

France's Plan to Manage Tourism

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Excursionist /ɪk'skɜːrʒənɪst/ (Noun): A person who goes on a journey, often for leisure or pleasure, to explore new places or experiences.
Example: The group of enthusiastic excursionists set off on a hiking adventure through the mountains.
2. Authority /ɔː'thɒrɪti/ (Noun): The power or right to make decisions, give orders, or enforce rules; a person or organization having official control.
Example: The local authority implemented new regulations to improve traffic flow in the city center.
3. Patron /'peɪtrən/ (Noun): A person who supports, encourages, or funds a person, organization, or cause, often by providing financial assistance.
Example: The generous patron donated funds to the art gallery, allowing them to showcase emerging artists' work.
4. Explore /ɪk'splɔːr/ (Verb): To travel in or through an unfamiliar area to discover its features, attractions, or possibilities.
Example: The group of adventurers decided to explore the dense forest to uncover its hidden treasures.
5. Reservation /,rezər'veɪʃən/ (Noun): An arrangement or booking made in advance to secure a place, seat, or service, often for travel, accommodation, or dining.
Example: The family made a reservation at the restaurant to celebrate their special occasion.
6. Constrain /kən'streɪn/ (Verb): To limit, restrict, or hold back someone or something's actions or development.
Example: The lack of resources constrained the project's progress, but the team worked creatively to overcome the challenges.



France aims to have fewer **excursionists** at some busy places. This is because local residents are facing issues due to an excessive number of excursionists. Olivia Grégoire, responsible for tourism, mentioned that the **authority** will take steps to manage the large crowds and ensure better experiences for everyone.

This plan is being implemented ahead of the peak time for excursionists. France, being the world's most visited country, attracts a significant number of visitors. Some popular destinations are adopting new rules to address the situation.

In 2019, France welcomed nearly 90 million **patrons**. This was before the onset of COVID-19. Predictions suggest that by 2025, the number of patrons could reach about 94 million. Even French citizens enjoy **exploring** their own nation, with approximately 73% of the country's 68 million people planning vacations this summer.

Photographs show long queues and a large crowd at popular sites, highlighting the issue of "overtourism." For instance, Etretat village witnesses around 10,000 patrons every day, despite its small size, as many come to witness the beauty of its white cliffs.

Efforts to control excursionists are already in motion. The Louvre museum in Paris, for instance, now requires visitors to make **reservations** before their visit. Similarly, the Calanques National Park is taking measures to **constrain** the number of people entering. Previously accommodating 2,500 people daily, it now limits the count to 400, ensuring a more sustainable environment.

DISCUSSION

1. What problems can busy tourist places face? How can these problems be fixed?
2. How can we protect local culture while promoting tourism in popular areas?
3. What should governments do to handle issues like too many tourists? How can they help the environment and the economy?
4. How does sustainable tourism help crowded places? Can you give examples?
5. How can technology help manage tourists? How can tourists be more responsible?
6. How can travelers help reduce problems from too many tourists?