Writing, Unit 8, 23.04.2024, Grigorii Raevskii, C1/13

Virtual tourism has become a popular alternative to traditional traveling, offering users the opportunity to explore different cultures using modern technologies. While it can depict a beautiful architecture and landscapes, it lacks the real interaction with people. In my opinion, virtual tourism is a tool, that can be used to introduce to other cultures in much cheaper way, but it cannot fully replace the real experience.

Virtual tours allow people to experience world-famous landmarks without paying a lot of money or having geopolitical barriers. Also, virtual travelling can be particularly useful for those who are unable to travel because of the physical abilities. For example, virtual tours to the world-famous art galleries allow enthusiasts to witness masterpieces so that can inspire them for future visits. However, these experiences can be full of visual beauty, they often miss the point of tourism: they lack the ability to interact with people, that can be essential for cultural understanding.

People argue that virtual tourism falls short in delivering the authentic experience: you can't taste food, have small talks with locals, and you are actually not in the place, you are “travelling” to. However, modern technologies of VR (virtual reality) are trying to close this gap by introducing different interactive features that enhance the experience.

To conclude, virtual tourism can serve as much more accessible way of exploring culture, than the real travelling, yet it will not allow having authentic experience. Instead, it should complement traditional travelling, offering a glimpse into what real adventure can offer.

      