



Advanced Level **Protecting Antarctica from tourism**

A solution may be at hand for holidaymakers who are finding it harder to get off the beaten track. For those who really want to get away from it all, a new holiday destination has sprung up – Antarctica. However, this new hotspot, or freezing zone, might only be for those with the deepest pockets if a new policy gets under way. Tourism on Antarctica has been increasing dramatically in the past twenty years, from a few thousand people in 1985 to more than 40,000 in 2007. The growing numbers are having a negative effect on the pristine environment of the South Pole. To combat this, researchers from Holland's Maastricht University have come up with a possible solution: limit the number of tourists allowed to visit and auction the vacations to the highest bidders.

Many environmental protection agencies agree that there is a need to protect the frozen wilderness from the damage created by modern tourism. Antarctica is the last unspoiled place on Earth. It has a very delicate ecosystem that could be easily upset by hordes of tourists landing in airplanes and using skimobiles. A difficulty exists because Antarctica is not a country and therefore has no government to pass laws or guidelines to control the number of visitors. The Maastricht University team's proposal to auction off a fixed number of tourist places seems a workable solution. It would limit the number of visitors and therefore contain the amount of environmental damage, and the money would be used to protect Antarctica's future. For further details, consult your local South Pole travel agent.

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Protecting Antarctica from tourism

TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true or false :

- a. Antarctica is a good place for tourists who want to avoid the crowds.
- b. You cannot go to Antarctica without lots of big pockets.
- c. More and more people are going to Antarctica every year.
- d. A major global tour company will soon buy Antarctica at an auction.
- e. There are no more unspoiled places left on Earth.
- f. Antarctica became a country more than two hundred years ago.
- g. There is no government in Antarctica to make laws.
- h. Money from auctioning tourist places might help Antarctica's future.

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. the article: at hand | a. idea |
| 2. sprung up | b. pure |
| 3. gets under way | c. near |
| 4. pristine | d. popped up |
| 5. limit | e. starts |
| 6. wilderness | f. achievable |
| 7. delicate | g. talk to |
| 8. proposal | h. great outdoors |
| 9. workable | i. restrict |
| 10. consult | j. fragile |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. A solution may be at | a. tourists |
| 2. get off the beaten | b. environment |
| 3. get away from | c. place on Earth |
| 4. for those with the deepest | d. the frozen wilderness |
| 5. a negative effect on the pristine | e. track |
| 6. there is a need to protect | f. of tourist places |
| 7. Antarctica is the last unspoiled | g. hand |
| 8. hordes of | h. environmental damage |
| 9. auction off a fixed number | i. it all |
| 10. contain the amount of | j. pockets |