

Tourism Boom: Blessing or Curse?

Vocabulary Match

suffering ● pandemic ● disposal ● locals ● balance ● handle ●
● hurting ● disease ● equilibrium ● manage ● citizens ● removal

Article

Venice, a city in Italy, is suffering from too many tourists. A friend from Venice shared old black-and-white photos showing how peaceful the city was before it became a popular tourist spot. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Venice, which has about 50,000 residents, welcomed 20 million tourists every year. This caused problems like high rent and changes to the city's appearance.

Now, tourism is also increasing in Japan. Last month, more foreign tourists visited Japan than before the pandemic. The Japanese government wants even more tourists by 2025. However, the Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida, says that tourism should not harm locals' lives. He wants to find a balance between welcoming tourists and keeping the city a good place to live.

In Europe, some countries charge tourists extra money to help with costs like trash disposal. But these efforts need support from local people to work. In Japan, the focus should be on how many tourists the country can handle, not how many it wants.

Quiz

1. How many tourists did Venice welcome every year before the pandemic?
2. What problems did the influx of tourists cause in Venice?
3. What is the stance of Japan's Prime Minister on tourism?
4. What is the focus in Japan regarding tourism?

Conversation

A: Have you noticed how crowded Kyoto is with tourists now?
B: Yeah, and the locals think us foreign residents are tourists!
A: I miss the days when it was quieter here.
B: Tourism is necessary, but this is too much, right?
A: Definitely. It's hard to find a peaceful spot anymore.
B: Kyoto's unique charm is getting lost in all this chaos.

Discussion

1. Have you ever visited a city overrun with tourists? How was the experience?
2. Do you think tourism can harm a city's local life? How?
3. What do you think can be done to balance tourism and the welfare of local residents?
4. Would you support a tourist tax in your city to help with costs like trash disposal?