

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.

1 (1) Tourism will always have an impact on the places visited. Sometimes the 5 impact is good but often	(3) 25 It's great to talk about protecting the environment, but how do you actually do this? There	50 (5) But, of course, things aren't so black and white. Living in a place of natural beauty doesn't mean that you
it's negative. For example, if lots of people visit one place then this can damage the environment. The 10 question is – how can we minimize the problems without preventing people from travelling and visiting places?	are a number of key points. 30 Tourists shouldn't drop litter, they should stay on the paths, they shouldn't interfere with wildlife and they should respect the 35 local customs and traditions.	55 shouldn't benefit from things like better roads. As long as the improvements benefit the local people and not just the tourists, 60 and the local communities are consulted on plans and changes, then is there really a problem?
The main aim of ecotourism is to reduce the negative impact that tourism has on the environment and local 20 people. The idea is to encourage tourists to think about what they do when they visit a place.	Some people see ecotourism as a 40 contradiction. They say that any tourism needs infrastructure – roads, airports and hotels. The more tourists that visit a 45 place the more of these are needed and, by building more of these, you can't avoid damaging the environment.	(6) 65 In 2002 the United Nations celebrated the 'International Year of Ecotourism'. Over the past twenty years more and 70 more people have started taking eco-holidays. In countries such as Ecuador, Nepal, Costa Rica and Kenya ecotourism 75 represents a significant proportion of the tourist industry.

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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.		
2	Ecotourism is about making more money from tourists.		
3	Tourists should think about their behaviour.		
4	It doesn't matter where people walk.		
5	More roads and buildings are built because of tourism.		
6	It's good when local people are asked for their opinions.		
7	Ecotourism is becoming less popular.		
8	For some countries ecotourism is very important		

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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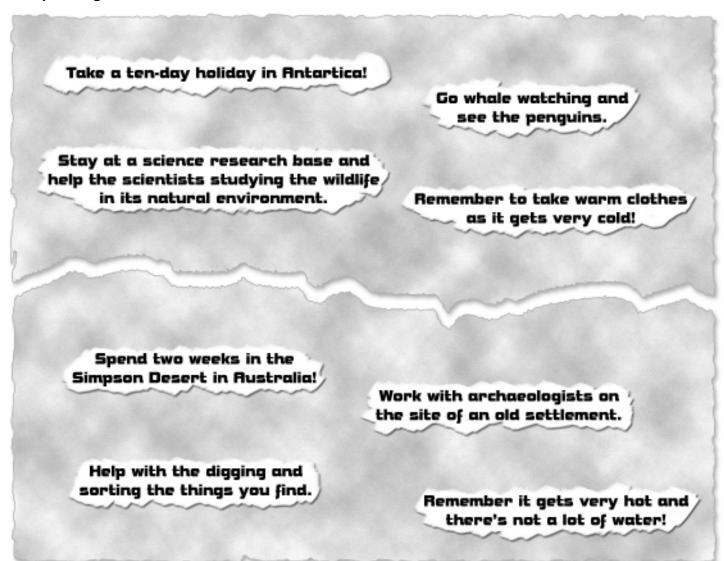
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consult (l. 61)

- 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



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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