NAME:

FIELD: TOURISM

CONTEXT: BENEFITS OF TOURISM

DATE: 28 SEPTEMBER ,2023

# BENEFITS OF TOURISM TO THE SOCIETY

Tourism is one of the most important sectors of the global economy, as it generates income, employment, and cultural exchange for many countries and regions. Tourism also has various benefits for the society, such as preserving local culture and heritage, strengthening communities, providing social services, protecting nature, and empowering people. In this essay, I will discuss some of these benefits in detail, using the APA format for academic papers and essays⁵.

The first benefit of tourism for the society is preserving local culture and heritage. Tourism can help to maintain and promote the cultural diversity and identity of a destination, as tourists are interested in learning about the history, traditions, customs, and art forms of the local people. Tourism can also encourage the preservation of heritage sites, monuments, and buildings that have historical or cultural significance, as they attract visitors and generate revenue for their maintenance and restoration. For example, the UNESCO World Heritage List includes over 1,000 cultural and natural sites that are considered to have outstanding universal value for humanity, and tourism plays a vital role in their conservation and management⁴.

The second benefit of tourism for the society is strengthening communities. Tourism can foster social cohesion and integration among different groups of people, as it facilitates interaction, communication, and mutual understanding. Tourism can also create a sense of pride and belonging among the local residents, as they showcase their culture and heritage to the visitors and receive positive feedback and appreciation. Tourism can also enhance the quality of life and well-being of the local people, as it provides them with opportunities for recreation, leisure, and entertainment. For example, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) states that tourism can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are a set of global objectives to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all³.

The third benefit of tourism for the society is providing social services. Tourism can generate funds and resources for the development and improvement of the social infrastructure and facilities of a destination, such as education, health, sanitation, and security. Tourism can also create demand and support for the provision of these services, as tourists expect and require a certain level of quality and safety when they travel. Tourism can also stimulate the participation and involvement of the local people in the decision-making and governance of their community, as they have a stake and interest in the development and management of tourism. For example, the World Nature News reports that tourism can provide a source of income and empowerment for the communities that are poor in economic resources but rich in biodiversity, environmental resources, and indigenous culture¹.

The fourth benefit of tourism for the society is protecting nature. Tourism can raise awareness and appreciation of the natural environment and its value for the human and non-human life, as tourists are exposed to the beauty and diversity of nature and its ecosystems. Tourism can also motivate and incentivize the conservation and protection of the natural resources and habitats, as they are essential for the attraction and satisfaction of the tourists. Tourism can also support and fund the research and innovation in the fields of environmental science and technology, as they are needed to address the challenges and opportunities of sustainable tourism. For example, the International Ecotourism Society (TIES) defines ecotourism as "responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education"².

The fifth benefit of tourism for the society is empowering people. Tourism can provide opportunities and benefits for the people who are involved in the tourism industry, such as employment, income, education, training, and entrepreneurship. Tourism can also empower the people who are marginalized or disadvantaged in the society, such as women, youth, ethnic minorities, and indigenous people, as they can participate and benefit from the tourism activities and resources. Tourism can also enhance the human rights and dignity of the people, as they can exercise their freedom and choice in the tourism market and society. For example, the UNWTO states that tourism can be a powerful tool for empowerment and inclusion, as it can promote gender equality, intercultural dialogue, and social justice³.

In conclusion, tourism has various benefits for the society, as it can preserve local culture and heritage, strengthen communities, provide social services, protect nature, and empower people. Tourism can also contribute to the global goals of sustainable development, as it can balance the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of tourism. Therefore, tourism is important for the society, and it should be developed and managed in a responsible and ethical way, with the participation and collaboration of all the stakeholders involved.