

# culture

## Your holiday, their home

### 1 Reading

Work in groups. Before you read the article discuss these questions.

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

Now read the article 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 travelling and visiting places?
- 5  
 10  
 15 (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.
- 20  
 25 (3) \_\_\_\_\_  
 It's great to talk about protecting the environment, but how do you actually do this? There are a number of key points.
- 30  
 35 (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.
- 40  
 45  
 50 (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?
- 55  
 60  
 65 (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-holidays. In countries such as Ecuador, Nepal, Costa Rica and Kenya ecotourism represents a significant proportion of the tourist industry.
- 70  
 75

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### 2 Comprehension

Put the headings (A-F) in the correct place (1-6).

- 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?

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

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

### 3 Vocabulary

Choose the correct meaning for each word.

impact (l. 5)

- a to have an effect or influence
- b to make something less good

damage (l. 8)

- a to improve
- b to have a negative effect

minimize (l. 11)

- a to ignore something bad
- b to make the amount of something bad as small as possible

prevent (l. 12)

- a to stop
- b to exist at a particular time

reduce (l. 17)

- a to do something again
- b to make something smaller

interfere (l. 33)

- a to handle or change something although you have no right to do this
- b to worry about something

contradiction (l. 40)

- a two ideas that can't both be true
- b something that helps people become successful

benefit (l. 55)

- a be paid for
- b have the advantage

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consult (l. 61)

- a to ask what someone wants or needs
- b to explain what will happen

significant proportion (l. 75)

- a all of something
- b a very large amount

### 4 Speaking

**Take a ten-day holiday in Antarctica!**

**Go whale watching and see the penguins.**

**Stay at a science research base and help the scientists studying the wildlife in its natural environment.**

**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 the digging and sorting the things you find.**

**Remember it gets very hot and there's not a lot of water!**

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

- 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?

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