



WATCH & LEARN: ARTS & LIFESTYLE:
TRAVEL: THE EFFECTS OF OVER-TOURISM
TOO MANY PEOPLE TRAVEL (4:46 min)
VIDEO Script & Vocabulary (page 1 of 2/v1142)

INTERMEDIATE (B1 - B2) AND ABOVE

- ◊ Read the script and note new vocabulary
- ◊ Write three sentences using new vocabulary
- ◊ Prepare for the discussion questions

Starting Off

Tourism has surged in recent decades, causing large-scale, environmental degradation, dangerous conditions, and pricing-out locals at major tourist sites.

- 1 Read the **Video Script** below. The words in **bold** are defined in the **Vocabulary** section. Look up any new words in a dictionary.
- 2 Go to the **Your Turn** section at the end of this document. Practice using new words and expressions from the video script to prepare for your next class.
- 3 Look at the **Discussion Questions** and prepare your responses for the next class.

Discussion Questions:

- ◊ Have you ever been to a major tourist site or attraction and felt overwhelmed by the size of the crowds trying to do or see the same thing?
- ◊ Is there anything that can be done about the fact that too many people are traveling for pleasure in this day and age?
- ◊ Should traveling be made to be more expensive and will Covid-19 and / or the climate crisis have a long-lasting effect on the travel industry in your opinion?

Video Script:

Narrator: The **crowds** around the Mona Lisa are so bad that museum workers **walked out** recently **claiming** the working conditions were too dangerous. Instagrammers created safety **hazards** during the poppy super-bloom in California. Historic cities **inundated** by tourists. Sensitive habitat destroyed. Monuments damaged. This phenomenon is known as over-tourism, and it's affecting the planet in **unprecedented** ways.



Tourist: The crowd is almost more **impressive** than the sunrise.

Annie Lowrey, Staff Writer, The Atlantic: There's a way in which tourists can **alter** the experience of visiting something such that they ruin the very experience that they've been trying to have. That's the essential condition of over-tourism.

Robinson Meyer, Staff Writer, The Atlantic: I would put tourism in the large **bucket** of things that people do that have been made possible now with fossil fuels.

Narrator: Historically, tourism was only for a small, **wealthy** elite. In fact it was common to stay within 50 or 100 miles of where you **grew up**.

Lowrey: European **nobles** or very upper-income people could go on grand tours in Europe. There was also religious travel. However, you didn't have the kind of "let's go take a Disney vacation" type thing until the 20th century.

Television voiceover: And eight million people a year come flocking from every corner of the world to Disney's \$100M dream in action.

Narrator: As Western societies gained a **middle-class**, tens of millions of people could suddenly **afford** to travel and mass tourism began and that's what's happening again today with rapidly developing countries.

Lowrey: In the last thirty years or so you've had the emergence of this global middle-class that has **come out of** middle-income countries. So Brazil, Mexico, China, India, where millions of people have **achieved** these **wage levels** where they're also able to travel.

Video Script continued on next page...

Vocabulary:

- **crowd** - large number of people gathered together in a disorganized or unruly way
- **walk out** - go on strike
- **claim** - state or assert that something is the case
- **hazard** - a danger or risk
- **inundate** - overwhelm with things or people to be dealt with
- **unprecedented** - never done or known before
- **impressive** - evoking admiration through size, quality, or skill
- **alter** - change in character
- **bucket** - small container with handle caused here figuratively to mean category
- **wealthy** - rich; very well-off financially
- **grow up** - mature from childhood to adulthood
- **noble** - belonging by rank, title, or birth to the aristocracy
- **middle-class** - social group between the upper and working classes, including professional and business people
- **afford** - have enough money to pay for
- **come out of** - emerge from
- **achieve** - reach a desired objective
- **wage level** - category of money earned

Vocabulary continued on next page...





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Video Script continued...

Narrator: Overseas trips from China alone rose from 10 million to a hundred and fifty million in under two decades and globally, we've gone from 25 million to 1.4 billion trips today. But that's not the only factor, budget airlines like Ryanair allowed tourists to fly cheaply, and Airbnb has increased the supply of lodgings, and the rise of Instagram across the world has spurred over-tourism in a big way.

Lowrey: Social media has provided a way for people to find out places to go, things to do, things to see, and in some cases, has also really eroded the tourist experience. People show up to try to take the same selfie of what they had seen online, which is a very, very new thing.

Narrator: In a few tragic cases this phenomenon has even led to injury and death. In response to over tourism, many cities are starting to tax tourists more heavily and put daily limits on cruise ship visitors and regulating Airbnbs so that locals aren't priced out of their own cities. But it's even more challenging to mitigate the effects of all this travel on climate change.

Meyer: The biggest part of any trip is the flight. Just from one flight from New York to London and back you're doing about a third of the damage that a car does over the course of a whole year.

Narrator: And cruise ships aren't much better.

Meyer: Ships are one of the most efficient ways you could move across the surface of the earth, but they're using one of the dirtiest fuels.

Narrator: Climate activist Greta Thunberg made a statement by choosing to take a six-day journey on a carbon-neutral schooner rather than fly across the Atlantic, and in Europe the "flight shame" movement has taken hold.

Television Newscaster: Some are calling it the "Greta Effect" in honor of the famous teen environmentalist Greta Thunberg.

Narrator: Should we all be expected to follow their lead?

Meyer: The pros for flying are that it's absolutely amazing, and there's no parallel for it in all of human history. It is not the inherent fault of individuals that the planet is warming, it's the fault of how we run our energy system, and there are people in charge of it; and they've made decisions that force us all to emit, and in fact, they are very happy when we talk about individual responsibility because it takes the focus off the massive, systematic decisions that got us to this place.

Narrator: Alongside the problems there are upsides to tourism like global connection and financial investments in the places that need it.

Larsen: I don't think that we can put a value on the fact that so many people get to go see so much of the world's wonders, and I think that we do have some evidence that that might change people. It might make them more open to other cultures, other experiences. Tourism as a general point is a really great and amazing thing, and this is just one of the dark sides of it.

Vocabulary continued...

- **overseas** - outside of one's country
- **lodging** - temporary accommodation
- **spur** - cause to happen; accelerate
- **find out** - learn something; discover
- **erode** - gradually destroy
- **show up** - arrive
- **heavily** - to a great degree
- **price out** - to change the price of something in such a way that the market becomes no longer competitive or viable for oneself, someone or something
- **mitigate** - make (something bad) less severe, serious, or painful
- **dirty** - very toxic; bad for environment
- **make a statement** - create a certain impression, communicate an idea or mood without using words
- **carbon-neutral** - making or resulting in no net release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere
- **flight shame movement** - activist group that encourages people to stop taking flights to lower their carbon footprints
- **parallel** - comparative; corresponding
- **inherent** - existing in something as a permanent, essential, or characteristic attribute
- **in charge of** - responsible for; directing
- **emit** - produce and discharge (something, especially gas or radiation)
- **upsides** - benefits
- **wonder** - a thing or a quality of something that causes amazement
- **dark side** - negative or harmful characteristic or consequence

Your Turn! Using new vocabulary is the best way to learn and remember it.

- 1 Choose three words or expressions from the video that are new to you and write a sentence using each one in your notebook.
- 2 Try to use them in a context that is familiar to you to help you retain them.