

Student's Name

Professor's Name

Subject

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Tourism and the Natural Environment

There are several ways in which tourism impacts the natural environment and that is why tourism should be planned in an integrated manner aimed at the sustainable development of the cultural and natural resources. There are several aspects that describe the relationship between tourism and the environment. Tourism mostly affects environment via the construction of the infrastructure and the use of areas by tourists. Another tourism-environment aspect is the fact that many features of the physical and natural environment are attractions for tourists.

Tourism can have both benefits and costs in its relation to the environment, depending on how well it is planned. The costs include such negative environmental impacts as noise, water, air, and visual pollution, destruction of wildlife and impact on vegetation. The benefits include such positive environmental impacts as conservation of historic sites, enhancement of the environment and improvements of environmental quality. Therefore, tourism can help maintain the environment if it is well planned. At the same time, if tourism is not carefully planned its benefits will not be as considerable as the cost of travel in relation to the environment. For example, in such cases tourists may disturb animals, destroy plants, pollute water, etc.