

Dutch towns tell tourists how to behave

14th April, 2017



It's great being a tourist and leisurely wandering around old towns and villages seeing the sites, but is it such a thrill for the local residents? Villagers living in the area known as 'Old Holland' outside of Amsterdam have had enough of visitors traipsing around and of tour guides with

megaphones disturbing their peace. They have got together with local tour companies to create rules of conduct for tourists. The rules include not photographing residents without permission, not strolling into their gardens and not dropping litter. The new code of conduct is an attempt to deal with the growing popularity of the region. Tourism is booming and the number of tourists is expected to rise by 50 percent in the next decade.

Old Holland is an idyllic area that matches people's image of Dutch life from a slower, bygone age. There are windmills everywhere and locals live in beautifully preserved, traditional wooden houses. Local resident Peter-Jan van Steenberg told Holland's *Het Parool* newspaper that the village of Zaanse Schans is like an open-air museum. He said: "I talked to one resident who opened his curtains in the morning and looked into the camera lenses of nine amateur photographers." He added: "The visitors seem happy to knock on the wooden houses to see if it is real wood. If you are the resident of that house, that is not pleasant, of course." He said the busloads of tourists were the biggest nuisance.

Sources: dutchnews.nl / bbc.com / parool.nl

Writing

What are the pros and cons of tourism for a town? How should tourists behave?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

leisurely / old towns / villages / thrill / tour guides / tourists / litter / popularity / idyllic / windmills / preserved / traditional / museum / photographers / nuisance

True / False

- The article said receiving tourists is a thrill for local people. T / F
- 'Old Holland' is a part of central Amsterdam. T / F
- New rules for tourists say there is to be no photography in villages. T / F
- The number of tourists may increase by 50% in the next 10 years. T / F
- 'Old Holland' does not fit people's idea of life in Holland in the past. T / F
- A resident said one village was like an open-air museum. T / F
- One resident opened his curtains to find 9 photographers outside. T / F
- A resident said busloads of tourists were the most annoying thing. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. leisurely | a. picturesque |
| 2. thrill | b. annoyance |
| 3. disturbing | c. relaxed |
| 4. permission | d. mushrooming |
| 5. booming | e. local |
| 6. idyllic | f. interrupting |
| 7. preserved | g. authentic |
| 8. resident | h. excitement |
| 9. real | i. maintained |
| 10. nuisance | j. say-so |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What kind of bad behaviour can tourists have?
- Should people have culture lessons before going to other countries?
- What image do people from your country have overseas?
- Do you like being a tourist?
- Do you prefer solo travel or being part of a tour group?
- Would you be a good tour guide? Why?
- What questions would you like to ask the villagers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. leisurely wandering | a. the biggest nuisance |
| 2. tour guides with megaphones | b. rise by 50 per cent |
| 3. deal with the growing popularity | c. area |
| 4. the number of tourists is expected to | d. bygone age |
| 5. in the next | e. around old towns |
| 6. an idyllic | f. photographers |
| 7. life from a slower, | g. disturbing their peace |
| 8. like an open- | h. decade |
| 9. amateur | i. air museum |
| 10. busloads of tourists were | j. of the region |

Discussion – Student B

- What kind of tourist are you?
- What kind of tourism is there in your town?
- What responsibilities do tourists have?
- What are the bad things about tourism?
- Why is tourism such a big industry?
- What rules for tourists would you add?
- What should happen to tourists who break these rules?
- What benefits do tourists bring to a town or area?

Spelling

- llueyisre wandering around old towns
- the local esnretsdi
- tour guides with aengmehsop
- without emssopinri
- the growing popularity of the iergon
- rise by 50 per cent in the next ddeeca
- Old Holland is an llydcii area
- beautifully sevpernde, traditional wooden houses
- like an open-air summue
- nine rteaaum photographers
- that is not natelaps
- tourists were the biggest ianucnes

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – The Pyramids

You think The Pyramids is the world's best site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their site is not as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): the Statue of Liberty, the Amazon or Mount Fuji.

Role B – The Statue of Liberty

You think the Statue of Liberty is the world's best site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their site is not as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): The Pyramids, the Amazon or Mount Fuji.

Role C – The Amazon

You think the Amazon is the world's best site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their site is not as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): the Statue of Liberty, The Pyramids or Mount Fuji.

Role D – Mount Fuji

You think Mount Fuji is the world's best site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their site is not as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): the Statue of Liberty, the Amazon or The Pyramids.

Speaking – Sites

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

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| • The Amazon | • The Pyramids |
| • Machu Picchu | • The Statue of Liberty |
| • Masai Mara | • The Great Wall of China |
| • Mount Fuji | • Sydney Opera House |

Answers – True False

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