a) Venice might start charging tourists to enter the city the summer of 2022 T / F
- b) The article says Venice is the world's top tourist destination. T / F
- c) It could cost as much as 10 euros to visit Venice. T / F
- d) Tourists might have to book to be able to visit Venice. T / F
- e) A city official wants Venice to become a theme park. T / F

II. Complete sentences with a word, phrase or number from the text. Write the word, phrase or number in the space provided.

- a) About _____ people a year visited Venice before coronavirus.
- b) _____ will add Venice to its World Heritage in Danger list.
- c) _____ said cruise ship tourists spend a lot of money.
- d) The newspaper _____ said that entry into Venice could cost between 3 and 10 euros.
- e) The current Italy's Culture Minister is _____