

# Tourism Carrying Capacities

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**Tourism** is defined as the activities of visitors outside of their usual environment for less than a year for any purpose (business, leisure, or other personal purpose) other than to be employed in the country/place visited.



**Tourism carrying capacity** refers to the number of tourists a destination or attraction can support and sustain.







**Physical carrying capacity** refers to the limits of a particular space.



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**Environmental carrying capacity** refers to the extent of tourism that can occur without negative environmental effects





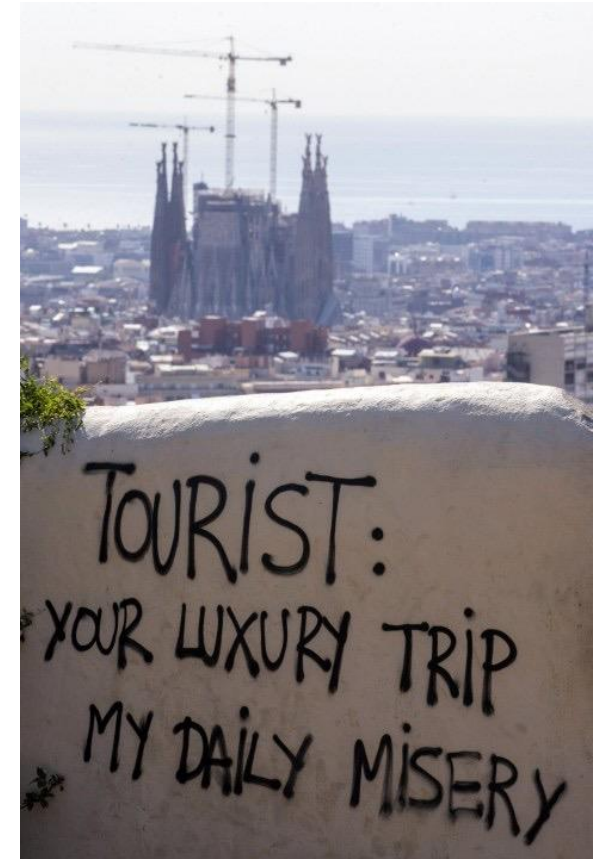


**Perceptual carrying capacity** refers to the extent of tourism that can occur without tourist dissatisfaction.



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**Social carrying capacity** refers to the extent of tourism that can occur without local community dissatisfaction.



## Terms:

**tourism carrying capacity.** Refers to the number of tourists a destination or attraction can support and sustain

**physical carrying capacity.** The limits of a particular space, such as the number of tourists a site can contain

**environmental carrying capacity.** The extent of tourism that can take place at a site before its environment experiences negative effects

**perceptual carrying capacity.** The extent of tourism that can take place at a site before tourist dissatisfaction occurs

**social carrying capacity.** The extent of tourism that can take place at a site before the local community becomes dissatisfied

## Resources:

Is tourism killing Venice? – BBC News (video)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=adBnsXDO\\_bw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=adBnsXDO_bw)

Super bloom frenzy: crowds flocking to massive SoCal poppy displays – ABC News (video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4PNwNFEhrE>

Galapagos fights temptation of lucrative mass tourism – AFP News (video)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCoZ-6r6\\_2c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCoZ-6r6_2c)

Boracay undergoes major clean-up – CNN Philippines (video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3keo2T5Joc>

Form an orderly queue: recreating the perfect Instagram photo in New Zealand – BBC News (article)

<https://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-trending-46342915>

Trash and overcrowding at the top of the world – National Geographic (article)

<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/trash-and-overcrowding-top-world>

Mallorca: the Spanish island telling tourists to stay home – Condé Nast Traveler (article)

<https://www.cntraveler.com/story/mallorca-protests-the-spanish-island-telling-tourists-to-stay-home>

Thanks, 'influencers!' Visiting national landmarks is now pure hell – Matador Network (article)



<https://matadornetwork.com/read/influencers-ruining-natural-landmarks/>

**Discussion Questions:**

What types of carrying capacity have been exceeded in the cases discussed in the videos/articles?

Why should we be concerned about tourism carrying capacities?

What strategies can places use to manage carrying capacities?

As a tourist, what factors determine your perceptual carrying capacity?