

## Is tourism killing Venice?

### Elementary

#### 1 Warmer

Match these famous tourist destinations with the correct countries.

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Venice           | a. Spain           |
| 2. Dubrovnik        | b. the Netherlands |
| 3. Barcelona        | c. Scotland        |
| 4. the Isle of Skye | d. Italy           |
| 5. Amsterdam        | e. Croatia         |

#### 2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

pollution

crowded

cruise

population

popular

enormous

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ place is one that many people like. (para 2)
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ is the total number of people who live in a town, city or country. (para 2)
3. If something is \_\_\_\_\_, it is very big. (para 2)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is when chemicals and other substances damage the air, water or land. (para 2)
5. If a place is \_\_\_\_\_ or over-\_\_\_\_\_, there are too many people. (para 2)
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a journey on a ship for pleasure, especially one that visits a lot of places. (para 3)

#### 3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. How many canals are there in Venice?
2. How long is the Grand Canal?
3. What is the population of Venice?
4. How many tourists visit Venice each year?
5. How many tourists arrive by cruise ship?
6. Which television drama has made Dubrovnik popular with tourists?

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8 November, 2018

- 1 Venice is one of the most beautiful and most historic cities in the world. It is in the north of the Adriatic Sea and is built on 118 small islands. There are almost no streets in Venice. The islands are connected by 182 canals, with a total length of more than 46 kilometres. The longest canal is the Grand Canal, which is 3.8 kilometres long. More than 400 bridges cross the canals.
- 2 Venice is also one of the most famous cities in the world. This means that it is very popular with tourists. The city has a population of just 55,000 but every day, around 60,000 tourists visit the city. More than 22 million tourists visit Venice every year, which is good for businesses such as hotels, restaurants and cafés. But the enormous numbers of tourists also cause pollution and the famous parts of the city, such as the main square, are always very crowded, especially in August, which is the busiest month of the year.
- 3 The enormous cruise ships that visit Venice are also a problem. Every year, over 1.5 million visitors arrive in Venice by cruise ship. But according to local people, these visitors are not the biggest problem. Most tourists come to Venice from other Italian cities and holiday resorts, especially when it rains and they cannot stay on the beach. A further problem is that these visitors bring their own food with them and don't spend any money in Venice.
- 4 Venice is not the only place that has too many visitors. The historic Croatian city of Dubrovnik, which is popular with fans of the television drama *Game of Thrones*, is also overcrowded with tourists. The Scottish island of Skye has similar problems. Visitors often stay for just a few hours and all of them want to visit the four or five most beautiful places on the island, which are always overcrowded.

#### 4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings to the endings to make statements about the text.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Venice is ...                                | a. ... are not the biggest problem.                         |
| 2. The total length of the canals of Venice ... | b. ... over 400 bridges across the canals.                  |
| 3. There are ...                                | c. ... from other Italian cities and holiday resorts.       |
| 4. Visitors arriving by cruise ship ...         | d. ... one of the most historic cities in the world.        |
| 5. Most visitors come to Venice ...             | e. ... because they usually bring their own food with them. |
| 6. They don't spend much money in Venice ...    | f. ... is more than 46 kilometres.                          |

#### 5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. month the of year the busiest
2. beautiful the island places on the most
3. historic one cities the world in the most of
4. with popular tourists very

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#### 6 Prepositions

Complete the phrases from the text using these prepositions.

for

on

of

for

with

by

1. overcrowded \_\_\_\_\_ tourists
2. good \_\_\_\_\_ businesses
3. \_\_\_\_\_ just a few hours
4. \_\_\_\_\_ ship
5. \_\_\_\_\_ the beach
6. the busiest month \_\_\_\_\_ the year

#### 7 Superlatives

Complete the table using superlatives from the text.

	adjective	superlative
1.	beautiful	
2.	long	
3.	busy	
4.	famous	
5.	historic	
6.	big	

#### 8 Discussion

- Is tourism a good thing or a bad thing? Why?

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#### KEY

##### 1 Warmer

1. d
2. e
3. a
4. c
5. b

##### 2 Key words

1. popular
2. population
3. enormous
4. pollution
5. crowded
6. cruise

##### 3 Find the information

1. 182
2. 3.8 kilometres
3. 55,000
4. more than 22 million
5. over 1.5 million
6. *Game of Thrones*

##### 4 Comprehension check

1. d
2. f
3. b
4. a
5. c
6. e

##### 5 Chunks

1. the busiest month of the year
2. the most beautiful places on the island
3. one of the most historic cities in the world
4. very popular with tourists

##### 6 Prepositions

1. with
2. for
3. for
4. by
5. on
6. of

##### 7 Superlatives

1. the most beautiful
2. the longest
3. the busiest
4. the most famous
5. the most historic
6. the biggest