

## 観光

### TAFE Queensland (オーストラリア)

#### Video 1: An Increase in Tourists

There are many tourist destinations around the world. Before the coronavirus pandemic started, international travel had been continually increasing worldwide. During the 40 years before the outbreak, the number of international travelers increased over five times to nearly 1.5 billion annually.

There are several factors contributing to this increase. First, the middle class is growing in developing countries. This makes it possible for more people to travel abroad. Second, countries and cities are actively promoting international tourism. A third factor is the greater number of low-cost carriers, or LCCs. These allow more people to travel between countries and continents.

#### Video 2: The Negative Impacts of Tourism

Although there are economic benefits of an increase in tourism, there are also negative impacts. For some popular travel destinations, "overtourism" is a problem for both the local community and the natural environment. Tourists and the development of tourism facilities can cause problems like traffic congestion and burdens on waste management. In turn, these problems may have a negative impact on local ecosystems.

Boracay Island in the Philippines has often been ranked as "the most beautiful beach in Asia." It gained popularity as a resort destination in the early 2000s. Hotels were constructed one after another because of the increasing number of tourists. However, they lacked sufficient wastewater treatment facilities. This led to the dumping of wastewater directly into the ocean. As a result, algae was growing in the water and foul odors were coming from it. In 2018, the Philippine government stopped the entry of tourists to Boracay for six months and took measures to improve water quality. They then allowed hotels with wastewater treatment tanks to reopen to tourists. Nowadays, tourist destinations around the world are being required to take measures to minimize ecological damage.

### **Video 3: A Move Toward Ecotourism**

Starting in the 1970s, there has been a growing global movement to protect the environment and promote sustainability. This has gradually led to “ecotourism.” This word is short for ecological tourism. It is a way of traveling while sustaining the well-being of the local environment, including its nature and culture.

The country of Costa Rica is considered an ecotourism pioneer. Since the 1970s, Costa Rica’s government has implemented policies for ecotourism. Currently, about a quarter of its land is designated as national parks or nature reserves. We can see that this is a country that understands the importance of ecotourism.

Australia is another country that has been focusing on ecotourism since the 1970s. The government has been promoting ecotourism, and it is now one of the country’s key industries. Here, people are touring the Frankland Islands near Cairns, Australia. To protect the environment, only 100 people are allowed to visit each day.

To preserve the environment and respect local values, a government must make progressive decisions. In Australia, climbers have been banned from the world-famous tourist attraction Uluru. Formerly known as Ayers Rock, the site is considered sacred and is worshipped by the Aboriginal people of the area. The ban was also a result of environmental concerns.

Tourism can coexist with nature and recognize and respect cultures. These days, people understand this, and the demand for ecotourism is growing.