

Exploring UK locations (Zoom In, Zoom Out)

Tourism

Rhys: This is Belfast, the capital city of Northern Ireland. Millions of tourists visit every year, and today I'm one of them. I'm exploring the city by bus!

Tourism is when people travel from where they live to another place for pleasure or relaxation. This can be a day trip or a few days holiday. Later locals Anna and Oisin will be joining me on my adventure, as we explore the ruins of Dunluce Castle. But first, let's zoom out!

We're in Northern Ireland. A popular tourist attraction here is the Giant's Causeway - an ancient volcanic rock formation. In England, lots of people visit the British Museum. In Scotland, the National Museum of Scotland is really popular. And in Wales, the Millennium Centre usually gets over a million visitors a year.

Tourist attractions can range from human-built places of interest - like galleries and water parks - to natural places like lakes, mountains and, in the case of Northern Ireland, the famous Causeway Coastline.

Wow, I'm here! Across the globe, tourism has increased over the years. There are many different reasons for this including... Travel has become easier, cheaper, and many people have more disposable income.

You can find out about places to visit more easily by researching online or watching videos. Ooooh! And a lot of workplaces today offer more holiday time for staff than in the past.

There are different types of tourism, such as relaxing on a sunny beach... Cultural visits to historic cities... Active adventure trips... or enjoying places of entertainment.

Oisin and Anna have joined me at Dunluce Castle. I've asked them to help me make a tourist video of my trip as we explore the castle grounds.

Child: 3, 2, 1!

Rhys: Say 'castle'!

Children: Castle!

Rhys: I'm loving being a tourist today! What do you think is the best thing about being a tourist?

Child: That I get to explore new places, new countries, new landmarks.

Rhys: And what do you think are some of the positive impacts of tourism?

Child: They spend their money in different shops and like the movies or somewhere and then that gives money to all the local businesses and keeps them up and running.

Child: More jobs for the local people in the area so they can earn more money.

Rhys: Yes, some very good examples. It could also mean better services and facilities are built like roads and leisure complexes. And what do you think are some of the negative impacts of tourism?

Child: People will come and they won't understand the rules of that and they will come and they'll throw litter down.

Child: Sometimes when tourists come there's a lot of traffic and like everyday things take a lot longer because there's so much traffic.

Rhys: Yes, absolutely. The key thing here is that tourism can be good if it's done in a *sustainable* way.

Ok, time to compare... London is the most visited city in the UK with over 20 million visitors per year. One of the most visited cities in the world is Hong Kong - where in recent years there have been an average of over 55 million visitors per year. That's the same as the number of people living in England!

So, what tourist attractions exist near you? Can you find any that you've never been to before? A unique building or an area of natural beauty? Zoom in and have a look for yourself!

Do either of you know where the gift shop is? What..? Guys..?