

A discursive essay (2): Taking sides

Tourism always does a place more harm than good



- 1 People today are travelling further and further, not only in the summer, but throughout the year. Although some people argue that mass tourism has a negative effect on destinations, in my view its influences are generally positive.
- 2 Tourists need places to stay and things to do and this creates a wide range of jobs for local people. Holidaymakers also spend a great deal of money, which stimulates the economy of the region as well as benefiting the country as a whole.
- 3 For example, when tourists start visiting an area, roads and public transport tend to improve, or an airport may be built, all of which benefit local people as well as tourists.
- 4 This is leading to better conservation not only of areas of natural beauty and



endangered habitats in rural areas, but also of historic buildings and monuments in towns and cities.

- 5** For instance, many people argue that tourist development results in ugly hotels and apartment blocks. This may have been true in the past, but nowadays developers recognize that new buildings should blend in with old ones and should not change the character of a place.
- 6** To sum up, I believe that, on the whole, tourism has a positive influence provided its development is properly planned and controlled. Tourist destinations have a lot to gain from visitors and the business they bring. In my opinion, it is possible for both tourists and local people to benefit and for popular tourist destinations to have a sustainable future.