

## Tourism in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs).

### Learning Objectives

- I need to consider the **benefits** and **problems** associated with tourism in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs).

### Starter Activity – Spot the difference in Ko Phi Phi, Thailand.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

### Task 1 - Annotate the photograph to show the main impacts of tourism. Label in red and annotate in green.

Fishing boats replaced by  
large yachts destroys  
local fishing industry.



Infrastructure including  
roads and electric  
supplies added...

**Task 2** - In your groups, walk around the classroom and summarise the benefits and problems of tourism from different perspectives. Discuss all the views within your small groups and quickly summarise these in the space below.

Person	Benefits	Problems
Tuk Tuk driver	<i>There are long term jobs available for lots of people as drivers with a good income.</i>	<i>We are too reliant on tourists and do not have other jobs to fall back on.</i>
Hostel cleaner and cook		
Food stall owner		
Shop owner		
Elephant park worker		
Thai tourism minister		

## Tuk Tuk Driver



"I have lived in Ko Samui all my life. More tourists come here every year. I have been driving Tuk Tuks since I was a teenager.

Most of my customers are tourists; they don't like to walk in the heat and don't know where they are going!

I like the tourists, without them I wouldn't have as many customers- I might not even have a job- and they often tip well. Most of my friends work in the tourist industry somehow"



"The whole industry here is based on tourism. Even if I wanted to work in another industry I couldn't- there is nothing else to do"

## Hostel cleaner and cook



"I have worked at the hostel for two years. I clean the rooms and cook meals for guests. I also do laundry for them at my home for about £5 a bag.

I moved here from the village I grew up in as the wages here are much better. I can now afford to rent a room in a better house, I have bought my own moped, and mobile phone!

My English is improving everyday. I hope in the future to work as a manager in a big hotel or own my own business. As long as the tourists keep coming I will have a good life!"



"I'm tired of the menial, basic tasks- all I do is cook and clean 7 days a week. A lot of new hotels are opening up, they are owned by big international companies- they are the ones making the most money from the tourists, not the local Thai people. If my hostel goes out of business I will just have to clean at one of the big hotels, the senior jobs always go to the few who have good qualifications or Europeans who have moved here".

## Food Stall owner



"I run my food stall in the centre of town, I sell traditional dishes such as pad thai and beef noodles, and western fast food- chicken burgers sell very well!

Its hard work but I get to make a lot of money from my stall, I can now afford to send my children to a better school and am paying for English lessons for my wife, hopefully she can get a job in the tourist industry too and earn more money than she does in her factory job.

I buy my ingredients from local farmers so they benefit from the tourists as well- the government calls this the "multiplier effect".



"I spend so much time working to make enough money that I don't get to spend time with my wife and children. The drunk tourists can be very loud and rude to me, especially late at night. There is a new McDonalds that has opened around the corner. A lot of tourists are now going there to eat. I am worried about what I will do if the tourists stop coming to my stall".



## Shop owner



"I sell traditional Thai hand made gifts in my shop in Bangkok, including hand carved Buddha's and elephants, traditional good luck charms, ornamental chop sticks and embroidered table clothes.

My customers are mainly western tourists. I enjoy talking to them about my heritage and culture. I sell things in my shop made by local people. The tourists can also go on trips to see the products being made.

For me the tourists are great- without them I don't think that a lot of our culture and traditions would not survive!".



"My shop does very well from the tourists in Bangkok, although they are constantly trying to get me to sell my goods for less and less money. I can't afford to reduce my prices by how much they want me to- they can be very aggressive when they are haggling. There is so much competition with the other tourist shops!"

## Elephant Park Worker



"I have worked at the elephant park for 10 years now. I used to live in north Thailand on a farm with elephants but I can get much more money here. The tourists pay a lot of money to ride on the elephants, have their picture taken with baby elephants and feed them.

Without the tourists I wouldn't have a job, I didn't go to school- the only trade I know is to work with elephants, so I am happy. The tourists help to keep my way of life alive.

Not far away the government have created a national park because tourists want to see the natural environment, which is helping to protect wild elephants and other animals. This is good as a lot of the land is being developed- we don't want to lose our forests".



“Some of the elephants here are not treated well. The park owner just wants to make money from the tourists; he doesn't care about the elephant's welfare. He won't pay for a vet if they are ill.

It makes me sad that a lot of the land is destroyed for new tourist facilities- hotels, shops, bars, even the beaches are being ruined by rubbish and pollution”.

## Thai Tourism minister



"The tourist industry in Thailand has increased year after year. The tourists bring a lot of money to our country; they spend money on food, accommodation and activities.

The tourists provide jobs for local people, this has a multiplier effect on the Thai economy- the people have more money to spend and so more jobs are created. Lots of jobs are created indirectly by tourists, for example farmers selling food to restaurants who sell food to tourists.

With the money from tourism our government can improve infrastructure and services across the country. In Bangkok we have already built a new monorail system to help congestion, this is better for tourists and local people. We also have more money to invest in hospitals and schools for our people. Tourism is helping our country to develop".



"The tourist industry in Thailand has increased year after year. The tourists bring a lot of money to our country, they are good for our country.

Yes- they can cause problems sometimes, especially when they are drunk and loud, or when they don't respect our culture and religions they can be very offensive, but I want our country to use the money from tourism to get better services for our people

I wish that more money stayed in the country though- too much is taken back to other countries by the big international companies who operate the big hotels here"