

maids and receptionists; every restaurant needs cooks, waiters, waitresses, and bartenders.

Secondly, tourism offers financial opportunities to small entrepreneurs. A farmer can rent out a spare room or two with little investment. The local mechanic can rent scooters to tourists and – why not? – later negotiate a franchise with Hertz or Avis if business is good.

Thirdly, tourism improves the lives not only of the money-makers, but also of the tourists themselves. Many cheaper hotels in the Aegean now cater for Russians, Poles and other eastern Europeans who, in the past, could only dream of a week in the sun.

“Humanitarian tourism” is a recent trend. One Indian travel company, Mass Education, tries to improve the living conditions of peasants around Calcutta. Tourists pay the same price as at other agencies, but instead of the “coach-hotel-steak and chips” formula, they stay with local inhabitants. Comfort is spartan, but participants praise the friendly atmosphere. 25% of the total cost of a stay is given to Mass Education. The money is used

to pay a teacher’s salary, or buy school supplies. The company also grants loans to women for the purchase of a sewing machine or a piece of land to farm.

Questions

- 2.1. Sum up the arguments against uncontrolled tourism.
- 2.2. How does tourism help the economic development of a country?
- 2.3. What is the “coach-hotel-steak and chips” formula?
- 2.4. The text mentions a new trend towards “humanitarian tourism”. What do you think? Does the money really trickle down to the local population, or do you think it is just an advertising scheme to attract customers?



Vocabulary

- + holiday-maker (U.S.: vacationer) = vacancier
- + coach = car
- + to rent / to hire = louer
- + cruise = croisière
- + to book = prendre, réserver (un billet)
- + scheduled flight = vol régulier
- + package holiday = voyage organisé
- + sightseeing = visites
- + accomodations = hébergement
- + plain = simple
- + fancy = sophistiqué, élaboré
- + camp site / camp ground = camping
- + seaside resort = station balnéaire
- + facilities = aménagements
- + ski resort = station de sports d'hiver
- + youth hostel = auberge de jeunesse
- + B and B (Bed and Breakfast) = chambre d'hôtes
- + to criticize, a criticism = critiquer, une critique
- + to jeopardize = mettre en péril, compromettre
- + holiday resort (U.S.: vacation resort) = centre de vacances
- + “big bucks” (familiar) = les gros sous (a “buck” is a slang expression for “dollar”).
- + to trickle down = filtrer
- + seasonal = saisonnier
- + labour-intensive = qui nécessite beaucoup de main d'œuvre
- + maid = femme de chambre
- + waiter = serveur / waitress = serveuse
- + to rent out = louer (à quelqu'un)
- + to improve = améliorer
- + to cater for = se tourner vers / s'adresser à (une clientèle)
- + humanitarian tourism = tourisme équitable
- + trend = tendance, mode
- + spartan = spartiate
- + stay = séjour
- + to grant a loan = accorder un prêt