

## Your holiday, 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  
 5 it's negative. For example,  
 if lots of people visit one  
 place, then this can damage  
 the environment. The  
 question is – how can we  
 10 minimize the problems  
 without preventing  
 people from travelling and  
 visiting places?

(2) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The main aim of ecotourism  
 15 is to reduce the negative  
 impact that tourism has  
 on the environment and  
 local people. The idea is to  
 encourage tourists to think  
 20 about what they do when  
 they visit a place.

(3) \_\_\_\_\_  
 It's great to talk about  
 protecting the environment,  
 25 but how do you actually  
 do this? There are a  
 number of key points.  
 Tourists shouldn't drop  
 litter, they should stay on  
 30 the paths, they shouldn't  
 interfere with wildlife and  
 they should respect local  
 customs and traditions.

(4) \_\_\_\_\_  
 35 Some people see  
 ecotourism as a  
 contradiction. They say  
 that any tourism needs  
 infrastructure – roads,  
 40 airports and hotels. The  
 more tourists that visit  
 a place, the more of  
 these are needed and, by  
 building more of these,  
 45 you can't avoid damaging  
 the environment.

(5) \_\_\_\_\_  
 But, of course, things  
 aren't so black and white.  
 50 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  
 55 benefit the local people  
 and not just the tourists,  
 and the local communities  
 are consulted on plans and  
 changes, then is there really  
 60 a problem?

(6) \_\_\_\_\_  
 In 2002 the United  
 Nations celebrated the  
 'International Year of  
 65 Ecotourism'. Over the past  
 twenty years, more and  
 more people have started  
 taking eco-holidays. In  
 countries such as Ecuador,  
 70 Nepal, Costa Rica and Kenya,  
 ecotourism represents 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?
- b What is ecotourism?
- c Is tourism always good?
- d How popular is ecotourism?
- e What exactly does ecotourism mean?
- f Is ecotourism really possible?

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 behaviour.              | <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)                  | 5 reduce (l. 15)  |
| a to have an effect or influence | a to do something again   |
| b to make something less good    | b to make something smaller   |
| 2 damage (l. 7)                  | 6 interfere (l. 30)   |
| a to improve                     | a to handle or change something although you have no right to do this |
| b to have a negative effect      | b to worry about something  |
| 3 minimize (l. 10)               | 7 contradiction (l. 37)   |
| a to ignore something bad        | a two ideas that can't both be true                                   |
| b to make as small as possible   | b something that helps people   |
| 4 prevent (l. 11)                | 8 benefit (l. 52)   |
| a to stop                        | a be paid for   |
| b to exist at a particular time  | b have the advantage  |

## 4 Speaking

Work in groups. Look at the two eco-holiday adverts and discuss the questions.

*Take a ten-day holiday  
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 archaeologists 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-holidays do you think is more eco-friendly?
- 2 Which eco-holiday would your group choose to go on? Why?
- 3 Are there any eco-holidays in your country?