

Unit 6

1 Read the article about tourism and answer the questions.

- 1 What event caused the Italian government to ban cruise liners from the centre of Venice?
- 2 What two things do cruise ships do which cause damage in Venice?
- 3 Why are protestors doubtful about the amount of money defenders of cruise ships claim passengers spend in Venice?
- 4 What two things do companies like Airbnb do to harm cities like Venice?
- 5 What has been done in Paris and Barcelona to help protect these cities from damage caused by tourism?

2 Read the article again and decide which sentence best describes the views expressed in it.

- a Tourists should be charged to visit cities, transport should be banned in city centres, the cost of travelling should rise, and there should be a limit to the amount of tourist accommodation available.
- b There should be better planning for mass tourism in heavily visited cities, more stringent regulation with regard to transportation and accommodation, as well as tourist taxation to help with maintenance and to prevent damage.

3 Find the adjectives (1-6) in the article and match them with their opposite meanings (a-f).

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 savvy | a ready, well planned or organised |
| 2 ill-prepared | b modest and prim and proper |
| 3 transient | c unheard of, unknown |
| 4 saucy | d ignorant, inexperienced |
| 5 fabled | e permanent |

4 Find the verbs in the box in the text and use the context to choose the best answer (a, b or c) to the questions.

to lose out on sth to blot out sth / to blot sth out to venture on to sth to stick around
to mitigate sth to stir sth to levy sth to penalise sb for sth

- 1 Which of these can't you lose out on?

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| a promotions | b profits | c redundancies |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|
- 2 What wouldn't you normally blot out willingly?

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| a good memories | b an ugly view | c sad thoughts |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
- 3 If you venture on to something, what does it usually involve?

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| a no risk | b an element of risk | c boredom |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
- 4 If you don't stick around somewhere, what have you done?

| | | |
|--------|------------------------|------------|
| a left | b stayed where you are | c given up |
|--------|------------------------|------------|
- 5 Which of these don't you usually mitigate?

| | | |
|------------|--------|--------------|
| a disaster | b risk | c prosperity |
|------------|--------|--------------|
- 6 What isn't usually stirred?

| | | |
|---------------|------------|------------|
| a controversy | b benefits | c emotions |
|---------------|------------|------------|
- 7 Which of these aren't levied by governments?

| | | |
|---------|---------|------------|
| a taxes | b fines | c salaries |
|---------|---------|------------|
- 8 What are people usually penalised for?

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| a breaking laws | b sticking to the law | c following rules |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|

5 Complete the sentences using words from Exercises 3 and 4.

- 1 Although the government has tried to _____ poverty by creating more jobs, there hasn't been an increase in wealth yet.
- 2 They would like me to _____ all memories of the disaster and start a new life.
- 3 Many cities have _____ populations of students who come for a few weeks at a time.
- 4 The government is planning to _____ a new tax on diesel cars, which will make them less economical for the consumer.
- 5 Removing these benefits will _____ the most disadvantaged in society and increase the gap between the rich and poor.
- 6 She's a _____ politician who knows what she's doing and has a lot of experience.
- 7 The _____ city of El Dorado is supposed to have existed in South America, but it has never been found.
- 8 We decided not to _____ on to the ice because we weren't sure how thick it was.

Venice cruise crash is a sign of the risks of tourism

Proper infrastructure and planning will keep cities from losing out on the economic benefits

Venice has a history of successfully managing threats from the sea. Throughout the Renaissance, the Most Serene Republic fought the Ottoman navy for dominance in the Mediterranean. Turkish galleys and galliots have long since given way to a new threat: cruise liners which tower over the City of Masks. After a collision involving the MSC Opera, the Italian government has ordered these floating tubs of fun to steer clear of the city centre.

Mass tourism is not a new challenge for Venice or other cities, though it is a stiffer one. The U.S. trade war may have contributed to a slowdown in Chinese tourism overseas in the short term, but the country's travelling middle class are here to stay. Ever larger packs of camera-toting, trinket-purchasing tourists of all nationalities bring rewards to savvy cities, and risks to the ill-prepared.

Leviathans such as MSC Opera, nearly 300 metres long and with a maximum capacity of more than 2,500 passengers, do more than blot out the skyline. As early as 2006, protesters warned the volumes of water they displace are eroding the sinking city's foundations and threatening the local ecosystem. In 2017, cruise ships in European waters emitted more than 60 kilotonnes of sulphur dioxide, a chemical compound linked to acid rain and lung cancer, according to a report released in June.

There are also doubts about the benefits their passengers bring to Venice. While the cruise lobby claims they inject €280 million a year into the local economy, activists argue that many choose to eat and drink aboard their ship, only venturing on to land for a matter of hours.

The problems caused by tourism extend beyond floating hotels and their passengers. Upstarts such as Airbnb pose an existential threat to the hotel industry and can cause disruption in the housing market. People renting their properties do gain a financial benefit. The

danger is if housebuyers simply flip the purchase: renting out their property rather than sticking around to help build a community.

There are several ways to mitigate the negative impacts of tourism. Size restrictions and tighter emission controls on cruise ships would reduce both the potential environmental hazard and limit the number of tourists entering the city through this route.

In Venice, the entry charge for those on day trips, implemented in May 2019, should also be maintained, despite the controversy it stirred. The city already levies a tourist tax on those who stay in hotels, as do many other cities. It is unclear why more transient visitors should get special treatment. Their time in the city, using public facilities and spaces, generates the need for cleaning and repairs.

Finally, Venice should look at measures taken in other tourist hotspots to protect their unique character. In Barcelona, the government has stopped granting new hotel licences. The deputy mayor of Paris has called for a ban on coaches in the city centre, suggesting tourists take more eco-friendly routes which cause less congestion. These steps are not about penalising visitors. They are about preserving the authentic nature of the city.

The rise of cheap international travel has opened up opportunities to millions. This has not been a universal boon. The collapse of some British coastal resorts speaks to changing travel patterns and changing tastes. A saucy seaside postcard and a plate of fish and chips are not enough these days. People want an experience and that means exploring the unfamiliar, if not the exotic. Digital media has made the world a lot smaller. What has not changed is the cost of keeping the fabled cities running. Therein lies a Venetian lesson.