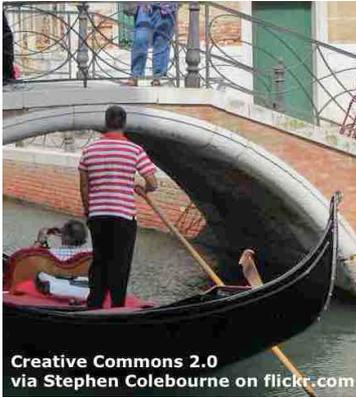


Venice set to charge tourists to enter the city

24th August, 2021



Venice, Italy is one of the world's top tourist destinations. Before the coronavirus pandemic, around 20 million visitors a year visited the city. This caused many problems such as pollution from cruise ships and overcrowding. To deal with these problems, city officials are planning to charge

tourists to visit the city's historical centre and its beautiful canals. According to Italy's *La Stampa* newspaper, entry into Venice could cost between three euros (\$3.50) and 10 euros. This could start from the summer of 2022. There are also plans to set a limit on the number of visitors who can enter the centre each day. Tourists may need to book their visit to Venice before they go.

Venice officials have talked for many years about the number of visitors flocking to the city. Environmentalists are worried about the damage cruise ships do to marine life in the Venice Lagoon. Heritage lovers want to protect Venice's famous squares and architecture from the millions of tourists. This made Italy's Culture Minister say that there is a "concrete risk" of the United Nations culture agency UNESCO adding Venice to its list of World Heritage in Danger sites. However, a hotel worker said Venice needed cruise ships. He said: "They spend big in a short time, before sailing out." A city official is worried that charging tourists a fee to enter will turn Venice into a "theme park".

Sources: bloomberg.com / wsj.com / dailymail.com

Writing

It is a good idea to charge tourists for visiting cities. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these UN words from the article.

Venice / Italy / coronavirus / pollution / cruise ships / summer / canals / plans / limit / visitor / the city / environmentalists / marine life / culture / heritage / hotel / tourist

True / False

- 1) The article says Venice is the world's top tourist destination. T / F
- 2) About 20 million people a year visited Venice before coronavirus. T / F
- 3) It could cost as much as 10 euros to visit Venice. T / F
- 4) Tourists might have to book to be able to visit Venice. T / F
- 5) Italy's Culture Minister said there is too much concrete in Venice. T / F
- 6) UNESCO will take Venice off its World Heritage in Danger list. T / F
- 7) A hotel worker said cruise ship tourists don't spend a lot of money. T / F
- 8) A city official wants Venice to become a theme park. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. top | a. representative |
| 2. caused | b. manage |
| 3. deal with | c. reserve |
| 4. start | d. sea |
| 5. book | e. created |
| 6. flocking | f. definite |
| 7. marine | g. concerned |
| 8. concrete | h. leading |
| 9. official | i. swarming |
| 10. worried | j. begin |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about Venice?
- b) What is your city like for tourists?
- c) What are your favourite cities?
- d) What can tourists do in your country?
- e) What problems does tourism create?
- f) What do you think of the charge to enter Venice?
- g) Should there be a limit on the number of tourists in a city?
- h) What do you think of cruises?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. one of the world's top | a. marine life |
| 2. This caused many problems | b. number of visitors |
| 3. charge tourists to visit the city's historical | c. book their visit to Venice |
| 4. set a limit on the | d. a short time |
| 5. Tourists may need to | e. centre |
| 6. the number of visitors flocking | f. park |
| 7. the damage cruise ships do to | g. such as pollution |
| 8. there is a concrete | h. to the city |
| 9. they spend big in | i. risk |
| 10. turn Venice into a theme | j. tourist destinations |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What is the world's best tourist destination?
- What damage do cruise ships do?
- How important is it to protect architecture?
- Are you a good tourist?
- What do you think when you see hundreds of tourists?
- What three adjectives best describe Venice?
- What questions would you like to ask a Venice official?

Spelling

- Italy is one of the world's top tourist stsnioetdian
- the coronavirus dacnepim
- many problems such as lpoiolnut
- city alfiisocf
- the city's lrhtoicsai centre
- set a iltim
- visitors lingcofk to the city
- gihrete lovers
- Venice's famous squares and thaireurctec
- there is a cenrcoet risk
- eusirc ships
- tmehe park

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. b	4. j	5. c
6. i	7. d	8. f	9. a	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Pollution

You think pollution is the biggest problem tourism causes. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic of these (and why): damage to sights, overcrowding or cultural misunderstanding.

Role B – Damage to Sights

You think damage to sights is the biggest problem tourism causes. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic of these (and why): pollution, overcrowding or cultural misunderstanding.

Role C – Overcrowding

You think overcrowding is the biggest problem tourism causes. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic of these (and why): damage to sights, pollution or cultural misunderstanding.

Role D – Cultural Misunderstanding

You think cultural misunderstanding is the biggest problem tourism causes. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic of these (and why): damage to sights, overcrowding or pollution.

Speaking – Problems

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest problems caused by tourism at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| • Pollution | • Cultural misunderstandings |
| • Litter | • Habitat loss |
| • Traffic | • Damage to sights |
| • Noise | • Overcrowding |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 T	3 T	4 T	5 F	6 F	7 F	8 F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.