

## GATEWAY 1: How does the nature of tourism vary from place to place?

### What is tourism?

- **Tourism** is the temporary movement of people from one place to another primarily for leisure and recreational purposes.
- **Tourists** are people travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for more than 24 hours but not more than one year for leisure, business or other purposes.
- Tourists can either be **international tourists** or **domestic tourists**.

### How do tourist destinations differ from one another?

- Many of these destinations are **honeypot tourist sites**, which means that they **attract tourists in large numbers**.
  - Grand Canyon, USA. Steep cliffs and mountains.
  - Halong Bay, Vietnam. Coasts, limestone caves and cliffs.
  - Victoria Falls, Zambia and Zimbabwe, waterfall scenes, gorges.
- **Places of scenic beauty**
  - These are usually natural destinations like mountains, forests coasts.
  - Examples of places which employ scenic beauty tourism
    - **Mountainous areas** are usually attractive because tourists can see different types of vegetation from the lowlands, the weather is cool and dry and they can be involved in different activities like skiing in the winter or even hiking.
    - **Tropical coastal resorts** like those in Phuket in Thailand are popular with tourists from Europe especially as a quick winter getaway.
    - **Zimbabwe** contains Victoria Falls, a place of natural scenic beauty because of the rising mist caused by the plunge pool. As a result of this, the place has become a honeypot tourist site which attracts upwards of 300,000 tourists per year and causes more tourist facilities to be built around it.
- **Places with good facilities**
  - **MICE facilities (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Events)**
    - Usually are able to host large-scale events such as meetings and conventions and usually also have good supporting infrastructure such as hotels, retail shops and airports.
    - Presence of international air routes leading to the city allows it to become a better MICE destination.
    - **Marina Bay Sands, Singapore** is an example of a good MICE destination.
      - Singapore has a reputation for being a major aviation hub, making transport to the island convenient.
      - Singapore has the required infrastructure to support MICE events.
        - Good telecommunications networks
        - Hotels and accommodations
      - Singapore has a variety of shopping and entertainment options nearby
  - **Medical facilities**
    - Several reasons for the existence of medical tourism
      - Long waiting periods in home country
      - High costs for medical treatment in home country
      - Better quality medical procedures in destination
    - Requires good medical facilities and even leisure facilities like spas and hot springs.
    - **South Korea** is a well-known destination for people seeking plastic surgery.
      - Doctors there are highly skilled and they possess advanced technology required for cosmetic surgery.
  - **Themeparks**
    - Places with amusement park settings or parks that have a central theme such as movies.
    - They cater to a large group of people, both young and old.
    - Usually part of an international chain and are built near common travel routes.
    - **Universal Studios Singapore** is an example of this. It offers many themed rides like Shrek rollercoasters et cetera which attract children.
- **Places with rich culture**
  - **Heritage tourism**
    - When people travel to locations to experience different cultures and better understand the history of these places.
    - Some places are so unique that they are declared **World Heritage Sites** by UNESCO.
    - Examples of heritage sites are as follows
      - Museums like the **Hermitage in Russia**
      - National and historical monuments like **Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany**
  - **Film-induced tourism.**
    - When people travel to see locations featured in films.
    - People visit them because they like the film and want to see how it was filmed.
    - **Matamata in New Zealand** where some scenes in Lord of the Rings were filmed.
  - **Pilgrimage tourism**
    - People travel to take part in a religious activity, usually to a sacred location.
    - Examples include shrines, mosques, temples or even a church.

- **Vatican City** for Easter, Christmas.
  - **Jerusalem, Israel** for Ramadan, Yom Kippur.
  - **Mecca** for Hajj.
- **Places of conflict (Dark tourism)**
  - Involves travelling to sites associated with death and suffering.
  - Usually survivors, relatives and friends of those affected and those interested in the event.
  - Examples include sites of military campaigns, terrorist attacks, human atrocities, genocides and prisons or concentration camps.
    - **Cu Chi tunnels in Vietnam**
    - **Dachau Nazi Concentration Camp in Munich Germany**
    - **Auschwitz Concentration Camp in Poland**

## **Roles of different groups in promoting tourism**

- **Government**
  - Governments play crucial role in promoting tourism in country because ultimately they are the final authority for the promotion of tourism in a country.
  - They can influence number of visitors and their length of stay.
  - They are the only authority which can allow the planning, funding and development of tourist infrastructure like airports, hotels and roads.
  - Example of a government agency is the **Singapore Tourism Board** which promotes Singapore as a tourist destination.
    - It develops tourism as an industry by facilitating international tourist businesses to invest in Singapore.
    - It also encourages development of local attractions like River Safari or the Integrated Resorts.
    - It successfully courted Universal Studios to consider partnering with Genting Groups to create Resorts World Sentosa.
    - It also runs advertising campaigns in other countries in order to promote Singapore's name as a potential tourist destination.
  - The development of tourism infrastructure, tourist sites and promotion of tourism in Singapore attracts many tourists and hence promotes tourism in Singapore.
  - Hence, as a result a government plays a role in promoting tourism.
- **Media**
  - **Media** refers to the channels through which news and information are communicated to the public.
    - It includes television, radio, newspapers and the internet.
  - Media reports about a country or an area could influence the decisions of tourists to visit it.
    - **Positive** reports such as the friendliness of the local population and interesting culture good shopping opportunities and attractive scenery can encourage tourists to visit
    - **Negative** reports such as those of incidents of violence disease outbreak and natural disasters can deter the visitors for many years to come.
      - After the Fukushima nuclear meltdown incident in Japan the number of tourists visiting Japan decreased from 8.6 million in 2010 to 6.2 million in 2011 possibly due to media coverage of the incident of creating widespread panic.
  - Thus, the media plays an important role in affecting how tourists view a certain location and hence whether to what extent they will be willing to go to a country for vacation.
  - Furthermore, previously unknown destinations are becoming more mainstream like visits to Antarctica and trips to the Himalayan mountains.
  - Thus, as media shapes the public outlook on a certain country, influences their decision of a potential site for a vacation as well as helps promote previously unknown tourist destinations, it can be said to be a factor in the promotion of tourism.
- **International Organisations**
  - An **international organization** is a group of different countries that work together for a common purpose.
  - Reports produced by international organizations can encourage or discourage tourists from visiting a place. Examples of such organizations include
    - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Tourism Committee
    - UNWTO
    - WHO
  - A leading international organization for tourism is the UNWTO.
    - The UNWTO promote tourism as a way of spurring economic growth and environmental sustainability.
    - It also strives to improve present knowledge and tourism policies worldwide.
    - The UNWTO introduced a global code of ethics for Tourism which promote tourism as a means of achieving the United Nations Millennium development goals.
  - An example of international organizations promoting tourism would be the UNESCO World Heritage Sites which conserves sites of cultural and heritage importance and prevents them from being developed on and at the same time bringing international attention to these locations by showcasing them as a potential destination for heritage tourism.

- Prior to the Botanic Gardens being given this status. It had 4.4 million visitors per year in 2012. however, Singapore tourism board experts expect the number to rise to 6 million by 2021, partially as a result of the Botanic Gardens being given UNESCO World Heritage Site status.
- Thus, as the granting of World Heritage Site status increases the recognition of a tourist site and increases its prestige, it directly increases the amount of tourists which visit it as more tourists will know of such a tourist site.
- Hence, it can be said to be a factor in the promotion of tourism.

## **GATEWAY 2: Why has tourism become a global phenomenon?**

### **In what ways is tourism changing or trends in the tourism industry**

- **International tourism**
  - Tourism rates in general are going up in all corners of the world.
  - One major trend is that the Asia Pacific region has grown tremendously in market share of tourism, surpassing even North and South America.
  - On the contrary, North America, South America and Europe have grown out of fashion and have decreased market shares.
- **Domestic tourism**
  - Domestic tourism continues to be the most popular form of tourism despite the immense growth in international tourism.
  - 83% of all tourist arrivals domestic tourism.
- **Tourist origins and destinations**
  - While origins and destinations are unevenly distributed throughout the world and favours developed countries, there is a growing number of tourists hailing from other countries like China and India.

### **Evolution of mass tourism to niche tourism**

- **Mass tourism vs Niche tourism**
  - **Mass tourism** involves travel that includes large numbers of tourists visits a particular place for a holiday
    - It often takes the form of tour operators offering low-cost and standardised **package holidays**.
      - An example would be package holidays to European countries peddled by many tour agencies. They typically include accommodation, food, transport and guided tours.
  - **Niche tourism** refers to special-interest tourism based on a particular area, interest or activity.
    - It can be done by independent travellers or by tour operators.
    - Tourism is slowly shifting towards this form of tourism.
    - **Ecotourism** is a popular form of niche tourism, it is tourism that conserves the environment and improves the wellbeing of local people.
      - Example of ecotourism and by extension niche tourism is the Waitomo caves in New Zealand which are famous because of its bioluminescent glowworms.
      - Ecotourism to these caves help benefit the local Maori economy as well as promote greater knowledge of nature.
  - Niche tourism is starting to replace mass tourism in popularity, likely due to increases in disposable income and a desire of travellers for something novel.
- **Long-haul flights vs Short-haul flights**
  - Long-haul flights refer to destinations that are reachable by flight of more than 5 hours.
    - Europe would be a long-haul destination from Singapore.
  - Short-haul flights refer to destinations which are less than 5 hours of flight away.
  - Tourists are gradually moving from short-haul flights to long-haul flights due to several reasons.
    - They move from regional destinations to more international destinations.
    - Growing affluence and similarly a desire for novelty leads to them travelling further away.

### **What are the reasons for the growth of global tourism? (DDT)**

- **Technological developments**
  - **Technology** is the application of scientific knowledge to develop machines, equipment and ways of doing things.
  - Developments in technology have changed the scale and ease of global tourism.
  - They have led to better efficiency and lower travellings costs for the average person.
- **Better and affordable transport**
  - Nowadays travelling is both safer, cheaper and faster.
  - it has become more affordable to travel and hence lowers the barrier of entry for tourism.
  - **Air travel has become more affordable and faster due to improved fuel efficiencies and technology.**
    - In the past, most commercial aeroplanes would have to fly short distances and stop to refuel, hence there is time incurred from having to stop-over at various airports.
    - However now, planes can fly non-stop for longer periods of time and at greater speeds.
      - Example to use can be Boeing 747, which can accommodate 700 passengers on one flight, hence now more people can travel globally.
      - Transatlantic flights reduced to a mere 7 hours.

- **Budget airlines**
  - Emergence of budget airlines like Jetstar has increased accessibility to new tourist destinations.
    - Previously small-time destinations are now serviced by many budget airlines like the Greek Islands of Naxos, Crete and et cetera.
  - Budget airlines have cheaper airfares and they operate smaller and more fuel-efficient aircraft to lower their airfare.
  - They usually only fly short-haul and only sell tickets online.
  - Thus, the accessibility and the lowered ticket fare increases accessibility for people with lower disposable income to go on vacations.
- **Sea travel has been sped up due to the invention of big steamships.**
  - Previously, one would have to rely on clipper transports to move from port to port.
  - However, the invention of steam-powered ships has reduced the journey time significantly.
  - This reduces the previously 2 month journey to one week in the 20th century.
- **Land travel has also been sped up.**
  - Road networks and highways between and within countries have greatly improved, travelling time is reduced and this encourages people to travel more frequently.
  - Commonly used example is Qinghai-Tibet railway. Tibet used to be remote and hard to enter but the Qinghai-Tibet railway gave people an easy way in and out of Tibet.
- **Ease of access to information**
  - Developments in information technology have made information more readily available and accessible, such information is easily found on the internet.
    - Online booking and research allows travellers to buy their own ticket and gives them more options and control.
    - Better information, means that tourists will know where to go, social etiquettes to observe etc.
    - Surveillance, electronic checks and other safety controls research makes tourists feel safer and more confident about travelling.
  - All of these combined gives a tourist greater assurance in travelling to a potentially foreign country as they will not have to worry about all these small details as they can look them up online.
- **Demand factors**
  - **Increase in disposable income**
    - **Disposable income** is the money left for an individual to spend after taxes have been paid.
    - The increase in disposable income over the years allows people to spend more on goods and services which increase their quality of life.
    - This growing affluence accounts for the growth in tourism and more and more people are able to travel more frequently and to more expensive places.
    - Countries like China and India have a growing middle-class that is increasingly able to afford vacations and to patronise tourist destinations.
  - **Increase in leisure time**
    - **Leisure time** is the time when people are free from work responsibilities or commitments
    - Due to the liberalization of working policies and working hours, people in developed countries are enjoying shorter work-hours due largely in part to workrights movements around the world.
    - People are also increasingly being given paid annual leave, allowing them to enjoy holidays.
    - People thus have more time to travel, some may even travel to Batam during the weekend for Singaporeans.
  - **Changing lifestyle**
    - **Changing lifestyle** refers to the change in how people live throughout their lifetime.
    - Today, many people find working life very stressful and hectic. Many people find themselves working long hours at the workplace.
    - Travelling overseas is a good way for them to relax and take a chill pill.
    - Thus, many people are going overseas nowadays to balance their hectic work-life with vacations.
    - People are also healthier now and are more health conscious.
    - Now old people are also increasingly able to travel overseas due to developments in medical technology.
      - Grey nomads in Australia which travel the Australian outback.
- **Destination factors**
  - **Attractions** are features or qualities that make a place interesting or enjoyable
    - Some attractions are natural and some attractions are built but both draw tourists to a particular location.
      - Places of scenic beauty are examples of natural attractions.
      - However, places of facilities are examples of built attractions.
    - Presence of attractions which are varied in type will encourage tourists to visit the destination as they have a reason to visit the place.
  - **Investment in infrastructure and services**

- Infrastructure refers to the transport and communication networks electrical frameworks and systems for water and waste disposal.
- Services refer to the type of help or work that is provided by a business to customers.
- Destinations with a higher investment in infrastructure will attract more tourists because of several reasons.
  - Development in infrastructure may be critical to accessibility of a location, like for instance development of airports and highways and railways et cetera. Without these, people cannot even get to the areas easily and hence tourism is stunted.
  - It may also be a case of convenience. Accommodation for various budget levels and internet accessibility is important as these are two modern necessities.
- Singapore's Terminal 4 is an example of an investment in infrastructure and services. It has been built so as to increase the total air traffic Singapore can support and hence increase the number of tourists which can visit Singapore.
- **Access to information**
  - Refers to the ease in which tourists are able to obtain information of the destination.
  - Examples of such information are transport routes, schedules, weather conditions and available accommodation.
  - Tourists want access to information in a language they can understand so that they have assurance that they won't get lost.
  - Tourists are more inclined to visit a destination with a higher amount of accessibility to information because they will have less reason to worry about going to a certain country.

### **Why is tourism subject to fluctuations? (DDPR)**

- **Disasters**
  - Disasters are events that cause great damage to properties, leading to injuries or cause great loss of life.
  - It can discourage a tourist from visiting a destination because it poses greater risk to the safety of tourists and may disrupt essential tourist infrastructure.
  - One example in which a disaster caused tourism rates to fluctuate can be seen in Japan immediately after the 2011 Tohoku earthquake.
    - The earthquake caused a tsunami and a nuclear meltdown in the country's Tohoku region and as a result, international tourist arrivals decreased 28 percent to 6.2 million as compared to the start of the years.
    - Tourists were afraid of going to Japan as a result of the nuclear meltdown and hence tourism rates were negatively impacted by a disaster.
- **Recessions**
  - **Recession** is a period of general slowdown in economic activities.
  - People typically experience a loss of income or jobs in a recession.
  - This decline in income causes people to cut back on spending and hence they tend to crave less goods and services.
  - This causes fewer people to travel overseas as tourists.
  - Examples of recessions include the Global Financial Crisis in 2008.
    - Some of the world's largest financial firms went bankrupt in 2007 and 2008.
    - The resulting financial panic caused many countries' economies to slow down or shrink, directly impacting the job market in those countries.
    - This resulted in less international tourists.
- **Political situations**
  - Unfavourable political situations may discourage tourists from visiting.
  - For example, political conflicts pose dangers to tourists as well as residents, they may also disrupt services or cause damage to infrastructure.
  - Tourists are less likely to travel to a country affected by political conflicts as they are worried for their own safety.
  - Governments may also issue travel advisories against such countries for their own citizens, reducing the total amount of tourists which may be willing to travel to such a country.
  - One example of this is the Libyan Civil War in 2011.
    - A civil war was taking place in Libya during that period, which may pose dangers to civilian lives and the safety of tourists.
    - As such, many governments banned their citizens from going to Libya.
    - There were almost no commercial flights into Libya's airspace and hence no tourist arrivals by air.
- **Diseases**
  - An outbreak of diseases refers to the sudden and widespread occurrence of disease in an area.
  - It usually comes with a large drop in tourist arrivals because tourists do not want to risk getting contaminated with an infectious disease when visiting a country.
  - Government agencies may also issue travel advisories against countries with active disease outbreaks.
  - An example for diseases causing fluctuations in tourism rate can be seen in the SARS epidemic in 2003.
    - A SARS outbreak spread over six months in 2003.
    - Hong Kong, which was identified as a key area for SARS transmissions was blacklisted as an infected country.
    - The resulting panic caused hotel occupancy to drop from 82 per cent to 15 per cent.

### GATEWAY 3: Developing tourism at what cost?

#### What are the impacts of tourism? (SEE)

- **Economic**
  - **Advantages**
    - **Employment opportunities are created** as tourism industry forms part of the service sector of the economy. Growth of tourist industry thus leads to a direct increase in jobs.
    - **Growth in income** because people have an alternative source of income created by the presence of tourism (can combine with previous point)
      - For instance, Filipino fishermen are able to capitalise on the growth of tourism in an area due to the increase in demand for local food (of which seafood may constitute a large portion) (this one is kinda smoke idk)
    - **Development in infrastructure and facilities**
      - Without sufficient facilities and infrastructure, tourism cannot develop and cannot work on a large scale. Thus, the introduction of tourism gives a government a good incentive to develop these things, which allow its own citizens to thus benefit.
      - Building of roads and airports not only increases tourist connectivity, it also brings in economic opportunities.
      - Beijing Subway expanded for Summer Olympics in 2008, but people still continue to use the subway.
  - **Disadvantages**
    - **Seasonal unemployment because some tourist areas only operate for certain times of the year.**
      - **Ski resorts are a prime example**
    - **Under-use of facilities** during certain times of the year
      - A less extreme form of seasonal unemployment, but these areas get neglected because tourist income is not enough to cover the expenses. Olympic parks are a prime example.
    - **Shortage of services**
      - Tourist infrastructure may use a lot of land, water and power. This may affect non-tourists as they compete for the same resources.
      - Golf courses require a lot of water to be diverted from local infrastructure, increasing the water burden on local taps.
- **Socio-cultural**
  - **Advantages**
    - **Preservation of local customs and heritage.**
      - Tourism provides an incentive for areas to conserve heritage sites like Angkor Wat which has entry fees to help fund conservation efforts.
  - **Disadvantages**
    - **Dilution of local customs and heritage**
      - If tourism becomes the main activity in an area, older buildings may be repurposed for tourist activities. These activities may displace locals and as such the identity of a place may be lost.
    - **Increased crime**
- **Environmental**
  - **Advantages**
    - **Conservation of natural environments.**
      - Tourism generates income, income that can be used to conserve natural environments such as coral reefs, rainforests and et cetera.
      - For example, Kenya's national safaris charge an entrance fee which is used to preserve the animals and their habitats
  - **Disadvantages**
    - **Vandalism damages tourist attractions**, for instance Chinese tourists carved their name into Egyptian relics, generating immense public outrage.
    - **Littering and pollution** results because tourism generates extra litter, which can create problems if the local sanitation infrastructure is not equipped to deal with high loads.
    - **Destruction of habitats may occur** as the high amount of tourists tend to erode certain areas of landscapes. For instance, beaches may get weathered because too many tourists visit it. Egypt's Red Sea coastal reefs are popular attractions but are getting killed because of the random crap that people pick up.
    - **Carbon footprint is higher** because of the additional transportation etc just bullshit.
    - **Increased congestion**
      - More people > More crowded > Carrying capacity may not be high enough to deal with it > Increased congestion

#### Conserving fragile environments and promoting sustainable tourism

Notes by some weirdo called Conrad Soon.. I don't guarantee the full accuracy of the information here.

Special thanks to Mrs Wong, the most wholesome and pure Geography ahma.

- **Conservation** is the careful management and use of resources such that these resources will not be depleted. It is important for fragile environments.
  - Examples of fragile environments are mangroves and reefs as these environments will be easily damaged and disturbed.
- **Sustainable tourism** is a form of tourism organised in a way that allows it to continue without causing damage to the environment or leaving negative impacts on the surrounding society and culture.
- **Ways of conserving the environment**
  - Laws and regulations to prevent tourism from harming the environment or at least to control it
    - Bhutan's famous anti-tourist erosion policies are a good example of this. Bhutan charges a daily fee of \$500 for tourists to even be in the country and hence this reduces the amount of tourists it receives, reducing the extent and magnitude of damage to local environments caused by them.
  - Minimise leakage of tourist revenues
    - This is to ensure that any money tourists spend gets recycled back into the local economy and can be accomplished by training locals to perform skilled tourism jobs or even developing homestay accommodations where visitors directly pay local people for accommodation.
    - One example is in Italy where any tour groups have to hire a licensed local tour guide to guide them around. Unlicensed tours are illegal and this hence creates employment opportunities for tour-guides.

### **Managing impacts of tourism**

- Sustainable tourism is tourism that has minimal negative impacts on the physical and socio-cultural environments and can potentially benefit locals as well as help to conserve the ecosystem.
- Eco tourism
- Community-based tourism
- Establishing laws and regulations
- Eco tourism
  - Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well being of people. 'Green tourism' strongly emphasis on environmental conservation, which is low impacts tourism with minimal negative environmental impact. This allows tourists to study, enjoy and appreciate nature and cultural exploration and tends to develop in remote areas where few tourists go; availability of very basic tourist facilities; tourists eat and live like the locals. It also helps to raise awareness of nature and environmental issues among the tourists and the community and directly provides financial contribution to environmental conservation on a local and national scale, example entrance fees to nature reserves.
  - E.g. Maquipucuna Reserve in Ecuador Reserve under threat from logging and charcoal production is now a popular site for bird watchers, ecologists and researches. Facilities consist of a lodge, research station and laboratory and are built of local materials that also adopt traditional designs. Employees at the lodge are mostly locals and local guides are trained to educate visitors.
- However, as more tourists are interested in eco-tourism, a lot of tourist facilities like hotels, chalets are built for tourist comfort. Also, eco-tourism may develop into mass tourism if not properly controlled and monitored. Additionally, there is little policing of the use of the label 'eco-tourism' by businesses. Providers of eco-tourism may also not enforce strict adherence to environmental conservation.
- Community-based tourism
  - The process of tourism planning, development and management that includes consulting and benefiting the local community especially in the rural villages and indigenous people in less developed countries. Local ownership is greatly emphasized as it involves local community in tourism planning and development.
  - Local community benefits from tourism development as it helps to improve their standards of living as more money is used to improve facilities and living conditions of local people. This generates more jobs for locals who earn and share in the revenue received from tourists. Locals also control tourist activities like forest excursions, homestays, teaching traditional handicraft, such that tourists are able to experience the local community lifestyle, gain more knowledge, appreciation of the place and the heritage of the local community.
  - E.g. Heritage Tours Cameroon, a non-profit Non- Governmental Organization (NGO), employs local people from the village and allows them to earn income from being tour guides.
  - E.g. Phou Khao Khouay Nature Reserve in Laos. Meetings conducted regularly with communities located inside or near the reserves to make decisions on various tourist projects where the views of local villagers are sought. Training is given to villagers to act as guides or homestay hosts to tourists.
  - However, if certain parties fail to share in the ideals of community-based tourism, environment and livelihood of others may be affected. It is also conducted on a small scale and less revenue for locals as tourists generally have little opportunities to spend in these places. Tourists may also have unrealistic expectations of their trips where they may become dissatisfied with the conditions of the rural settings and make unreasonable demands to the local people, resulting in conflict with local people.
  - E.g. In Phuket, Thailand, locals hunt down gibbons in their natural habitat to train them as performers for tourists. When gibbons are old, they are killed. Many tourists may think that these endangered animals are bred for the tourism industry and locals do not feel they have a need to dispel this view.
- Establishing laws and regulations

- Refers to the setting up of guidelines or restrictions by planning authorities. This is to deter tourists from irresponsible behavior. As such, environmental damage would be minimized and local cultures and traditions would be respected through such law enforcements.
- E.g. Law of wildlife conservation in Costa Rica. Tourists prohibited from taking plants and flowers. Tourists are also prohibited from feeding wild animals to prevent them from being dependent on humans for food.
- E.g. Uluru in central Australia. Photographs of certain sections of the sacred aboriginal landmark of Uluru (Ayers Rock) are not allowed to be taken as a sign of respect to the aboriginal culture and tradition.
- However, not all tourists will conform to the environmentally friendly guidelines as many feel the use or overuse of resources is justifiable with payment. Tourists may also feel self-important and show little respect for local cultures and traditions, hence created disharmony among the local society.

### **Tensions in managing impacts of tourism**

- **Tensions between tourists and locals**
  - Tensions can arise when the needs of tourists conflict with the needs of locals.
  - **Bali, Indonesia** is visited by many tourists for its beautiful landscapes.
    - 2.9million tourists travel to Bali, an island of 4.2 million people.
    - This causes congestion in local transport services.
    - The tourism industry consumes at least 65% of Bali's water supply.
    - Tourists may display public displays of affection, which conservative locals dislike.
- **Tensions between tourists and the environment**
  - Tensions can arise when the needs of tourists conflict with the need to conserve the environment.
  - **Machu Picchu, Peru** is an example of this.
    - Because of its rich history and breath-taking landscape, a lot of tourists visit it.
    - However, because of the Inca Trail being immensely popular, it has ironically lead to its own wear and tear because of all the erosion caused by the 75,000 tourists that tread on it.
- **Measures for managing the tensions**
  - Limiting the number of visitors at a site.
  - Withholding permission to continue with tourism-related projects that could harm the environment
  - Employing staff to maintain and repair a site, preventing tourists from tampering with it.
  - Holding discussions with locals regarding their needs and concerns
  - Restricting tourists from some areas where only locals can enter.

### **Stakeholders in protecting tourist areas**

- **Local communities**
  - Local communities have a stake in sustainable tourism because they are a key part of community-based tourism, which is tourism that has close contact with and mainly benefits local communities.
  - The benefit of prioritising local communities when pursuing sustainable tourism is that this increases tourism-related employment and business for locals, thereby increasing the standard of life in the area.
    - For example, visitors in Candirejo, Indonesia set up a cooperative to manage and implement the community's tourism-related programmes such as homestead accommodations, training of villagers to work in tourism industry.
    - This has led to the creation of jobs and the increase in average income of villagers.
  - The problem with prioritising of local communities is that it is conducted on too small of a scale for substantial benefits
    - Most community-based tourism is conducted on a small scale, thus there is less revenue for local communities to earn from tourists as compared to mass tourism.
    - Only a small portion of tourists' total expenditure goes to local communities because they do not have enough opportunities to spend their cash.
    - As such, they have a difficulty in trying to set up infrastructure essential to promoting tourism because they lack the money to do so.
- **Visitors**
  - Visitors have a stake in sustainable tourism because they have a responsibility to respect both the environment and the local population of the place they are visiting.
  - The benefit of prioritising visitors in pursuing sustainable tourism is that visitors can generate employment opportunities for locals.
    - For instance, visitors usually require hotel workers, hotel staff, waitresses and tour guides which are all service positions that locals can easily fill.
    - Bali, Indonesia is one such example, where because of the vast amount of tourists visiting many hotels and resorts have opened up, opening up many job vacancies for native population.
  - The challenges with prioritising of visitors is that it can dilute local cultures and customs.
    - For instance, in many areas of Europe because of the sheer amount of visitors, a lot of places have begun commercialising cultural icons into tourist souvenirs.



- For instance in Venice, Italy, the Carnival of Venice was once a cultural icon of the city-state.
- However, because of the sheer amount visitors, tourist souvenir vendors have begun commercialising the city-state's heritage by selling little replicas of Venetian carnival masks.
- Therefore, the prioritising of visitors has led to the dilution of local cultures because as a result they focus on commercial gain rather than cultural improvement.
- **Tour operators**
  - Tour operators are tourism-related businesses, they are points of contact between the tourists and the destinations.
  - The benefit of prioritising tour operators in sustainable tourism is that they can help regulate tourist behaviour effectively.
    - Tourists spend the most time in the vicinity of a tour operators and hence tour operators are the best position to regulate tourist behaviour.
    - They can prevent tourists from wandering into restricted areas or from making too much noise.
    - For example, a group known as Phuket Alternative Tours require their tour operators to sign an ENvironmental and Cultural Code of Practice, forcing their members to operate in an environmentally sustainable way.
    - As a result of this and the fact that tour operators are the most efficient way of ensuring tourists do not act in a damaging way to the environment around them, it helps to conserve Phuket's natural environment/
  - The disadvantages is that tour operators are businesses and thus need to be profitable to survive.
    - The need to generate profits may override concerns to preserve the environment, especially if the concerns reduce their profit margin.
- **Planning authorities**
  - Planning authorities refer to local or national governments which regulate and enforce rules and principles regarding tourism development or the development of sustainable tourism.
  - The benefit of prioritising on planning authorities is that they are able to effectively draft policies and schemes to protect areas of interest.
    - For example, the Singapore Tourism Board has implemented programmes to conserve the ethnic districts of Chinatown, Kampong Glam and Little India.
    - This allows both locals and visitors to better appreciate Singapore's heritage and protects these sites from being destroyed or damaged.
  - One of the disadvantages is that it may be difficult to plan for unforeseen circumstances.
    - Even the most well-planned and well-funded programme can fail due to unforeseen circumstances.
    - For instance, a cyclone may disrupt essential tourist infrastructure even if plans were made to counter it.
- **Non-governmental organisations**
  - NGOs are non-profit organisations operating independently of governments.
  - The benefits of NGOs are that they can facilitate communication between various stakeholders.
    - Because NGOs are the most neutral party, they can help coalesce discussion and serve as a facilitator between the different stakeholders in sustainable tourism.
    - They can also help motivate stakeholders like locals to play a greater part in managing the impact of tourism.
  - The limitations of NGOs is that they have difficulty in obtaining external funding because they have to rely on donations to fund their activities.

## **TESTU**

- Visitors
  - Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.
    - Tourists should first gather information on the area, its local population before departure and learn about the culture, traditions and background of destination.
      - E.g. trekkers aware of deforestation in Annapurna regions in Nepal would help tourism by using less wood for hot water baths.
    - Tourists pay attention to local customs at their travel destinations.
      - E.g. Removal of footwear at some places of worship.
      - E.g. Not to intrude into the privacy and everyday life of the local people so as to minimize conflict.
    - Tourists refrain from causing disturbances to wildlife in natural environments.
      - E.g. when watching turtles lay eggs at beaches of Turtle Island, Sabah, Malaysia tourists should avoid shining torches at the turtles or using flash photography.
    - However, the Code of Ethics for Tourism is only mainly a guideline that informs tourists of their roles and if planning authorities do not actively promote these codes or tour operators don't convey them to tourists, principles of sustainable tourism would not be applied.
- Tour operators/Businesses
  - Tours operators include: hotels, tour operators, transport services and retail shops.
    - They are points of contacts between the tourist and the destination.
    - Businesses encourage hotels to conserve energy and water.
  - They employ local people where possible and provide means for guests to be involved in local community development projects.

Notes by some weirdo called Conrad Soon.. I don't guarantee the full accuracy of the information here.

Special thanks to Mrs Wong, the most wholesome and pure Geography ahma.

- E.g. Tour Operators Initiative (TOI) — an international tour operator organization. TOI advised tour operators on principles of sustainable tourism in tour packages. Encourage tour operators to brief tourists on responsible behavior at destinations.
- However, Tour operators conduct trips that profess to be ecotourism but could not or do not follow regulation since they are not made liable for any damage inflicted on the natural environment. They may also exceed number of tourists permitted/exceed carrying capacity and are reluctant to impose rules of correct behavior on their customers in fear of upsetting them.
  - E.g. Kg Kuantan mangroves in Malaysia, canoes are replaced by motorized boats that can take more tourists and travel faster. Catering to more tourists, and earning more money.
- Planning authorities
  - Control rate and scale of development in tourist areas.
    - E.g. Bunaken Marine Park in North Sulawesi, Indonesia, a scuba diving spot. Planning authorities helped to conserve coral and marine life and to ensure continued tourist arrivals. Government banned cyanide and dynamite for fishing as practiced by the locals. Tourists are required to pay an entrance fee, 30% channeled to help develop the local community.
    - E.g. Bhutan's Planning Authority. Restrict visitor numbers by only accepting 18k visitors in 2006, aiming to protect the fragile, mountainous environment and tightly guarded traditional culture. Tourists are also charged US\$5240 per day. High value, low volume tourism is served to maximize economic benefits and minimize environmental damage.
    - E.g. Kinabalu National Park, Sabah. Limited number of climbers per day to climb Mount Kinabalu, highest mountain in Southeast Asia. Climbers are charged a fee, must employ a local mountain guide, which is an indigenous local from the mountains, is only offered basic accommodation and all rubbish must be carried down. No cable cars or mechanical transport up to the peak.
  - Less developed countries' government have insufficient funds to employ and train park rangers to patrol protected areas. And as such, income generated more important to develop country at times.
    - E.g. when Sarawak government declared the Gunung Mulu National Park a protected area, the nomadic Penan people lost their rights to live in the land and make use of the natural resources there. They thus resettled into longhouses in designated locations, sedentary lifestyle and performed for tourists instead and become part of the tourist attraction.
- Non-governmental organizations
  - NGOs are usually nonprofit oriented organizations.
  - They use pressure and campaign to save environment as well as sustainable development for the local population.
    - E.g. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is concerned with conserving the natural environment and ensuring sustainable use of renewable natural resources preserving buildings with cultural and historical value.
  - They help protect natural and/or cultural areas from being victims of exploitation by tourists. (E.g. Promote sustainable development) They also conduct research and evaluate whether tourists will subject an area to any potential harm. If under threat, NGOs will conduct campaigns, solicit signatures for petition or organize protests to exert pressure against unfavorable plans.
    - E.g. International Ecotourism Society (TIES) largest and oldest ecotourism organization in the world. They educate tourists, influence tourist Industry, government, to integrate the principles of ecotourism into their operations and policies. TIES aims to let visitors appreciate the scenery of an area, and help them understand the local culture. Ensuring that part of the revenue earned is put back into maintaining and protecting the area.
  - However, NGOs cannot implement laws and as such require the cooperation of government to carry out conservation and protection of tourism areas.
    - E.g. islands of Phang Nga Bay in Phuket Exploration of limestone caves accessible only by canoes and must be led by local guide who educate tourist, results in employment of local people in the tourism industry.