

Group 4

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ENGL 21003

6 May 2021

## Is Tourism Worth It?

### **Abstract**

Humans have always wanted to explore parts of the world that they have never seen before, and as society began to evolve, an industry was created to cater to it. Tourism is the industry created to cater to those who want to travel and see the world for the many wonders that it holds. Within this industry, tourists are catered to in how the location is set up and how the locals are to treat them. Tourism is typically viewed as a positive indicator of a tourist economy. It has the potential to bring prosperity to the region while also providing employment for locals. However, when tourism becomes unsustainable, the consequences can be catastrophic. When the tourist industry in a specific region goes beyond the legal, ethical, and moral boundaries to increase revenue, it can degrade the location. Because of such irresponsibility, the environment, economy, and local culture have suffered immensely. As a result, this industry has significantly added to the Anthropocene and hindered the anthropology aspects of life in which there have been environmental destructions, a loss of cultural values, dehumanization of locals by tourists, etc. Still, the areas by which tourism has significantly had its effects can be addressed. Several specific proposals have been made, including the designs of having separate tourist spaces or having a greater emphasis on spreading and teaching cultures to foreigners.

## **Introduction**

Tourism is one of the largest industries worldwide, welcoming travelers from across the globe who travel by his or her own internal and external motivations. Over the years, it has welcomed many individuals to learn about the cultures in different regions while also being a substantial economic source. Still, this system comes with many adverse effects. Thus arises a controversial dilemma, resulting in many people questioning the further extent of tourism. This form of substantial economic source comes with its many effects, but the most prominent problem that stands out would be the environmental destruction that has been the result of countries relying on tourism. The question becomes whether we as a society should disregard the effects tourism has added to the Anthropocene and hindered the anthropology aspects of life, or we should continue this practice with the implementation of solutions. The answer is clear in which this industry can still cease to exist, which is why this paper examines the effects of tourism and the solutions that can be established to reverse and spot any possible damages. These issues can be addressed by having specific tourist places and educating foreigners about different customs, which will emphasize the importance of preserving anthropology. Other possible solutions would be the use of economics as a better allocation of money towards systems that support the region and its people.

## **Methods**

### **How Tourism Impacts Anthropocene:**

#### **Climate Impacts**

At the start of tourism, few tourists considered the consequences that significantly affect environmental and anthropology aspects of life. This is understandable since, in more recent years, tourists have remained unaware of the environmental implications of flying out to

different destinations. Still, many decades later, aviation has expanded dramatically due to the rapidly emerging economies, and as a result, it will account for 15% to 40% of the total carbon emissions (Light and Brown). As a result, due to this playing a significant role in climate change, it has pushed for further awareness in which the 'flyers dilemma' has been established. The "flyers dilemma" is the recognition that flying offers many personal benefits, but such choices have led to many substantial environmental consequences(Light and brown). These consequences are impossible to reverse, but many individuals still have a blind eye to it in which they simply ignore the issue. However, by ignoring such scientific evidence, people are trying to avoid any possible change that can hinder them from their travels, but they fail to understand that participating in such detrimental actions can put an end to this cycle of travel for good. The only possible solution to combat these issues would be to create alternative routes of travel that won't be as harsh and educate travelers on the substantial cost of their travels while offering alternatives like resorts.

### **Environmental Impacts**

Environmental impacts are high in the tourism industry, and many times, it is possible that the tourists are not aware of the fact that they are harming the environment. What attracts tourists to a certain location is a natural beauty and historical context of the destination. India and Thailand are popular tourist destinations due to their natural beauty and historical significance. Tourists are more concerned with enjoying the sights and views than with what they are leaving behind. Land devastation is caused by trampling the vegetation and parking in restricted areas. Local companies air tours and snowmobile tours for tourist recreation have an impact on wildlife. Increased tourism in national and state parks in the United States has significantly impacted natural vegetation. These effects primarily take the form of depletion of natural

resources, increased pollution, and physical damage to national assets. High levels of energy consumption are other environmental problems that Dubai faces, and increased use of electricity is a capital expense that the country is dealing with. The natural environment in Thailand is being destroyed in order to build new hotels, restaurants, and shops, thereby deteriorating the country's natural aspect.

The beaches of India, Thailand, the United States, and Dubai are famous for their beauty and recreational opportunities. Nevertheless, the increase of tourist population in these regions has interrupted the feeding and nesting sites of various types of birds, turtles, and other animals, endangering their species. According to reports, 54 percent of the world's 328 turtle species are on the verge of extinction due to factors such as pollution, hunting, destroyed natural habitat, and so on. Tourism does play a small role in these factors, leading to environmental harm. An increased tourism density also contributes to increased air and noise pollution. According to the study conducted by Aslam and others (2018), the studies claimed that increased tourism in India's Kashmir region has impacted the region's natural resources, rendering them unaffordable and overwhelmed. The researchers emphasize that because this area is popular with tourists, the government is unable to deal with issues such as litter, sewage, deforestation, increase in population, loss of animal and bird habitat, and so forth. The researchers argue that the country's tourism industry must take the appropriate measures to manage tourism and the natural aspects of the region to ensure the sustainability of natural resources. Another study by Noimunwai and colleagues (2018) explains that the Hua-Hin Municipality in Thailand has experienced a high level of water scarcity as a result of the country's increased tourism rate. This has had a negative impact on the country's residents.

### **Another Source of Contention That Has Impacted Anthropology**

Money is what fuels just about every modern system, it is what brings change, growth, and comfort, but in the age of tourism, every location will attempt to be the reason for someone else spending the money to travel and see what they have to offer, but at what point do the lines stop being blurred and instead head into the more negative side. A good source for this kind of opinion is a video by VICE titled “Why European Tourists are Visiting South African Slums,” in which a reporter travels to Cape Town in South Africa to check out the current tourism situation to discover that in an effort to bring money to the slum, they rely on mainly white European tourists to take culture tours around the city and see every aspect they wish to see and even get their hands on. This means visiting every aspect of the area, including the more interesting ones for such a tour, such as the homes of different individuals and the classrooms of the local youth. While anyone reading through that statement would expect a safe, guided, and culture-driven experience, it for many brings on feelings of discomfort and disrespect due to how it is almost always handled. While it is true that they do take in the local culture and see a true to life version of the location that they want to visit, at what point does the tour being based on the culture stop, perhaps it is when many of the locals feel like they’re being “watched like animals” claimed by one local or could it be when the youth within the classes are told to be okay with the strangers possibly touring their class at any time, asking for pictures and on occasion trying to handle them as if they were their own kids. The reasoning behind the proposed purpose behind this form of travel becomes blurred due to these situations. To what extent is it okay for the locals to open their lives to the public in an effort to provide for a traveler, is it something that should be asked of everyone to try and do their part to help? While these guided tours allow that personal experience of a new culture, the actual tour itself should separate itself from being similar to that of a safari, making the locals the focus instead of degrading them to something as simple of an

attraction. With that being a guideline for tours, maybe it will interest people to take in the world's culture without being a part of a larger, mostly unseen issue.

### **Economic Impacts/Results**

Tourism can impact the environment in a negative way just for the entertainment of humanity and profit of the nations that receive such tourism. To add on, tourism nowadays comes second in terms of commodity of world trade and only behind another profitable process called petroleum in which both at the same time add changes to the landscape wherever they go (Dilsaver 1979). To put it in other words, the powerful people with influence tend to go wherever they want and not think about their impact on the places that are used for their own greed and benefit. Many people say that money is the root of all evil. In some sense, it stays true to those phrases because the barriers to travel to any country across the world have changed to barely any as compared to how back then it was more difficult to enter other nations due to international warfare. The economic reasons behind the invented tourism would be favorable foreign exchange with a direct payment, the availability of taxation revenue, infrastructures that are made that help the process flow better, and last but not least, aid towards the local or national economy through the addition of extra jobs (Dilsaver 1979). The more jobs created, the more money would be reinvested into processes like renovating the place of attraction to keep the attractiveness of the location. Certain claims are better to be backed up by facts or statistics. For instance, the foreign exchange statement behind tourism is said that only seventy-seven percent of the tourism money is retired to the countries that such tourists come from due to the fact that Third World countries need to exchange expensive goods in order to sustain and maintain such tourists (Dilsaver 1979). On the other hand, the taxation revenue can generally be below because tourists are often offered special deals with discounts to further attract and develop the

environment around them. Furthermore, infrastructure development is one of the most sought-after arguments to develop tourism, but at the same time, this can cause an economic overdependence on tourism, meaning that if things go astray, there would not be other solutions in hand (Dilsaver 1979). There can't be an overdependence on one thing since that would result in a dead-end of economic collapse and thus the explanation to why there should be a dependence of multiple variables in case one fails, the others are still there to deliver a solution.

### **Conclusion**

Despite the fact that tourism is one of the most prosperous industries in the modern era, the elevated level of issues raised by the tourism industry is very concerning. It has become critical for the governments of tourist countries to take the negative effects of the environment, culture, and economy seriously and make significant changes to the current management of the tourist industry. Changing policies and laws, and regulations would enforce some legislative responsibility on tourists to act civilly and maintain the tourist country's cultural and environmental assets. Once these negative effects are effectively managed, the benefits of the tourism industry to the economy are enormous, potentially increasing economic growth and development opportunities. However, that doesn't solve the other issues that tourism has on the environment. Many natural things are being disrupted by tourists because of air pollution, waste and hunting which almost caused the extinction of birds, turtles, and many other animals. One possible solution would be for the country's tourism industry to manage tourism better so they can have a better outcome and sustain their natural resources. Strict rules and regulation followed by efficient planning can save the beautiful places and countries that people love to tour at. They should make sure that extra care is taken to be able to preserve the natural environment.

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