

The death of **Venice**?

City's battles with tourism and flooding reach crisis level

Tourists may be unimpressed if the **Venetian** authorities get their way: a minimum city entry fee of €2.50 throughout the year, rising to between €5 and €10 during peak periods.

Venice 威尼斯

Venetian 威尼斯人

To manage the impact of the 30 million people who visit the lagoon city every year, the day trippers are to be forced to pay, although it is unclear when the tax will be introduced or how it could be enforced.

Venice may have a centuries-long history of cultivating tourism, devising **crowd-drawing** events such as the **star-studded** film festival, but the advent of mass tourism has left it struggling with how to deal with the **hordes** who **trudge** around its precious sites.

crowd-drawing 吸引人流的

star-studded 众星云集的

horde 一大群

trudge 跋涉

The fragile city has been swamped in summer by tourists and **battered** by increasingly frequent flooding. On 29 October last year, **three-quarters** of the city was hit by the worst flooding in a **decade**. But tourists persevered with their holidays, **wading** through knee-deep water in **wellies** and venturing to **deluged** shops and restaurants.

batter 猛击

three-quarters 四分之三

decade 十年

wade 跋涉

wellies 雨靴

deluge 洪水; 泛滥

Most locals grin and bear the high water. "It does bother us when it happens but we're used to it, and the tourists have fun with it," said Michele Levorato, who runs a **stall** next to the Rialto bridge.

stall 货摊

Authorities have tried other *initiatives* to better manage tourism, such as installing *turnstile* at the two entry points to the lagoon during peak periods in an attempt to control the crowds. They are also trying to encourage people to visit other, lesser-known areas of the Venetian.

initiative 主动的; 方案

turnstile 闸门