Overtourism

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Overtourism is a form of tourism where visitors tend to visit more touristy and popular locations, instead of the less-common or remote locations that are available. This increase in tourism to popular locations is causing problems for both locals and the environment. For example, when people visit popular sites, they cause more pollution due to their cars, as well as waste from food that they purchase from places like grocery stores and restaurants. There are also problems caused by overpopulation in such areas; this can be seen with the increased traffic and automobile accidents. As a result of this overpopulation many of these cities have been developing high-rise buildings or other development projects built around their harbors. This is causing more pollution by producing more air and water pollution. The overpopulation also causes an increase in crime such as robberies, sexual crimes, and assaults. Though there are some destinations that offer an array of outdoor activities such as outdoor sports, it is highly apparent that these sites are nowhere near the scale of the tourism industry. The industry at large has shown a rate of growth of 14% per year. This means that many new visitors annually are not being attracted to less-popular tourist destinations and instead prefer traveling to popular areas rather than less frequented places. It is also clear that the influx of tourists tends to bolster the economy via both spending money and employment. However, the negative effects of tourism overloading these popular destinations far outweighs the positive effects. On that note this essay will illustrate the negative consequences on the rise of Overtourism and the effect it is having. Furthermore it will provide solutions to mitigate the overflow of tourism.

The main problem that I have discovered is overpopulation in popular sites. The solution I have proposed is to divert these locations away from popular places such as the Bahamas or Mexico and instead directing tourists towards the less-popular or remote destinations such as the hiking trails in Washington State, or canoeing down the rivers in Canada (Minihane, 2019). This can be done by promoting these activities through tourism companies and local sport shops, since these are a less-frequented activity than their counterparts. These solutions to divert tourists from their usual destinations will allow more room for eco-friendly activities and lessen the effects that tourism has on our environment.

It is obvious that the way we travel these days is a major factor in overloading popular areas of the world (Koens, Postma & Papp, 2018). While we get to do a lot of things on our vacations such as enjoy the outdoors, there are some limitations such as not being able to fly everywhere and having to visit several locations at one time. This is why I have suggested that I utilize high-rise buildings around harbors, as well as marinas, rather than traditional hotels or apartments to house visitors. By doing this it will allow for more room for activities such as fishing, canoeing and kayaking, hiking and other outdoor sports, or even swimming in warm waters.

The solution I have proposed is not completely effective at solving the problem. The reason why this cannot be done is because even though they are less popular, they are still popular enough to accommodate a large amount of tourists. By merely taking them away from the main areas near major harbors it will not stop the flow of tourists entering those locations (Minihane, 2019). If powerful companies such as cruiseships continue to dominate over the smaller marinas, then there will be no gain in tourism rather than a loss in supply. In addition, these new high-rise buildings that I have suggested would also require more materials and resources to build ones around harbors rather than traditional hotels or apartments.

One of the counter arguments that one could possibly have is that my ideas of attracting tourists to remote and less-populated sites will not work. This idea stems from the fact that many individuals have a fear of traveling to these remote areas due to the fact that a lot of these locations are very rural in nature (Volo, 2020). For example, when people travel to large cities such as New York or Los Angeles they feel safe at night. However, when someone travels out into rural areas they often feel unsafe. Thus by not going to these rural areas they are less likely to choose this option over other popular tourist sites.

The opposing view of my stance is that by not drawing tourists away from the main tourist areas such as the Bahamas or Rome, then it will have no effect on overloading these areas. However, this counterargument does not take into account that New York and Los Angeles are very important financial centers of the world. Tourists who visit these cities often want to experience or partake in activities that are typically apart of a typical rich person’s lifestyle, such as shopping at high-end stores and having the best restaurants, entertainment and art festivals. In addition to those activities they also want to do outdoor sports on a large scale such as paddle boarding or kayaking down rivers; however many of these activities are crowded in popular destinations.

It is very apparent that there can be a negative impact on our environment through overloading of tourism destinations. Many locations prone to tourists are overpopulated and can cause damage to the environment or cause issues with the flow of waters (Volo, 2020). For example, many places along rivers or harbors; however, they are located in popular tourist locations such as the Bahamas or Rome. These areas have an influx of people from boats and commercial ships, which not only destroys large areas of these water sources but can cause severe erosion on the surrounding landmasses. In addition to this it is very important for tourists around popular destinations such as the Bahamas and Rome to adhere to rules regarding being outdoors and practicing safe activities such as kayaking in designated channels.

It is very clear that there are many problems in the way that people travel and how it affects the environment around popular tourist destinations. By analyzing my counterargument in this situation we can tell that just by taking our visitors away from these popular destinations will not solve the environmental issues at hand (Volo, 2020). This can be proven through the fact that a lot of these locations in question are still populated enough to accommodate a large amount of traffic from boats, ships and other tourist attractions.

Cities such as New York and Los Angeles are very important financial centers of the world. Many tourists visiting these cities often want to experience or partake in activities that are typically apart of a typical rich person’s lifestyle, such as shopping at high-end stores and having the best restaurants, entertainment and art festivals. In addition to those activities they also want to do outdoor sports on a large scale such as paddle boarding or kayaking down rivers; however many of these activities are crowded in popular destinations. In order for us to combat these issues we must draw them away from the main areas with all their tourists.

One of my ideas for how we can do this is by taking everyone to remote locations that are less populated and more natural. Many individuals are drawn to these types of areas due to the fact that they have a great source of outdoor activities and activities that they may not be able to do while in a major city such as New York, Los Angeles or Rome (González-Reverté, 2021). In addition to this, it is important for us as citizens in general, not just tourists, to take the time out of our busy commercialized lives and travel towards these remote areas. By visiting places such as these it allows us to experience the great outdoors and enjoy activities that are popular yet very limited in our everyday lives due to the amount of people here in America.

One of the main reasons this plan is acceptable, is due to the fact that there will be no damage to our ecosystem (Minihane, 2019). If we draw people away from regular tourist destinations in these countries, then there will be less damage done to these natural resources. In addition to this, we can also expect a decrease in tension and disagreements due to the fact that these people will not be feeling unsafe at night by traveling outside of major cities such as New York and Los Angeles.

Another reason why we should draw tourist away from these commercialized areas is that visiting these remote areas allows people to do activities that they may not normally do in their daily lives (Gowreesunkar & Gavinolla, 2020). For example, if one were to visit New York and Los Angeles they would not feel safe doing activities such as paddle boarding or kayaking down a river. However, if they were to travel somewhere more rural such as the Bahamas or Rome then these things are more likely to occur due to the fact that there is less people around.

In conclusion, by saving overpopulated tourist destinations we will have less strain on our environment, and also be able to protect the natural resources available to us. By doing this we will be showing tourists, as well as people in general, that it is okay to travel away from other busy cities in order to experience different places and needed activities in the outdoors.

References

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