

COMITTEE: UNESCO

(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

QUESTION: Sustainable tourism and preservation of World Heritage Sites:

Balancing economic benefits with conservation efforts

STUDENT OFFICER: Tonia Efthymiakou

POSITION: Vice-President

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Personal introduction

Dearest Delegates,

My name is Tonia Efthymiakou, I am 17 years and I am in the Greek section of the LFH. I am honoured to serve as the Vice President in the UNESCO committee for the LFH MUN 2025. As someone who loves traveling and exploring different cultures, I have always been fascinated by the beauty of our world's historic and natural wonders. This is why I find the subjects of this committee compelling. I trust that this study guide will assist you in your preparation and expand your research. This year, you will encounter three intriguing questions to explore, and both your president, and I will be available to support you throughout every stage. If you are new to this type of project or have not previously participated in the Model United Nations (MUN), I would like to reassure you that there is no need for concern. Additionally, while the study guides may initially appear overwhelming, they are designed to assist you in your preparation and to enhance your understanding of the subject matter. I sincerely hope you find this experience to be enriching and enjoyable, as this project offers a unique opportunity for engagement and learning. I am truly looking forward to hearing your insightful perspectives and innovative solutions during our discussions.

Introduction

One of the topics of the UNESCO committee of this year's MUN is "Sustainable tourism and preservation of World Heritage Sites: Balancing economic benefits with conservation efforts", which makes our discussion on sustainable tourism and the preservation of World Heritage Sites of great significance. As globalization and travel continue to grow, tourism has become a vital economic lifeline for many countries, bringing not only revenue and jobs but also valuable opportunities for cultural exchange. Yet, alongside this rapid growth, it's completely understandable that there are growing concerns about the sustainability of tourism practices, particularly when it comes to protecting our beloved cultural and natural heritage for future generations.

With the establishment of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention in 1972, which was signed in Paris, the World Heritage Sites were created. The convention, a signed document of international agreement, guides the work of the World Heritage Committee. These sites possess cultural, historical, and ecological value, making their safeguarding a worldwide concern. Sadly, issues such as mass tourism, environmental harm, and poor management frequently endanger their preservation. Therefore, it is crucial to discover a method to harmonize economic growth with conservation initiatives to secure their endurance.

Nowadays, numerous countries face the challenge of sustaining this equilibrium. The advantages of tourism for the economy, such as job generation and infrastructure improvement, need to be considered alongside the environmental and cultural drawbacks. Consequently, numerous areas have begun to suggest and enforce regulations such as policies concerning sustainable tourism, including restrictions on visitor numbers and the adoption of environmentally friendly practices, with the goal of minimizing the adverse effects of tourism.

Definition of key words

UNESCO: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,(UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) which was formatted in 1945, with the aim of promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences and culture. It has 194 member states and 12 associate members, as well as partners in the non-governmental, intergovernmental and private sector. Headquartered in Paris, France, UNESCO has 53 regional field offices and 199 national commissions.

Sustainable Tourism: A sustainable approach to tourism that thoughtfully evaluates its enduring effects on the environment, local cultures, and economies, striving to minimize any harmful consequences while maximizing positive outcomes for all involved stakeholders.

World Heritage Sites: landmarks and areas with legal protection under an international treaty administered by UNESCO for having cultural, historical, or scientific significance. The sites are judged to contain "cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity"

World Heritage Committee: is a committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization that selects the sites to be listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger, defines the use of the World Heritage Fund and allocates financial assistance upon requests from States Parties

Over-tourism: A situation when the number of tourists visiting a destination exceeds the site's capacity to accommodate them effectively. This phenomenon can lead to significant negative consequences, impacting the environment, local communities, and the overall visitor experience. The pressures of excessive tourism can strain natural resources, contribute to environmental degradation, and disrupt the social fabric of communities. As a result, tourists may encounter overcrowded

conditions that inhibit their ability to fully appreciate and enjoy the attractions for which they travelled. It is essential to address these challenges to ensure sustainable tourism practices that benefit both visitors and the host destination.

Conservation Efforts: Actions taken to protect and restore natural and cultural heritage sites include legal protections, sustainable practices, and restoration projects. These efforts aim to keep these important locations safe for future generations.

Eco-tourism: A travel approach that focuses on protecting the environment and supporting the well-being of local communities. This method aims to provide visitors with educational experiences that enhance their understanding of the area and its culture. By prioritizing conservation and community engagement, travellers can enjoy meaningful interactions while making a positive impact.

Economic Benefits: Tourism provides substantial economic benefits to communities. It generates employment opportunities across various sectors, including hospitality, retail, and transportation. Moreover, tourism promotes the development and improvement of infrastructure, which serves both residents and visitors effectively. As tourism increases, local businesses experience heightened sales, contributing to overall and local economic growth.

General Overview:

Protecting World Heritage: Harmonizing Tourism Growth and Site Conservation

Causes:

1) Profit-Driven Approaches

Tourist destinations tend to focus on short-term financial profits at the expense of long-term environmental and social well-being. This relentless pursuit of immediate revenue often leads to decisions that prioritize economic gains over sustainable practices. As a result, the potential negative impacts on local ecosystems and communities are frequently overlooked

2) Lack of regulation

Insufficient regulations and poor enforcement allow tourism activities to expand unchecked, resulting in overdevelopment of natural areas. This encroachment depletes local resources and fosters unsustainable consumption patterns, leading to environmental degradation, habitat loss, and pollution, which threatens the ecosystems and exacerbates the tourists' experience.

3) Mass Tourism and Overcrowding

The swift growth of tourism in recent years, particularly with the emergence of budget airlines and short-term rental options, has resulted in significant overcrowding at numerous World Heritage Sites. Tourists' preferences and expectations can play a role in driving unsustainable tourism. A desire for cheap, fast, and convenient travel can contribute to over tourism and environmental damage.

4) Poor Infrastructure Planning:

Many popular tourist destinations struggle with inadequate infrastructure to support large visitor numbers. This results in problems such as poor waste management, limited public transportation options, and damage to cultural heritage sites. Without proper planning and investment, the natural beauty and historical significance of these areas face serious threats. In order to attract more tourists and increase capacity, natural areas are often encroached upon to create infrastructure such as beaches, hotels, and shops. Additionally, the level of pollution and waste rises without necessarily being accompanied by the necessary waste management structures (such as garbage trucks and landfills) to handle it properly.

5) Overtourism:

The excessive number of tourists compared to destinations carrying capacity, which could lead to deterioration of monuments and infrastructure.

Overtourism also causes problems for locals, as their daily lives are altered to accommodate the new demands of the area. The destination becomes commercialized, leading to a rise in the cost of living for residents. Furthermore, as commercialization takes over, the authenticity and charm of the destination are gradually lost.

Consequences

1) Overexploitation of Natural Resources

A major problem that arises is the overexploitation of natural resources. To build the necessary infrastructure to needed in order to accommodate the overflowing amounts of visitors and tourists, the surrounding environment and nature are destroyed. Initially, the destruction of nature to create infrastructure that meets demand (hotels, beaches, airports...). Also, to maximise profits, business and corporations use of non-renewable energy sources due to their lower cost, which, however, increases CO₂ emissions. All this can lead to natural catastrophes such as floods, droughts and water scarcity in arid areas, as well as on islands. Then, the use of non-renewable energy sources due to their lower cost, which, however, increases CO₂ emissions. Additionally, a frequent phenomenon is water scarcity in arid areas, as well as on islands.

2) Societal Conflicts

Unsustainable tourism creates difficulties in the daily lives of locals, as prices increase for profit, while at the same time, the quality of life deteriorates. Additionally, the destination loses its identity and authenticity. Residents can no longer afford housing in tourist zones due to properties being purchased by investors who use them for vacation rentals, pushing locals out. Consequently, this results in deserted communities and the conversion of cities into "tourist displays" lacking genuine residents.

3) Economic Drawbacks

Numerous locations rely heavily on tourism as their main source of revenue. When unexpected events like pandemics, economic recessions, or political unrest arise, these locations face significant financial challenges. Businesses often focus on quick profits without investing in long-term sustainable practices, leading to overtourism, resource depletion, and ultimately the decline of the tourism product. For example, Venice struggles with overtourism and infrastructure erosion, while Santorini faces issues due to excessive development and water scarcity.

4) Destruction of Historical and Natural Sites

Unregulated tourism significantly threatens the preservation of cultural landmarks and natural landscapes. High visitor traffic can damage historical structures, while littering pollutes the environment and diminishes beauty. Furthermore, illegal construction disrupts the integrity of these sites. UNESCO World Heritage Sites, meant to be protected for their global importance, have already faced serious negative impacts from such activities worldwide.

Case study #1 : Venice, Italy: Under the pressure of overtourism

Article by Joanna Simmons in : [overtourism-in-venice](#)

Venice is a prime example of how uncontrolled tourism, leads to significant and irreversible social, cultural, and environmental changes due to overtourism. For many years, Venice has attracted over 20 million tourists annually, while its permanent resident population is approximately only 50,000. This results in a disproportionately high tourist-to-resident ratio, which places significant strain on the city's infrastructure, transportation systems, and public services. Large groups of tourists, particularly those arriving via cruise ships for brief visits, tend to contribute minimal economic benefits to local businesses, as their spending on accommodations and local products is often limited. Instead, their presence primarily exacerbates issues related to pollution and traffic congestion. Cruise ships play a significant role in harming the environment in Venice, exacerbating existing problems and introducing new ones. These large vessels bring thousands of tourists daily, leading to several adverse effects. One major issue is the erosion of the historic canals caused by the waves these ships produce. This damage threatens the foundational integrity of Venice's buildings and accelerates the city's ongoing sinking crisis, endangering its architectural heritage.

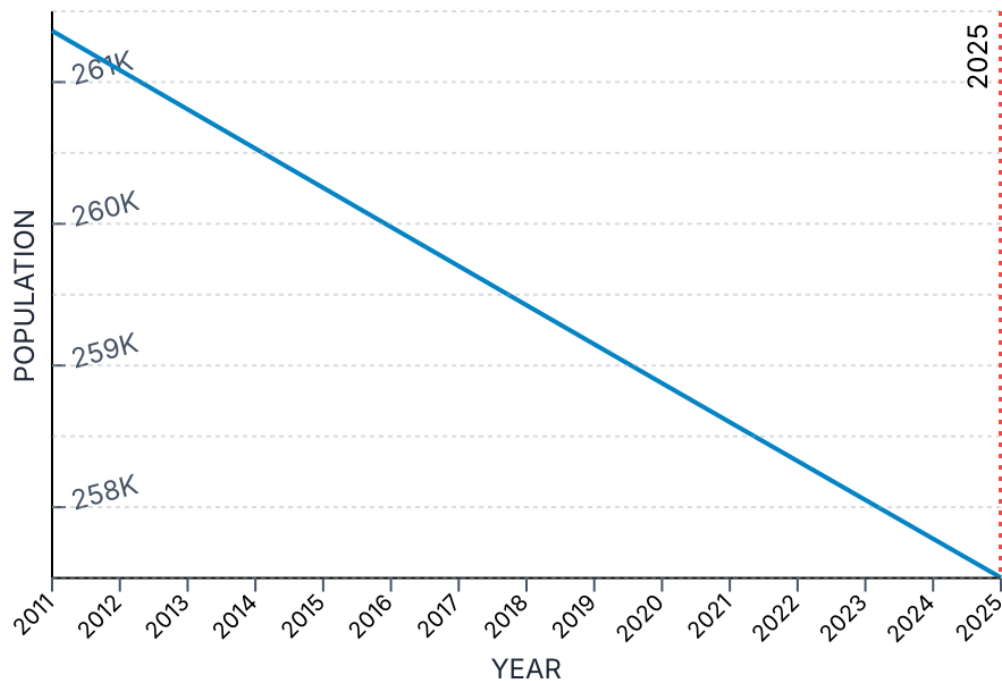
Moreover, air pollution from cruise ship engines significantly degrades the air quality in the city. The high emissions not only impact the environment but also pose health risks to both residents and visitors. Lastly, the influx of tourists due to cruise ship arrivals results in a dramatic increase in waste and sewage production, straining the city's already overloaded waste management infrastructure. The increase in waste exacerbates existing challenges and threatens both public health and the delicate ecosystem of the Venetian lagoon. Research shows that Venice's population has declined by 70% over the past 70 years, largely because many residents have left due to deteriorating living conditions. In response, new measures have recently been implemented to address these problems. For example, authorities now monitor central canals, such as those near Rialto and St. Mark's Square, especially when the influx of visitors becomes problematic for both tourists and residents.

In fact, tourists will be redirected through alternative routes, and only locals and merchants will have access to these controlled canals. Additionally, the entry of cruise ships larger than 55 tons is prohibited, to limit the massive simultaneous influx

of visitors. Furthermore, visitors arriving by car must have reserved a parking space for their



Venice Population



Case study #2 : The great barrier Reef, Australia

The Great Barrier Reef in Australia is the largest coral reef system in the world, made up of over 2,900 separate reefs and 900 islands that extend for more than 2,300 kilometres. It is visible from outer space and represents the biggest single structure created by living organisms on the planet. It's the world's largest coral reef system but has been left battered by global warming. Reportedly, due to rising ocean temperatures in the past five years, the region has witnessed three episodes of mass coral bleaching. Higher sea temperatures put corals under stress, prompting them to eject the symbiotic algae (zooxanthellae) that supply food and give them their vivid colours. Deprived of these algae, the coral turns white—a process known as bleaching—and becomes more susceptible to disease, reduced growth, and death. In addition, ocean acidification, pollution, and extreme weather intensify reef stress, slowing or preventing recovery after repeated bleaching incidents.

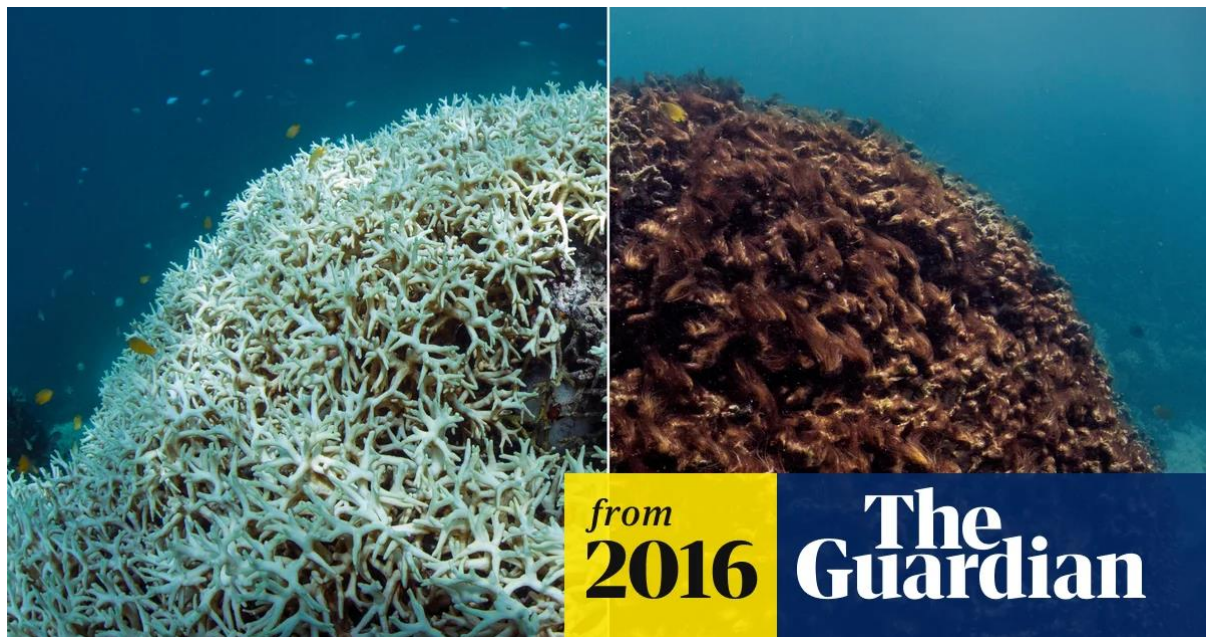
The site has also lost half of its corals since 1995, after being lashed by cyclones and attacked by crown-of-thorns starfish. The signate as a World Heritage Site in 1981.

In 1997, CNN recognized it as one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Furthermore, UNESCO has confirmed that The Great barrier Reef is in the list of "World Heritage in Danger" Each year, around 2.19 million visitors come to the Great Barrier Reef. As reported by WWF, tourism in the region generates \$5.89 billion annually for the Australian economy and provides jobs for approximately 69,000 individuals.

It significantly contributes to the country's economy and attracts a large number of tourists annually. However, due to climate change and human intervention, the reef has been in a critical state in recent decades.

Overfishing, particularly through bottom trawling, has considerable effects on the Great Barrier Reef. Certain fishing techniques involve dragging heavy nets across the seabed, which damages coral formations and disrupts marine ecosystems. Furthermore, the overfishing of important species like parrotfish results in rampant algae growth that can choke corals. Another significant concern is bycatch, in which many marine animals, such as sea turtles, sharks, and dolphins, are accidentally captured and killed during fishing activities.

Tourism has significantly deteriorated the threats facing the Great Barrier Reef. At first, with the construction of the island resort "Hamilton" in 1980, harbours were dredged, hills were levelled, hotels and airports were built, and artificial beaches were created. Furthermore, the sediment, resulting from coastal tourist development, has been shown to inhibit the photosynthetic processes of coral, ultimately leading to adverse effects and "starvation" of certain sections of the reef. Additionally, the use of sunscreen exacerbates the coral bleaching. The chemicals in sunscreen can be absorbed by coral reefs, causing significant harm. This impacts the coral's ability to reproduce and grow, leading to coral bleaching. During this process, vibrant pigments fade, leaving the coral appearing and indicating distress. Once bleaching occurs, the corals are regarded as dead. In addition, the increase of tourists entails the usage of boats on snorkelling excursions are one of the main culprits, since the boats scratch and damage to the corals. Unfortunately, tourists also often tend to break pieces of corals, and the rise of visitors results in an increase in trash and waste.



Concerned countries and Organizations

Countries

Italy: Venice, Rome, and Florence, where cruise ships and overtourism threaten monuments,

Greece: Acropolis, Santorini and Delos, are struggling to balance mass tourism with heritage preservation.

Barcelona: Toledo, and Granada face issues of excessive tourism, and cultural degradation.

Croatia: Dubrovnik propelled by film and TV exposure, provides a vivid case study in overtourism.

France: Mont Saint-Michel and Paris contend with extreme visitor numbers and conservation challenges.

Cambodia: Angkor Wat suffers from mass tourism and insufficient reinvestment in protection.

India: The Taj Mahal faces pollution, overcrowding, and structural wear.

China: The Great Wall of is eroding under the weight of massive visitor flows.

Japan: Historical centres like Kyoto and Nara worry over loss of cultural authenticity.

Peru: Machu Picchu sees trail erosion and requires visitor caps.

Mexico: Chichen Itza deals with commercialization and visitor overload.

Ecuador: The Galápagos Islands struggle to balance ecotourism with their fragile ecosystems.

USA: National parks such as the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone endure immense visitor pressure on their environments.

Australia: The Great Barrier Reef is pressed by both climate change and tourism.

Egypt: The Giza Pyramids and Luxor suffer deterioration from mass tourism and management challenges.

Organisations

UNESCO (the World Heritage Centre): Serves as the main guardian of World Heritage.

UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organization): Focuses on developing and implementing sustainable tourism policies.

ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites): Delivers scientific expertise and guidance for heritage protection.

WWF (Worldwide Fund for Nature): Engages in conserving natural heritage, such as the Galápagos Islands and the Great Barrier

The World Bank and IMF: Provide funding for tourism-related infrastructure, which can have significant impacts on sustainability.

The European Union and European Commission: Support various programs aiming at sustainable heritage and tourism development.

Local NGOs and conservancies, such as the Galápagos Conservancy and the Venice in Peril Fund: Contribute to site-specific conservation efforts.

Latest Developments

Across the world, governments, researchers, and international organisations are rethinking how tourism and heritage sites are managed so that they can be enjoyed without being destroyed. For example, in Chandigarh, India, the administration has asked IIT Roorkee to prepare a detailed buffer-zone management plan for the Capitol Complex, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Instead of just protecting the site itself, the plan extends 10–12 kilometres around it, setting rules for architecture, visitor flows, landscaping, and restrictions on harmful urban development. The logic is clear: heritage can only be safeguarded if the surrounding environment is also kept in balance.

Similar thinking guides work in Pompeii, Italy. To stop the famous ruins from being overwhelmed, authorities have set a cap of 20,000 daily visitors and introduced timed-entry tickets during peak season. Through the “Greater Pompeii” initiative, they are also promoting nearby archaeological sites and running shuttle buses so that tourists spread out more evenly across the region. This not only reduces pressure on the main site but also supports the wider local economy.

Tourism is also being linked directly to global climate goals. Over 50 countries recently signed a UN declaration committing to make tourism more climate friendly. They pledged to include tourism in their national climate action plans, measure emissions and resource use, and reduce waste. This marks a shift: tourism is no longer just about economic growth or cultural promotion — it must also prove its environmental responsibility.

At the same time, UNESCO is focusing on people and skills. On Yemen’s Socotra Archipelago, it organised a five-day training in 2024 for tour guides and local stakeholders, covering visitor management, community engagement, and heritage protection. In China’s Gansu province, a “Deep Dive on Sustainable Tourism” workshop, held with the World Bank and local authorities, equipped participants with tools for balancing tourism development with the safeguarding of culture and nature. Such programs ensure that the people on the ground — those closest to the sites — are empowered to manage them sustainably.

In regions like Latin America and the Caribbean, the focus goes further, connecting tangible and intangible heritage. A UNESCO-led initiative across 10 countries is aligning tourism, culture, and urban planning while safeguarding local traditions and crafts. In Mongolia, a multi-year project launched in 2023 is working to strengthen sustainable tourism in heritage and geo-heritage sites, with an emphasis on ensuring that local communities directly benefit from visitor flows, especially in the wake of COVID-19. Heritage protection here is seen not just as preserving monuments, but as sustaining living culture and livelihoods.

Finally, researchers are contributing with new tools to understand overtourism. In Santorini, Greece, a framework has been developed to identify the most vulnerable parts of the island, helping local authorities plan more carefully. In Sardinia, Italy, studies have highlighted how cheap flights and the growth of short-term rentals feed

overtourism, offering methods for measuring and managing these pressures. These academic advances provide the evidence base that policymakers need to act.

Together, these efforts — from buffer zones and visitor caps to climate pledges, training programs, cultural projects, and academic studies — show that sustainable tourism is not a single policy but a layered, global movement. It involves protecting landscapes as much as monuments, empowering communities alongside managing visitors, and ensuring that tourism growth aligns with environmental and cultural sustainability.

UN involvement

UNESCO plays a crucial role in the preservation of cultural and natural heritage through various initiatives aimed at balancing tourism and conservation. Key among these is the World Heritage List, which highlights significant monuments and sites needing special protection, and the List of World Heritage in Danger, which addresses locations threatened by overtourism, such as Venice and Angkor Wat. The World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme provides guidelines for countries to manage economic benefits alongside conservation efforts.

To mitigate the impact of tourism, UNESCO recommends controlled visitor numbers through visitor caps and mandates that each World Heritage Site develop comprehensive management plans. These plans should include strategies for visitor regulation, reinvestment of tourism revenues into conservation, and the education of both tourists and local communities about their roles in preservation. Involving local populations directly in tourism can provide benefits like employment and incentivize them to protect these sites.

The **UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage**, adopted in 1972, is a foundational treaty that obligates more than 190 Member States to safeguard cultural and natural heritage of “Outstanding Universal Value.” This convention led to the establishment of the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger, serving as a framework for national and international cooperation, technical support, and the crucial obligation to balance development with conservation.

While the 1972 Convention does not explicitly address tourism, it laid the groundwork for later frameworks aimed at managing visitor flows and ensuring that tourism revenues contribute to conservation efforts, helping to protect our shared heritage for future generations.

Previous attempts to solve the issue

- **The UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972)** created a legal structure to safeguard monuments considered to have significant universal value.
- **The List of World Heritage in Danger** has highlighted sites like Abu Mena in Egypt, Machu Picchu in Peru, and Venice in Italy, alerting countries that unchecked tourism and urbanization put these places at risk of being removed from the list. Although the publicity brought by this approach raised awareness, it often failed to prompt significant improvements in site management.
- To address overcrowding, various **visitor management strategies** were implemented—such as ticketing systems, daily visitor limits, or designated visiting times (for example, at Machu Picchu and the Galápagos Islands). While these methods helped reduce congestion, they were sometimes opposed by local businesses that rely on large tourist numbers.
- **UNESCO and NGOs** also launched awareness campaigns and educational programs. However, the long-term effectiveness of these initiatives has remained limited, especially in locations where economic pressures encourage excessive tourism.

Possible solutions

- **Establishing limits of acceptable change (LAC):** Setting thresholds to measure negative impacts and trigger corrective measures when those limits are exceeded.
- **Tourist taxation and entry fees:** Implementing tourist taxes or admission charges to finance maintenance and prevent overuse. And Revenue reinvestment which stands for ensuring that a fixed percentage of tourism revenue is mandatorily reinvested into conservation, restoration, and support for local communities.
- **Regulation of tourist accommodation:** Limiting the number of properties that can be used exclusively for tourism purposes, enforcing licensing rules, and ensuring connections with permanent residents.
- **Tourism dispersal strategies:** Encouraging visits during off-peak periods and promoting lesser-known destinations in order to prevent overcrowding in popular “hot spots.”

- **Community participation and empowerment:** Ensuring that locals are actively involved in tourism management, decision-making, and governance, while also benefiting directly from tourism revenues.
- **Reducing the burden through sustainable travel choices:** Promoting fewer high-carbon journeys, encouraging the use of sustainable transport, and supporting accommodations that respect the environment, culture, and local resources.
- **Carrying capacity and visitor limits:** Establishing strict caps on visitor numbers, adapted to the environmental and cultural resilience of each site.

Smart technology solutions: Introducing digital ticketing systems, real-time visitor monitoring, and artificial intelligence tools to regulate tourist flows and prevent overcrowding. AI-powered systems that can predict high visiting times, automatically limit the sales of tickets

- **International cooperation:** Strengthening UNESCO's role in monitoring compliance with guidelines and introducing potential sanctions for violations that put heritage sites at risk.
- **Continuous monitoring and evaluation:** Creating independent bodies tasked with measuring the impacts of tourism (e.g., erosion, pollution, degradation of cultural landscapes) and recommending adjustments to management strategies

Annex

A) Key provisions of the World Heritage Convention signed on 23 November 1972

Article 4

“Each State Party to this Convention recognizes that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage referred to in Articles 1 and 2 and situated on its territory, belongs primarily to that State. It will do all it can to this end, to the utmost of its own resources and, where appropriate, with any international assistance and co-operation, in particular, financial, artistic, scientific and technical, which it may be able to obtain.”

Article 11

“Every State Party to this Convention shall, in so far as possible, submit to the World Heritage Committee an inventory of property forming part of the cultural and natural heritage, situated in its territory and suitable for inclusion in the list provided for in

paragraph 2 of this Article. This inventory, which shall not be considered exhaustive, shall include documentation about the location of the property in question and its significance.

On the basis of the inventories submitted by States in accordance with paragraph 1, the Committee shall establish, keep up to date and publish, under the title of "World Heritage List," a list of properties forming part of the cultural heritage and natural heritage, as defined in Articles 1 and 2 of this Convention, which it considers as having outstanding universal value in terms of such criteria as it shall have established. An updated list shall be distributed at least every two years."

Article 16

"Without prejudice to any supplementary voluntary contribution, the States Parties to this Convention undertake to pay regularly, every two years, to the World Heritage Fund, contributions, the amount of which, in the form of a uniform percentage applicable to all States, shall be determined by the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention, meeting during the sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization."

Article 27

"The States Parties to this Convention shall endeavour by all appropriate means, and in particular by educational and information programmes, to strengthen appreciation and respect by their peoples of the cultural and natural heritage defined in Articles 1 and 2 of the Convention.

They shall undertake to keep the public broadly informed of the dangers threatening this heritage and of the activities carried on in pursuance of this Convention."

Article 29

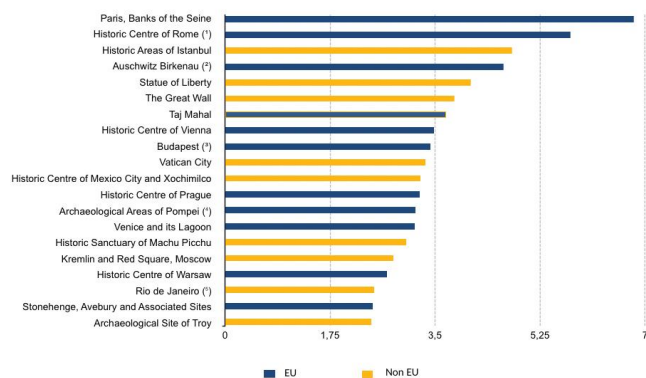
"The States Parties to this Convention shall, in the reports which they submit to the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on dates and in a manner to be determined by it, give information on the legislative and administrative provisions which they have adopted and other action which they have taken for the application of this Convention, together with details of the experience acquired in this field.

These reports shall be brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee.

The Committee shall submit a report on its activities at each of the ordinary sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization."

B) Statistics on Tourism and World Heritage Sites

Figure 1: Top 20 World Heritage Sites in number of page views of related Wikipedia articles, 2015
(Number of views in million)



Source: Eurostat

Note: Experimental statistics based on the pilot.

* For proper graphic visualisation, some names have been shortened. See below the full names:

(*) Historic Centre of Rome, the Properties of the Holy See in that City Enjoying Extraterritorial Rights and San Paolo Fuori le Mura. Includes properties of the Holy See

(*) Auschwitz Birkenau, German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945)

(*) Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue

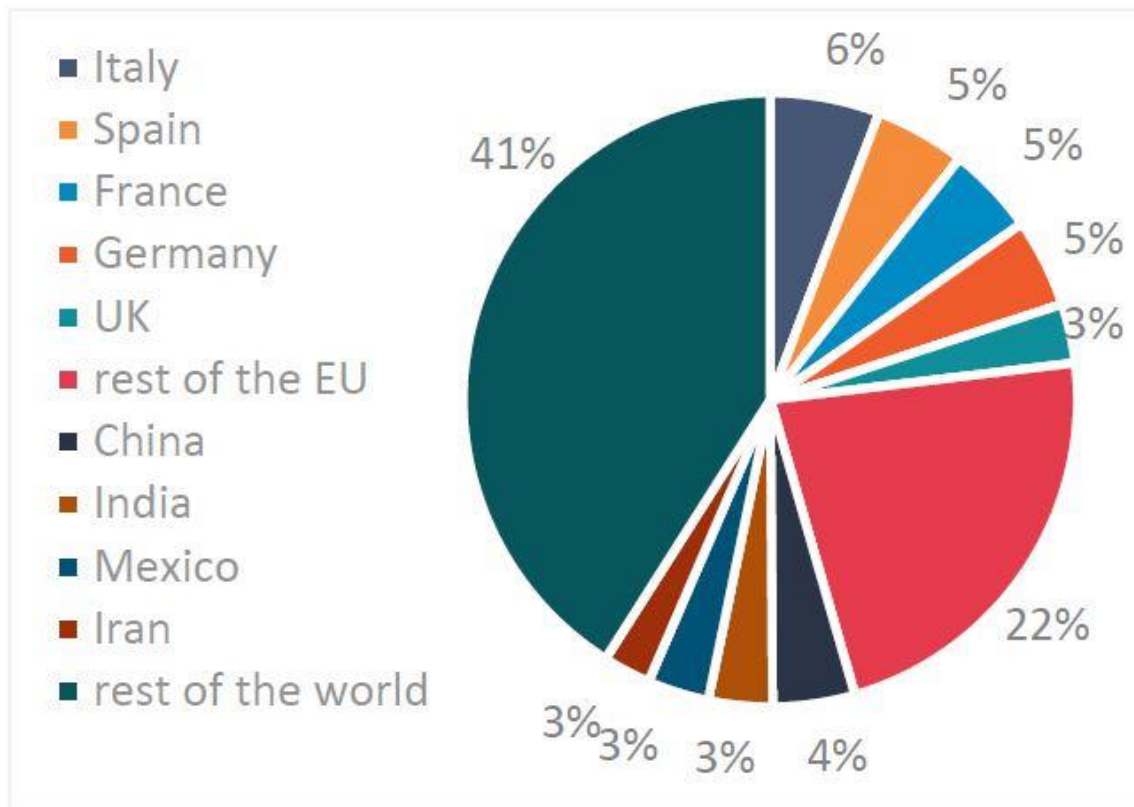
(*) Archaeological Areas of Pompei, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata

(*) Rio de Janeiro: Caricosa Landscapes between the Mountain and the Sea

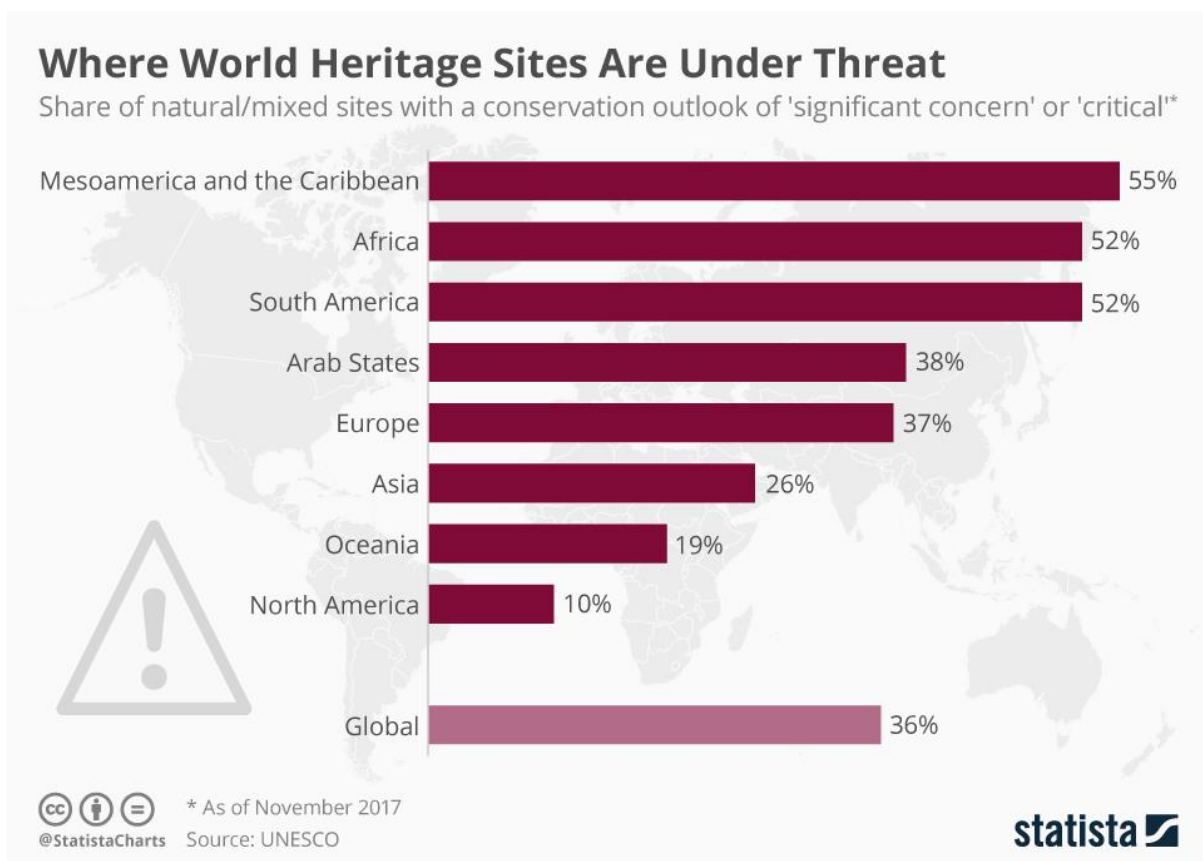
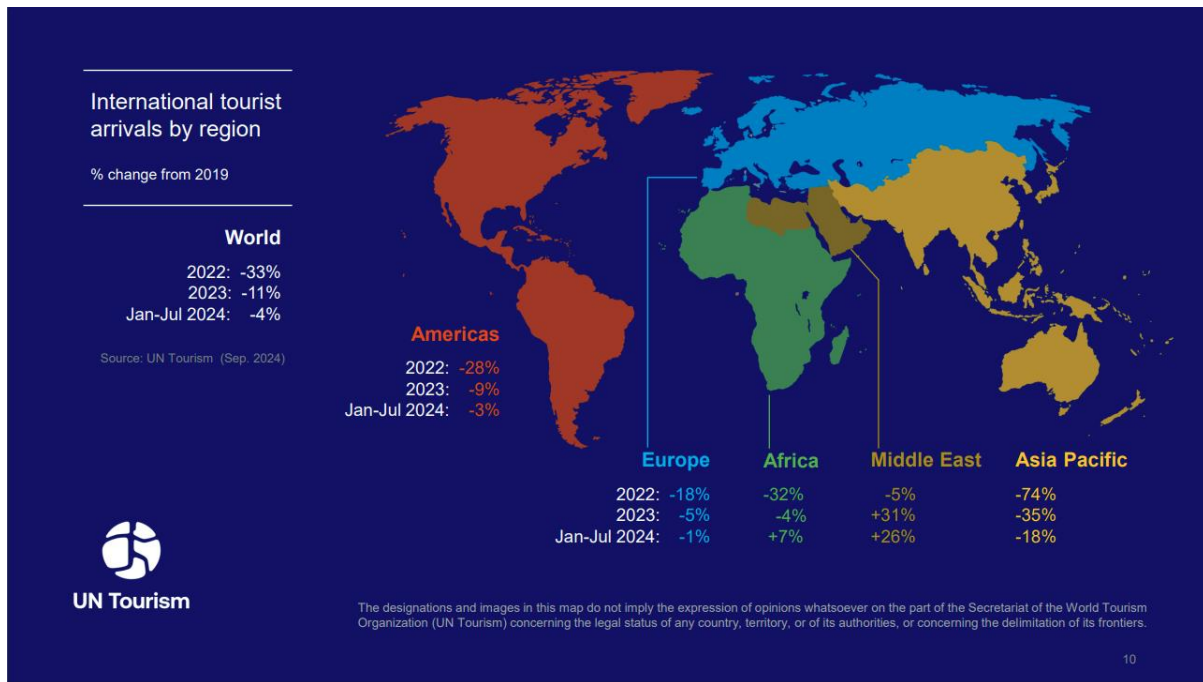
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>

vhs_id	site	EU	value	site	Min views
600	Paris, Banks	1	6816339	Archaeologic Archaeologic	2,439793
91	Historic Cent	0	5759186	Stonehenge, Stonehenge,	2,457442
356	Historic Area	0	4784090	Rio de Janeiro Rio de Janeiro	2,486480
31	Auschwitz Bi	1	4638955	Historic Cent Historic Cent	2,699006
307	Statue of Lib	0	4089622	Kremlin and I Kremlin and I	2,805123
438	The Great W	0	3819239	Historic Sanc Historic Sanc	3,022131
252	Taj Mahal	0	3688071	Venice and it Venice and it	3,158192
1033	Historic Cent	1	3482160	Archaeologic Archaeologic	3,167014
400	Budapest, in	1	3425802	Historic Cent Historic Cent	3,246035
286	Vatican City	0	3343214	Historic Cent Historic Cent	3,258498
412	Historic Cent	0	3258498	Vatican City Vatican City	3,343214
616	Historic Cent	1	3246035	Budapest, in Budapest (*)	3,425802
629	Archaeologic	1	3167014	Historic Cent Historic Cent	3,482160
384	Venice and it	1	3158192	Taj Mahal Taj Mahal	3,688071
274	Historic Sanc	0	3022131	The Great W The Great W	3,819239
545	Kremlin and I	0	2805123	Statue of Lib Statue of Lib	4,089622
30	Historic Cent	1	2699006	Auschwitz Bi Auschwitz Bi	4,638955
1100	Rio de Janeiro	0	2486480	Historic Area Historic Area	4,784090
373	Stonehenge,	1	2457442	Historic Cent Historic Cent	5,759186
849	Archaeologic	0	2439793	Paris, Banks Paris, Banks	6,816339

Figure 3 - Unesco World Cultural Heritage Sites



Source: [Unesco](https://www.unesco.org/whl), World Heritage List 2017.



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