

Your vacation, their home

1 Reading

Work in groups and discuss these questions.

- 1 What is ecotourism?
- 2 Why is ecotourism important?

Now read the text and check your ideas.

Ecotourism

- 1 (1) _____
Tourism will always have an impact on the places visited. Sometimes the impact is good, but often it's negative. For example, if lots of people visit one place, then this can damage the environment. The question is – how can we minimize the problems without preventing people from traveling and visiting places?
- (2) _____
The main aim of ecotourism is to reduce the negative impact that tourism has on the environment and local people. The idea is to encourage tourists to think about what they do when they visit a place.
- (3) _____
It's great to talk about protecting the environment, but how do you actually do this? There are a number of key points. Tourists shouldn't drop litter, they should stay on the paths, they shouldn't interfere with wildlife and they should respect local customs and traditions.
- (4) _____
Some people see ecotourism as a contradiction. They say that any tourism needs infrastructure – roads, airports, and hotels. The more tourists that visit a place, the more of these are needed and, by building more of these, you can't avoid damaging the environment.
- (5) _____
But, of course, things aren't so black and white. Living in a place of natural beauty doesn't mean that you shouldn't benefit from things like better roads. As long as the improvements benefit the local people and not just the tourists, and the local communities are consulted on plans and changes, then is there really a problem?
- (6) _____
In 2002, the United Nations celebrated the "International Year of Ecotourism". Over the past twenty years, more and more people have started taking eco-vacations. In countries such as Ecuador, Nepal, Costa Rica, and Kenya, ecotourism regifts a significant proportion of the tourist industry.



2 Comprehension

Put the headings a–f in the correct place 1–6 in the text.

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| a Is more infrastructure always bad? | c Is tourism always good? | e What exactly does ecotourism mean? |
| b What is ecotourism? | d How popular is ecotourism? | f Is ecotourism really possible? |

Now read the sentences and write *T* (True) or *F* (False).

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1 The writer thinks that tourism should be stopped. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Ecotourism is about making more money from tourists. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Tourists should think about their behavior. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 It doesn't matter where people walk. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 More roads and buildings are built because of tourism. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 It's good when local people are asked for their opinions. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Ecotourism is becoming less popular. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 For some countries ecotourism is very important. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3 Vocabulary

Find these words in the text and choose the correct meaning, a or b, for each one.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| 1 impact (l. 3) | a to have an effect or influence | b to make something less good |
| 2 damage (l. 7) | a to improve | b to have a negative effect |
| 3 minimize (l. 10) | a to ignore something bad | b to make as small as possible |
| 4 prevent (l. 11) | a to stop | b to exist at a particular time |
| 5 reduce (l. 15) | a to do something again | b to make something smaller |
| 6 interfere (l. 31) | a to handle or change something although you have no right to do this | b to worry about something |
| 7 contradiction (l. 37) | a two ideas that can't both be true | b something that helps people |
| 8 benefit (l. 52) | a be paid for | b have the advantage |

4 Speaking

Work in groups. Look at the two advertisements for eco-vacations and discuss the questions.

*Take a ten-day vacation
in Antarctica!*

- Stay at a science research base and help scientists studying wildlife in its natural environment.
- Go whale-watching and see penguins.
- Remember to take warm clothes as it gets very cold.

*Spend two weeks
in the Simpson Desert in Australia*

- Work with archeologists on the site of an old settlement.
- Help with digging and sorting the things you find.
- Remember it gets very hot and there's not a lot of water!

- 1 Which of the two eco-vacations do you think is more eco-friendly?
- 2 Which eco-vacation would your group choose to go on? Why?
- 3 Are there any eco-vacations in your country?