

Year 9 Geography: Dark Tourism Knowledge Organiser (HT 1 and 2)

What is dark tourism?

Dark tourism is tourism that involves travelling to places associated with death and suffering.

Top 10 most commonly searched dark tourism sites.

1. Ground Zero, New York.
2. Auschwitz, Poland.
3. Alcatraz Prison, San Francisco.
4. Pompeii, Italy.
5. Omaha and Utah beaches, France.
6. Killing Fields, Cambodia.
7. New Orleans, USA.
8. Chernobyl, Ukraine.
9. Giglio, Italy.
10. Haiti.

Why is dark tourism becoming popular?

Some of the general drivers of the growth of dark tourism are:

- Sites such as graveyards could be fascinating.
- Thrill and risk seeking lures tourists who like adventure, excitement and curiosity.
- Need to get acquainted with the knowledge of a place that has experienced a tragedy like mass murder; again curiosity places a key role here
- Self-discovery and learning about such sites to boast about them later in social groups
- Urge to visit sites that have immortal memories linked with people or even stories about haunted mansions etc.
- Other religious reasons

Tourism at Auschwitz

As many as 1.5 million innocent people died at Auschwitz in horrifying conditions: its name a reminder of the atrocities of the Holocaust. But authorities say that the former concentration camp, is becoming a popular tourist destination - so popular in fact, that they may have to start turning people away.

Advantages of tourism in Auschwitz

- Remember the horrors of the past to prevent them from happening in the future.
- **Education:** improve student's understanding of the events that happened at the camp.
- Challenge current attitudes of prejudice and discrimination.
- To allow victims and families of those effected by the events at Auschwitz to remember.
- Experience the harsh conditions experienced by those in the camp, and to encourage a greater appreciation of what life is like today.

Disadvantages of tourism in Auschwitz

- Inappropriate and disrespectful behaviour of tourists whilst at the camp (taking selfies; climbing onto monuments around the camp.)
- Do some tourist go to glorify the attitudes and actions of the Nazi party during the WWII?
- Private tour guides profiting from one of the most inhumane acts ever committed.

Selfie in the Auschwitz Concentration Camp 😊



How can terrorism effect the travel industry?



The impact of terrorism on the travel and tourism industry can be enormous. It can lead to unemployment, homelessness and many other social and economic issues. The contribution of tourism for many countries is so great that any reduction in the industry is a cause of major concern for many governments. The effects of a downturn in tourism are also felt in a number of associated industries such as the airlines, hotels and restaurants.

Grenfell Tower: Tragedy not a tourist attraction

West London residents have expressed outrage at the influx of visitors taking selfies in front of Grenfell Tower and urged guests to refrain from partaking in "grief tourism".



"I could not physically stand there and look at the building because it was too overwhelming and emotional imagining the people trying to escape, and then people around you are having a laugh."

The Chernobyl Disaster

On 26 April 1986, explosions at reactor number four of the nuclear power plant at Chernobyl in Ukraine, led to huge releases of radioactive materials.

Negative effects of the Chernobyl disaster

Social

- More than 4000 cases of cancer diagnosed between 1992 and 2002 in Ukraine and Russia (most were children when the disaster happened.)
- 300,000 were displaced by the disaster.

Economic

- Between 1991 and 2003 Belarus spent \$13 billion on Chernobyl.
- Costs indirect cost of the disaster included: loss of farmland, loss of energy production and loss of jobs.

Environmental

- Contamination of surrounding land with high levels of radioactive waste (23% of Belarus was contaminated to a significant level.)

