

61. Tourism – destinations and impacts

Destinations

People are attracted to different environments for different types of holidays. Several types of destinations (places where recreation and relax is realized):

- *international significance*, e.g. Mallorca, Gran Canaria, Dominican republic, Mauritius
- *national significance*, e.g. Brighton, Rügen, Štúrovo
- *regional significance*, e.g. Malá Fatra, Rajecká Lesná
- *local significance*, e.g. local swimming pool, entertainment park

Tourist locations (destinations)

Tourist enclaves = areas which are:

- physically separated and isolated from local communities => limited economic linkages with the local community
- dependant on rich foreign tourists, i.e. dependency upon tourist expenditures
- contrasts in lifestyle between the tourists and the local community
 - e.g. Maldives, Turkey (Antalya), Egypt (Hurghada)

Tourist resorts = areas with concentrated form of development which occurs around a key source

- *seaside resorts*
 - decline and change in land use with increasing distance from sea shore
 - uncontrolled expansion of tourist resorts can lead to regional linear resorts (Spanish Costas, several parts of Croatian Dalmatia)
- *inland health spas* – Bath (UK), Piešťany
- *mountain resorts* – Štrbské Pleso, Chamonix, Lugano, Cortina d'Ampezzo

Impacts of tourism

Traffic congestions

Many visitors arrive to a destination by road => by cars or buses => many traffic congestions especially during summer season

- e.g. High Tatras – parking places and relatively steep and narrow roads + slow-moving caravans and tractors

Pollution

Road transport => huge pollution of the air during summer => effects on vegetation, soils, waters

- e.g. exhausts from vehicles + noise pollution + dropped litter + visual pollution of large campsites

Soil erosion

..caused by walking on popular walks and sites ⇔ thousands of walkers (tourists) going through the same path destroy surrounding vegetation and soil exposed to walking and thus soil is eroded => *gullies*

Conflicts between tourists and locals

- potential *conflicts between walkers and farmers* => local residents can be irritated by visitors ⇔ queues in local shops, overcrowded parking places, etc.
- many tourists buy their *second homes* => prices of plots or houses become more expensive for the local people to buy

Conflicts between different types of tourists

Sailing, water skiing, windsurfing and other sports can disturb tranquillity of other tourists.

Do You know some other examples of these conflicts?

Keywords

significance of a destination, tourist enclaves/resorts, gullies, soil erosion, second homes