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Tourism—Friend or Foe?

The floating city of Venice, Italy, is tiny: it has a population of 65,000 (compared to the million-plus population of New Orleans). Only 7.6 square miles, Venice is built on many islands and is surrounded by water. The people of Venice travel through the city in gondolas via 150 canals. There are also streets that are connected by over 400 bridges.

One of the most beautiful cities in the world, Venice is a popular tourist destination. Some say that this tiny city cannot support the 12 million tourists who flood the city each year. Although tourists strain the city, tourism is also the city's primary source of income. This causes a dilemma, as Venice is troubled by water and air pollution—problems that are only worsened by the large numbers of tourists.

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