

Mass Tourism vs Ecotourism

October 2010

- *While most holiday-makers flock to packed sea resorts, a growing number of citizens have come to realise that sustainable development also means adopting a new attitude during their holidays.*
- *In September the 1ère L/ES students conducted research on Mass Tourism and a new form of tourism called Ecotourism.*
- *Some students wrote articles.*
- *Others designed leaflets to promote ecotourism in various countries.*
- *Unfortunately all their productions cannot be published for practical reasons.*

Florence Boutes

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Birth and growth of mass tourism

The concept of mass tourism was born in Victorian Britain (1837-1901).

Before travelling was reserved to the rich because the cost was very expensive, because other people were working, and because of the fear of the unknown.

People travelled for pleasure as this sentence sums up : « the habit of travelling is as old as recorded history » (Brendon, 1991).

In the years 1825, railways were invented and were expanded throughout the world, so they offered a new facility of travelling far away. The journey by

railway was less expensive than before, and provided a reduction of journey's time thus travel became more accessible for all social classes.

The veritable growth of mass tourism took place between the 60's and the 70's thanks to sports tournaments, which made people travel, and because famous places became more attractive. Advertisements have played an important role too.

Now, because of e-commerce mass tourism continues to grow.

Shaan Legrand, Lisa Seguin



Sculptures by Duane Hanson



Angkor's "surging mass tourism" is causing both physical and social damage. Photo: Tim Winter

The most popular destinations for the Brits in 2009

According to the article published on Café Arjun's blog the Brits will prefer to go on vacation in hot spots. Spain is coming on the first place with popular sites like The Canary Islands and Ibiza. Those places make holiday makers happy because summer never ends! Cyprus comes in the second position. People who are keen on history enjoy discovering ancient sites as old

as 4th century BC, in the southwest of Cyprus. And the last destination is Turkey where you can find snow-capped mountains and sunny beaches at few hours of distance. Who said you can't do both?

However, even if going on holiday seem to be great, mass tourism has a bad effect on the most popular destinations. Today, water is scarcer but it is still

wasted in a lot of luxury hotels in Spain. The increasing urbanization of the coastline of Cyprus is harmful to marine biodiversity of the Mediterranean Sea. Finally, in Turkey the conservation of fauna and flora seem to run counter to the economic development of the country.

Cécile Morandini

Ecotourism advocacy groups and their actions

An ecotourism journey is a package tour in the respect of fauna and flora and whose direct effects on the local population aren't harmful but beneficial instead. It's a sustainable form of tourism that minimizes the impact on the natural environment to preserve it, and that involves local people and tourists into ac-



tions to protect nature. Ecotourism advocacy groups encourage people to travel in natural environment and preserve the resources of local inhabitants. For example, Global Eco Asia-Pacific Tourism's and ADE's actions are multiple: they put up advertisements to encourage people to opt for ecotourism. The number of ecot-

ourism agencies is growing



rapidly, which proves that people feel more involved in ecology.

Mégane LEPAGE
Cécilia PIGNANT

Is ecotourism possible in developing countries ?

More and more fashionable, ecotourism is a new way to promote developing countries. On the one hand it attracts tourists, on the other hand it contributes to protect nature, culture and wildlife. Two of our journalists have been to Congo and Costa Rica to examine the

impact of ecotourism.

First of all, let's go to Congo!

With 4 million inhabitants and a GDP per capita of 3 700 \$, Congo is the first oil pro-

We think that Congo can be more attractive if natives are involved in a green process.

ducer in the world. Nevertheless, it's a poor and not an attractive country despite its luxuriant forest. We think that it can be more attractive if natives are involved in a green process.

Now, let's talk about Costa Rica!

With 4 million inhabitants and a GDP per person and per year of 9.805\$, Costa Rica has an economy that depends on tourism. In-



deed, it has a beautiful, exotic and preserved environment and culture. It's very touristic: 1.6 million tourists in 2005! But some traffics and the lack of money bring

about deforestation. We have to react! With ecotourism, natives realize that they have to care about their forest, their breathtaking landscapes and to preserve their culture.

Charlène Bouygues
Lucille Brendlé

The growth of ecotourism and its consequences

Ecotourism is a responsible journey in natural environments where the resources and the well-being of the populations are protected. Ecotourism becomes one of the means to value biodiversity, contrary to mass tourism which degrades the natural circles.



Ecotourism appeared about 30 years ago, and has increased over the years because people want to respect fauna and flora. At first it was connected to a tourism of discovery or adventure, very directed to the tropical countries, i.e. the richest in biodiversity. The United States is considered as the main reser-

The United States is considered as the main reservoir of ecotourists with more than 5 million ecotravellers every year.

voir of ecotourists with more than 5 million ecotravellers every year. The majority of the other ecotourists come from Europe and from the elite of certain countries of the Southern hemisphere. However it would be false to believe that ecotourism is reserved for developing countries. This tourism adapts itself to developed countries like

Great Britain too. The considerable growth of ecotourism worries biologists.



be seen with difficulty (modifications of the heart rhythm, the physiology, the secretion of hormones causing stress or changes in the social behav-

More and more proofs show that numerous animals react badly to human presence in their environments. If the immediate effects can

be seen with difficulty (modifications of the heart rhythm, the physiology, the secretion of hormones causing stress or changes in the social behaviour), in the long term, this type of tourism could have disastrous consequences on the survival of the species which make its interest.



Thibault Mérand
Alia Mouelhi

Other alternative forms of holiday...

For many, the protection of the environment is a major preoccupation, not only in their everyday lives, but also during their holidays. Nowadays, everyone is concerned by this topic, even low-income people. That is why new forms of holidays and knacks are developed and promoted.



Travelling by train is cheap and environmentally-friendly

Why not consider traveling by train? This means of transport remains the most ecological and economical. As regards alternative forms of holiday, more and more people frequent charity and reconstruction programs. "United tourism" as it is

called, is quickly expanding because it allows to leave one's everyday life, to have a break, while being useful for the society. For young people, there are also exchanges between pen friends. Like ecotourism, all these alternatives to go abroad, are encouraged and very enriching.

Thibault Mérand, Alia Mouelhi



*Help nature protect
the dream, preserve
the environment*

Gwénaëlle Juan, Nolwenn Ladroue

Senegal



The capital of Senegal is Dakar, in this country we speak French and six other national languages. Senegal is a country that has very beautiful beaches, blue skies and good regional dishes. Senegal is a country which does a lot of tourism because it is their second income after fishing. By coming here, you will discover beautiful landscapes. We ask the tourists to retain the natural beauty of our country and respect all of the traditions.

Mathilde Fontana and Lauraly Gasteaux



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Mike Flanagan

Mass tourism and locals

Mass tourism has doubled in twenty years in spite of the economic crisis. As a result, we notice that the impact on locals and their environment is serious.

Indeed, it induces a growth of pollution like garbage - because tourists throw their feces in the street, sea and on the beach - and also the destruction of a lot of locals' homes and lands. The landscapes and



coasts are urbanized with hotels, shops, nightclubs, pub etc. Entrepreneurs buy areas which the locals owned or natural environment for cheap and build on them to make money. In their philosophy, profits matter more than protecting the environment.

That's why they take advantage of the inexpensive workforce composed of locals who have been deprived of their agricultural grounds.

Moreover, it doesn't help the locals to have a better life because they're underpaid and tourists use too much water and energy so there is little left for poor people. Furthermore, they don't have access to monuments and other important places anymore.

With the tourists' arrival, the locals have to change their way of life and customs., for better or for worse...

Daphné Paris
Sara Filal