

What is the impact of tourism on the host community?

- **economic**
- **social**
- **environmental**

- Tourism can bring many economic and social benefits, particularly in rural areas and developing countries, but mass tourism is also associated with negative effects.

-Economic Effects: creates jobs through direct employment within the tourism industry and indirectly (retail, transportation) /// can push up local property prices and the cost of goods and services / money generated by tourism does not always benefit the local community but only huge international companies (e.g. hotel chains)

Social Effects: the improvement of infrastructure (roads, visitor centres, hotels) benefits local community / encourages the preservation of traditional customs, handicrafts and festivals / creates civic pride / better cultural understanding / helps raise global awareness of issues such as poverty and human rights abuses /// detrimental effect of the quality of life of the host community (crowding / congestion / drugs and alcohol problems / increased crime levels / erosion of traditional cultures and values)

Environmental Effects : helps promote conservation of wildlife and natural resources (now regarded as tourism assets e.g. rain forests) / generates funds for maintaining animal preserves and marine parks /// a threat to natural and cultural resources (water supply / beaches / coral reefs / heritage sites) through overuse. / increased pollution (traffic emissions / littering / increased sewage production / noise)

What do you enjoy about visiting other countries?

- holidays with a physically challenging element / keen to explore off-the-beaten path destinations/ find little visited sights of natural beauty / get in touch with a country's wild side / experience cultural differences first-hand / soak the atmosphere of the country I visit / have authentic interactions with the locals / open up new worlds / see the environment, the food, music and dance, the lifestyle / with a good guide get to know about the history and the religion, the beliefs and values / if fortunate witness some of the festivities and celebrations

- Do you think that by visiting a foreign country you can learn about the culture of this country?

- On a superficial level, you can learn the culture of a country by seeing how other people live. A cultural exchange however is a two-way process. On the one hand we need to find the factors that determine our cultural differences and the areas of commonality. On the other hand it is a process of self examination. To look at the factors that have determined our make-up and our personality and to assess whether we have made the right choices. By witnessing other people's lifestyles and making comparisons with our own, we find we have a lot to learn from each other.

- Do you think that it is possible to have responsible or sustainable tourism?

-Sustainable: being able to meet the present needs without damaging the ability of future generations to meet their needs in the same way.

-Fully sustainable tourism would be wildly expensive. It would not generate the type of financial rewards investors need.

- Responsible tourism is more feasible. We need to maximize the positive impacts and minimize the negative ones. / involve local people in decisions that affect their lives and life changes / generate economic benefits for local people / make positive contributions to the conservation of natural and cultural heritage/ provide enjoyable experiences for tourists through more meaningful connection with local people / generally promote greater understanding, sensitivity and respect of local culture.