

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210824-venice.html>

Venice, Italy is one of the world's top tourist destinations. Before the coronavirus pandemic, around 20 million visitors a year visited the city. This caused many problems such as pollution from cruise ships and overcrowding. To deal with these problems, city officials are planning to charge tourists to visit the city's historical centre and its beautiful canals. According to Italy's *La Stampa* newspaper, entry into Venice could cost between three euros (\$3.50) and 10 euros. This could start from the summer of 2022. There are also plans to set a limit on the number of visitors who can enter the centre each day. Tourists may need to book their visit to Venice before they go.

Venice officials have talked for many years about the number of visitors flocking to the city. Environmentalists are worried about the damage cruise ships do to marine life in the Venice Lagoon. Heritage lovers want to protect Venice's famous squares and architecture from the millions of tourists. This made Italy's Culture Minister say that there is a "concrete risk" of the United Nations culture agency UNESCO adding Venice to its list of World Heritage in Danger sites. However, a hotel worker said Venice needed cruise ships. He said: "They spend big in a short time, before sailing out." A city official is worried that charging tourists a fee to enter will turn Venice into a "theme park".

Sources: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-08-21/venice-to-charge-tourists-for-entry-from-summer-2022-la-stampa>
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/venice-is-open-for-tourists-but-not-cruise-ships-11629550801>
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9916547/Venice-plans-charge-tourists-10-euros-require-book.html>

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. top | a. The place to which someone is going to go or visit. |
| 2. destination | b. Things in the air, water, soil, etc. which have harmful or poisonous effects. |
| 3. pandemics | c. Reserve (accommodation, a place, a seat in a restaurant etc.); buy (a ticket) in advance. |
| 4. pollution | d. Of a disease that is all over a whole country or the world. |
| 5. charge | e. A number of something or level beyond which something does not or may not extend or go above. |
| 6. limit | f. The highest or most important rank, level, or position. |
| 7. book | g. Ask for an amount of money as a price for a service rendered or goods. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 8. flocking | h. About, or found in the sea. |
| 9. marine | i. Important things such as historic buildings and cultural traditions that are passed down through generations. |
| 10. heritage | j. A payment made for something. |
| 11. lover | k. Definite. |
| 12. concrete | l. A person who really, really likes or enjoys a thing. |
| 13. list | m. Moving or going together in a crowd. |
| 14. fee | n. A number of connected items or names written one below the other. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210824-venice.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The article says Venice is the world's top tourist destination. **T / F**
2. About 20 million people a year visited Venice before coronavirus. **T / F**
3. It could cost as much as 10 euros to visit Venice. **T / F**
4. Tourists might have to book to be able to visit Venice. **T / F**
5. Italy's Culture Minister said there is too much concrete in Venice. **T / F**
6. UNESCO will take Venice off its World Heritage in Danger list. **T / F**
7. A hotel worker said cruise ship tourists don't spend a lot of money. **T / F**
8. A city official wants Venice to become a theme park. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. top | a. representative |
| 2. caused | b. manage |
| 3. deal with | c. reserve |
| 4. start | d. sea |
| 5. book | e. created |
| 6. flocking | f. definite |
| 7. marine | g. concerned |
| 8. concrete | h. leading |
| 9. official | i. swarming |
| 10. worried | j. begin |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. one of the world's top | a. marine life |
| 2. This caused many problems | b. number of visitors |
| 3. charge tourists to visit the city's historical | c. book their visit to Venice |
| 4. set a limit on the | d. a short time |
| 5. Tourists may need to | e. centre |
| 6. the number of visitors flocking | f. park |
| 7. the damage cruise ships do to | g. such as pollution |
| 8. there is a concrete | h. to the city |
| 9. they spend big in | i. risk |
| 10. turn Venice into a theme | j. tourist destinations |

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210824-venice.html>

- 1) When did 20 million tourists a year visit Venice?
 - a) during the Italia 1990 World Cup
 - b) before the coronavirus pandemic
 - c) in June
 - d) 1999
- 2) What two problems does the article say tourists caused?
 - a) pollution and noise
 - b) litter and noise
 - c) overcrowding and litter
 - d) pollution and overcrowding
- 3) What is the highest amount that tourists to Venice could be charged?
 - a) 9 euros
 - b) 12 euros
 - c) 10 euros
 - d) 3.5 euros
- 4) When might Venice start charging tourists to enter the city?
 - a) the summer of 2022
 - b) January 2022
 - c) 2025
 - d) next month
- 5) What might tourists need to do before they visit Venice?
 - a) read
 - b) book
 - c) do research
 - d) get a special visa
- 6) For how long have Venice officials been talking?
 - a) many years
 - b) days
 - c) weeks
 - d) months
- 7) What kind of life are environmentalists worried about?
 - a) daily life
 - b) nightlife
 - c) marine life
 - d) wildlife
- 8) What do heritage lovers want to protect besides architecture?
 - a) Venice's famous squares
 - b) Venice restaurants
 - c) churches and cathedrals
 - d) Venetian culture
- 9) What kind of risk did Italy's Culture Minister talk about?
 - a) an elevated risk
 - b) a considerable risk
 - c) a grave risk
 - d) a concrete risk
- 10) What is a city official worried about Venice becoming?
 - a) full of international chain restaurants
 - b) overcrowded
 - c) a theme park
 - d) broken

VENICE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'tourist'?
3. What do you know about Venice?
4. What is your city like for tourists?
5. What are your favourite cities?
6. What can tourists do in your country?
7. What problems does tourism create?
8. What do you think of the charge to enter Venice?
9. Should there be a limit on the number of tourists in a city?
10. What do you think of cruises?

Venice set to charge tourists to enter the city - 24th August, 2021
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VENICE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'Venice'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What is the world's best tourist destination?
15. What damage do cruise ships do?
16. How important is it to protect architecture?
17. Are you a good tourist?
18. What do you think when you see hundreds of tourists?
19. What three adjectives best describe Venice?
20. What questions would you like to ask a Venice official?