

Too many people want to travel

Late in May, *the Louvre* closed. The museum's workers walked out, arguing that overcrowding at the home of the Mona Lisa and the Venus de Milo had made the place dangerous and unmanageable. "The Louvre suffocates," the workers' union said in a statement written in French, citing the "total *inadequacy*" of the museum's facilities to manage the high volume of visitors.

the Louvre 卢浮宫

inadequacy 缺点; 不完全

This phenomenon is known as overtourism. A *confluence* of *macroeconomic* factors and changing business trends have led more tourists crowding to popular destinations. That has led to environmental degradation, dangerous conditions, and the immiseration and pricing-out of locals in many places. And it has cities around the world asking one question: Is there anything to be done about being too popular?

confluence 合并; 聚集; 汇流

macroeconomic 宏观经济

There's too much of a good thing in some of these spots, and mayors and city councils are doing their part to take it away. A number of places have implemented or expanded or proposed tourist taxes. Governments are also rolling out regulations. Those kinds of measures stand to become more important in the coming years, as the global middle class gets bigger, social media more *ubiquitous*, and travel cheaper.

ubiquitous 普遍存在的

These *phenomena* inevitably mean more complaints from locals, and more damage and lines and selfies and bad behavior. But they also mean more cross-cultural exposure, more investment, more global connection, more *democratization* of travel, and perhaps more awe and wonder. Even overtourism has its upsides.

phenomena 现象

democratization 民主化