

Did you know: 10 tourism facts



The first tourists were Romans, who travelled for health and fun. In the Middle Ages, there was no tourism but people visited religious places on pilgrimages.



The word tourist, which describes a person who travels for fun, is from the 18th century. In the 19th century, a British man offered the first public excursion and opened the first travel agency.



Today, tourism is the largest industry in the world. It is worth over \$7.6 trillion.



Many countries have something unique about them. For example, if you love languages, **New Guinea** is the place for you with almost 850 different languages. **Canada** has the greatest number of lakes. 90% of **Lybia** is a desert, and the best place to see aurora borealis (polar lights) is **Norway**. **Croatia** is popular because of its nature and friendly people.



The five countries which tourists visit most are **France, the USA, Spain, China and Italy**. For tourists, the most popular cities in the world are **Bangkok, London and Paris**.



Less than 1% of all people in the world have been to **Antarctica** – it is the least visited place on Earth.



The first space tourist was Dennis Tito, an American businessman. He went to the International Space Station in 2001, which cost him about \$20 million.



1/3 of all airports in the world are in the USA. At any moment of any day, there are over 60,000 Americans flying in the sky.



Tourism fatigue is something that happens in places where too many tourists visit. Local people can become tired and unfriendly because they never have peace and quiet.



New types of tourism combine travelling and doing something positive. For example, volunteer tourists go to other countries and help those in need. Pro-poor tourists spend money on people and countries that need it most. Creative tourism connects people and places through making art.

Answer the questions.

1 Have you ever been to one of the places mentioned? Where would you like to go?

2 What do these numbers refer to?

- a) 1/3
- b) 1%
- c) 18th
- d) 19th
- e) 90%
- f) 850
- g) 60,000
- h) 20 million
- i) 7.6 trillion

3 Is tourism today very different from tourism in the past? Explain.

4 What positive and negative sides of tourism does the text mention? Can you come up with more?

5 Extra Credit Assignment: Write a short travelogue – a diary for a place you've visited.