

Town to erect fence to stop Mount Fuji selfies

29th April 2024



Overtourism is causing headaches for authorities and consternation for local residents worldwide. Japan is one country that is battling surging numbers of international tourists. The weaker yen has meant people are

flocking to see Japan's numerous World Heritage sites and sample its world-famous cuisine. A town near Mount Fuji has devised a drastic measure to combat the problem of overtourism. Fujikawaguchiko, which is at the foot of Fuji, has become inundated with sightseers who want selfies of themselves in front of a brightly coloured convenience store, with Fuji-san as the backdrop. Local authorities have decided to erect a giant mesh fence to obscure the view of Japan's iconic mountain.

A local official told journalists that the increasing number of tourists was creating problems for residents. These include trash being left in the streets, traffic being blocked, and security guards being employed to marshal selfie takers. The official said of the fence: "It is regrettable that we had to take such measures." She added that it was because of "some tourists who cannot respect rules". The fence will be 20 metres long and 2.5 metres high. Other places in Japan are also battling large numbers of overseas visitors. Locals in the ancient city of Kyoto cannot board increasingly overcrowded buses. Areas of Kyoto have been closed to tourists to prevent people harassing geisha, in a problem dubbed as "geisha paparazzi".

Sources: japantimes.co.jp / cnn.com / theguardian.com

Writing

Countries should limit the number of tourists visiting them. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

overtourism / headaches / tourists / World Heritage / cuisine / Mount Fuji / sightseers / journalists / trash / security guards / traffic / fence / rules / overseas / buses / geisha

True / False

- 1) Headaches are the biggest cause of tourism for locals in tourist areas. T / F
- 2) Many people are going to Japan because of favourable exchange rates. T / F
- 3) The town in the article is at the head of Mount Fuji. T / F
- 4) Local authorities will make a steel fence to block the view of Mount Fuji. T / F
- 5) The town employs security guards to control selfie takers. T / F
- 6) A town official said she regrets the town is having to erect a fence. T / F
- 7) The fence will be 20 metres high. T / F
- 8) Areas of Kyoto have closed to protect geisha. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. consternation | a. guide |
| 2. surging | b. flooded |
| 3. flocking | c. labelled |
| 4. inundated | d. escalating |
| 5. erect | e. actions |
| 6. marshal | f. dismay |
| 7. measures | g. pestering |
| 8. ancient | h. build |
| 9. harassing | i. crowding |
| 10. dubbed | j. very, very old |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of overtourism?
- b) What is there to do for tourists in your town?
- c) Why might local residents feel consternation over tourists?
- d) How important is tourism?
- e) What is great about your country's cuisine?
- f) What would you really like to take photos of?
- g) What do you think of selfies?
- h) What do you think of the fence being put up to hide Mount Fuji?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. headaches for authorities and consternation | a. to obscure the view |
| 2. The weaker | b. geisha |
| 3. Fuji has become inundated | c. mountain |
| 4. a giant mesh fence | d. to take such measures |
| 5. Japan's iconic | e. for local residents |
| 6. security guards being employed to | f. as "geisha paparazzi" |
| 7. It is regrettable that we had | g. overcrowded buses |
| 8. board increasingly | h. yen |
| 9. prevent people harassing | i. marshal selfie takers |
| 10. a problem dubbed | j. with sightseers |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How should tourists behave in other countries?
- How has social media changed the behaviour of tourists?
- What kind of tourist are you?
- What can authorities do about overcrowded buses?
- How would you feel if tourists made life in your town difficult?
- What do you think of "paparazzi" tourists?
- What would you like to ask the local officials?

Spelling

- sctirtanoone for local residents
- battling rggunsj numbers
- unremuso World Heritage sites
- world-famous nsuciee
- become undainted with sightseers
- rscoebu the view
- employed to rmsaahl selfie takers
- It is gelrbteate that we had to
- bgattinl large numbers
- the enitacn city of Kyoto
- prevent people hrnsasiag geisha
- dubbed as geisha paazazirp

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. h
6. a	7. e	8. j	9. g	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Overcrowded Buses

You think overcrowded buses are the biggest problem caused by overtourism. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic of these (and why): damage to sites, trash and littering or selfie takers.

Role B – Damage to Sites

You think damage to sites is the biggest problem caused by overtourism. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic of these (and why): overcrowded buses, trash and littering or selfie takers.

Role C – Trash and Littering

You think trash and littering is the biggest problem caused by overtourism. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic of these (and why): damage to sites, overcrowded buses or selfie takers.

Role D – Selfie Takers

You think selfie takers is the biggest problem caused by overtourism. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic of these (and why): damage to sites, trash and littering or overcrowded buses.

Speaking – Problems

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| • Trash | • Overcrowded buses |
| • Culture clashes | • Damage to sites |
| • Traffic jams | • Rising prices for locals |
| • Selfie takers | • Water scarcity |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	F	4	F	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.