

WHAT IS ECOTOURISM?

Words

Look for the following words as you read the passage. Match each word with its correct definition.

Words

1. accommodations¹
2. avoid
3. barrier
4. category
5. concept
6. culprit
7. delicate
8. destination
9. dump
10. injure
11. pleasure
12. practice²
13. principle
14. publicity
15. recycling
16. remote
17. strive
18. volunteer
19. wary
20. wilderness

Definitions

- A. v., to work for no pay; freely offer to do something
- B. v., to get rid of garbage and trash³
- C. adj., not completely trusting
- D. n., guilty party, origin of a problem
- E. adj., easily hurt or broken
- F. n., natural region away from towns and cities
- G. n., the place somebody or something is going to
- H. v., to hurt
- I. n., enjoyment
- J. v., to work very hard to do something
- K. n., rule, basic idea behind a system
- L. n., a place to stay such as a hotel
- M. n., something that blocks or separates
- N. n., activity that makes something known to the public
- O. n., idea
- P. n., collection and treatment of trash for reuse
- Q. v., to prevent from happening; stay away from
- R. adj., far away
- S. n., a custom, method
- T. n., a group of things that have something in common

¹BrE: accommodation

²BrE: practice n., practise v.

³BrE: rubbish

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 **strive** 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 **wilderness** 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**.

¹BrE: holidays

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 eco-tourists favor². Travellers 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.

²BrE: favour

My Words

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

Unit 6