

Geography of Japan - Lesson 8: Tourism

Impacts of Tourism

Read each card and decide whether the impact of tourism is positive or negative. Then, sort the cards into three categories: social, environmental, and economic (some cards may fit into multiple categories).

Tourist spending supports small businesses and boost the local economy, particularly in rural parts of the country.	Tourist numbers peak and drop depending on the season, leading to economic instability.	Natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis can deter people from travelling to Japan.
Many tourists cannot speak Japanese, creating language barriers and possibility for miscommunication.	There has recently been a promotion of sustainable tourism strategies and initiatives in Japan.	Tourism presents opportunities for cultural and language exchange between tourists and locals.
Tourism can create job opportunities for local people.	Tourists damage the natural environment with litter and pollution.	Tourism can lead to overcrowding in already large towns and cities (i.e., Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, etc)
Money earned from tourism can be used for heritage protection and nature conservation.	Tourism leads to the development of infrastructure and public services.	Seasonal jobs (such as at ski resorts) do not provide people with stable employment.
Tourists might not understand local social etiquette and behave in anti-social ways which can anger and upset locals.	By travelling to Japan, people can learn about the country and its culture first-hand through real life experience, not just through popular culture.	When a town/city becomes too reliant on tourism, it can sometimes lead to the loss of traditions and cultural identity.