

Coronavirus puts 50 million tourism jobs at risk

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The coronavirus pandemic could cut up to 50 million jobs worldwide in the travel and tourism industry. This is according to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTTC). The tourism industry could shrink by up to 25 per cent.

Many people are staying at home and not travelling. Many people cannot travel as more and more countries are taking action to fight COVID-19. This action includes closing borders, requiring people self-quarantine for 14 days after arriving in a country, and banning flights from other countries. The head of the WTTTC said the pandemic, "clearly presents a significant threat to the industry as a whole, to those employed within it, and those wishing to continue traveling".

The tourism industry makes up 10 per cent of the world's GDP and jobs. It is one of the industries hardest hit by the COVID-19 virus. Airlines, cruise ships and hotels have suffered big losses. Korean Air has warned that the coronavirus could threaten its survival. Australia's Qantas has reduced its international flights by nearly 25 per cent because of the outbreak. World-famous sites are deserted. This could cause restaurants and cafes to go out of business as tourists stay away from crowded places. Tourism is a key industry in Hawaii. Experts there predict that over half of Hawaii's hotel rooms will be empty over the next few months. The WTTTC said that tourism would take 10 months to recover after the virus.

Sources: lbtimes.com / arabnews.com / bbc.com

Writing

People should carry on and go on holiday as usual. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

pandemic / worldwide / tourism / industry / travel / quarantine / borders / threat / GDP / virus / losses / survival / international / outbreak / crowded / hotel rooms

True / False

- a) Over 50 million jobs have been lost in the tourism industry. T / F
- b) A tourism organisation said the tourism industry could shrink by 25%. T / F
- c) Countries are asking people to self-quarantine for 14 weeks. T / F
- d) The head of a tourist organisation said the virus won't threaten tourism. T / F
- e) Ten per cent of the world's GDP comes from tourism. T / F
- f) Korean Airlines is confident it will survive the coronavirus crisis. T / F
- g) Qantas airlines is only putting on 25% of its international flights. T / F
- h) An organisation said tourism would need 10 months to recover. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. cut | a. chief |
| 2. closing | b. vacant |
| 3. head | c. go on |
| 4. significant | d. cautioned |
| 5. continue | e. shutting |
| 6. hit | f. big |
| 7. warned | g. pick up |
| 8. crowded | h. reduce |
| 9. empty | i. packed |
| 10. recover | j. impacted |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What can governments do to help the tourism industry?
- c) Where would you go on vacation right now?
- d) How has the coronavirus affected tourism in your country?
- e) Should all vacations be cancelled for a year?
- f) What other industries is the coronavirus badly affecting?
- g) What advice do you have for those in the tourism industry?
- h) What questions would you like to ask tourism bosses?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. could cut up to | a. of the world's GDP |
| 2. The tourism industry could shrink | b. for 14 days |
| 3. more and more countries | c. to recover |
| 4. self-quarantine | d. as a whole |
| 5. a significant threat to the industry | e. losses |
| 6. The tourism industry makes up 10% | f. 50 million jobs worldwide |
| 7. It is one of the industries hardest | g. deserted |
| 8. suffered big | h. by up to 25 per cent |
| 9. World-famous sites are | i. hit |
| 10. tourism would take 10 months | j. are taking action |

Discussion – Student B

- How important is tourism?
- How often do you visit other cities and countries?
- What will happen to the people losing their jobs?
- What is there to do for tourists in your country?
- How important is travelling to you?
- Should all countries close their borders?
- What tourism job would you like to do?
- What would you do if you self-quarantined for 14 days?

Spelling

- The coronavirus dnpcamei
- andogricc to the World Travel and Tourism Council
- The tourism iunrdyst could shrink
- self-arinanteuq for 14 days
- presents a aigtcnisnf threat
- those edeoyplm within it
- seiucr ships
- international isgltfh
- World-famous sites are etesredd
- stay away from cowredd places
- crptide that over half
- take 10 months to ceorevr after

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. a	4. f	5. c
6. j	7. d	8. i	9. b	10. g

Role Play

Role A – The Taj Mahal

You think Taj Mahal is the world's best site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sites. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Mount Fuji, the Pyramids or the Great Barrier Reef.

Role B – Mount Fuji

You think Mount Fuji is the world's best site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sites. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Taj Mahal, the Pyramids or the Great Barrier Reef.

Role C – The Pyramids

You think the Pyramids is the world's best site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sites. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Mount Fuji, Taj Mahal or the Great Barrier Reef.

Role D – The Great Barrier Reef

You think the Great Barrier Reef is the world's best site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sites. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Mount Fuji, the Pyramids or Taj Mahal.

Speaking – Famous Sites

Rank these with your partner. Put the best site at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| • Taj Mahal | • Victoria Falls |
| • Mount Fuji | • The Pyramids |
| • Eiffel Tower | • The Great Wall of China |
| • Disneyland | • The Great Barrier Reef |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.