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The Price of Tourism

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The Price of Tourism

Have you ever wanted to go to another country for an overdue vacation whether it be Italy, Hawaii, England, Vietnam or Japan? Then chances are you will one day be part of the billions of people who have become tourists. Tourism is a massive industry with billions of revenues that affects many countries as it is often a main source of income for the country.

Hawaii for example gains 18 billion USD every year from tourism (Hawai'i Convention Center 2021). Many of the residents also benefit as they make their entire living off it. Citizens even the government build and set up many attractions to bring tourists. Tourism is profitable but it equally brings consequences such as degradation, overuse of resources, pollution and harm to the residents.

To begin the overuse of natural resources that tourists cause while abroad. One of the most used resources being drained is water as it is used for drinking and cleaning in massive quantities. According to the Global Development Research Center or GDRC for short "In dryer regions like the Mediterranean because of the hot climate and the tendency of tourists to consume more water when on holiday than they do at home, the amount used can run up to 440 liters (about 116.24 gals) a day" (Srinivas 2001). Another overly used resource is food itself as more tourists arrive, increasing the demand. This large demand compared to the normal population without tourists leads to shortages. In some cases, local common goods may even become scarce to the point of price inflation.

To continue with is the large amount of pollution caused by tourists. The United States Environmental Protection Agency states that "United States Tourists produce an estimated 4.8 million tons of trash annually." (Environmental Protection Agency 2023) Tourists often end up with an easygoing mindset that does not encourage them to be clean. This trash often builds up and remains on the ground, harming the landscape and the inhabitants living there.

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Additionally, it often ends up in many things that come from the area whether it be microplastics that found their way into the ocean's fish or birds swallowing up trash. Tourists also often buy or bring single-use items that they use and then leave behind causing more waste.

Furthermore, the pollution caused by tourists is not directly shown as development for tourism is a large factor. It causes greenhouse gas emissions due to the creation of new buildings to serve and produce food whether they be restaurants or packing facilities. Along with this increased transportation using cars also causes more emissions. To add to this, regular entertainment facilities are also built more frequently to appease tourists with one of the most environmentally damaging being golf courses. A golf course according to the GDRC in a "tropical country such as Thailand needs 1500kg (about 3306.93 Lb) of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides per year" (Srinivas 2001).

Lastly, tourism harms the environment itself. Tourists themselves often harm the dirt they stand on with the heavy increase in people walking from place to place. They can often trample over plants and other small living things on the ground even if they did not realize it. This extends to the ocean and other large bodies of water as many exploitative activities are performed in them. Some of these in Hawaii include "dolphin viewings and swims, snorkel and dive tours, whale watching, charter fishing, and other marine activities" according to Darragh Clayton from the University of Prince Edward Island (Clayton 2022).

Many residents grew up and adapted to centuries of tradition and the land is part of that. The land, however, is cleaned and deforested to make way for hotels. This land also has been part of their home for generations with many once calling it home. However, a lot of their culture is lost or interfered with for tourism, with Hawaii being the example I will use. Clayton for instance states "with less opportunities and less space for their traditions the native

population is forced to forget their important roots and adjust to living in a highly visited area.” (Clayton 2022) This has caused residents to change the entirety of their practices to the food they were once able to eat. Additionally, “The land is being torn up in order to accommodate the millions of annual tourists” furthering the loss of resources” (Clayton 2022). Clayton is furthering the emphasis on the sheer number of tourists that visit which helps to support the negative consequences that are affecting Hawaii.

Overall, while tourism can help bring in revenue and visitors it also brings in negative results like issues with the environment and the deterioration of it that can last a long time. Tourists can harm the environment itself as they can trample plants or the ground, they walk upon whether they realize it or not. They can overuse the food and water of their intended destination as they consume more vacation than they would at home. Pollution such as trash is also more common with tourists arriving as United States Tourists for example can produce 4.8 million a year. Another type of pollution such as greenhouse gases are also more common as buildings are developed for tourists. Native residents also face repercussions as they face the loss of their homes and cultural heritage. In short, while thinking about your next travel destination remember to consider and care for the place you are visiting.

At the end of the paper on a separate page, create a bibliography. Listing each resource alphabetically and hanging.

Bibliography

- Clayton, Darragh. "Trouble in Paradise: The Effects of Tourism on the Culture of the Hawaiian Islands." *The Last Time We Watered the Plants UPEI Arts Review Volume XI*. <https://pressbooks.library.upei.ca/artsreview-xi/chapter/trouble-in-paradise/#:~:text=Deforestation%20and%20construction%20for%20tourism,draw%20visitors%20to%20the%20islands.%20Accessed%202024%20June%202024>.
- Environmental Protection Agency. "Don't Be a Trashy Tourist." 2023. *Trash Free Waters Article Series*. https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-10/tfw-dont-be-a-trashy-tourist-october-2023_508-compliant.pdf
- Hawai'i Convention Center. 2021. "Fact Sheet: Benefits of Hawai'i's Tourism Economy." Hawai'i Tourism Authority. <https://www.hawaii-tourismauthority.org/media/6972/hta-tourism-econ-impact-fact-sheet-february-2021-final.pdf>.
- Srinivas, Hari. 2001. "Environmental Impacts of Tourism." Global Development Research Center. <http://www.gdrc.org/uem/eco-tour/envi/one.html>

Formats for Various Types of Resources with an Example

Book

Author's Last Name, First Name. Year of Publication. *Book Title*. Place of Publication: Publishing Company.
Rapp, Adam. 1997. *The Buffalo Tree*. New York: Harper Collins.

Chapter or Other Part of an Edited Book

Author's Last Name, First Name. Year of Publication. "Title of Chapter." In *Book Title*, edited by Editor's First and Last Name, page number(s). Place of Publication: Publishing Company.
Swift, Jonathan. 2005. "A Modest Proposal." In *Contemporary and Classic Arguments*, edited by Sylvan Barnet and Hugo Bedau, 256-263. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's.

Journal Article

First Author's last name, first name, Second Author First and Last name, and Third Author First and Last Name. Year of Publication. "Article Title." *Journal Name* Volume, Issue number: Page range. DOI or URL.

Keng, Shao-Hsun, Chun-Hung Lin, and Peter F. Orazem. 2017. "Expanding College Access in Taiwan, 1978–2014: Effects on Graduate Quality and Income Inequality." *Journal of Human Capital* 11, no. 1: 1–34. <https://doi.org/10.1086/690235>.

Article from a website

Author last name, first name. Year. "Page Title." Website Name. Accessed date. URL.
Breuer, Marcel. 2019. "Saint John's Church and Campanile." 2019. Syracuse University Libraries. Accessed December 20, 2021. <https://breuer.syr.edu/project.php?id=370>.