TOURISM FRESK





UNDERSTANDING

THE HIDDEN COSTS OF TOURISM

"The invisible burden is the unaccounted-for destination costs to provide local infrastructure and protect ecological and socio-cultural systems for tourists and local people."

EPLER WOOD, M., MILSTEIN, M., AHAMED-BROADHURST, K., TRAVEL FOUNDATION, CORNELL UNIVERSITY, & EPLERWOOD INTERNATIONAL. (2019). DESTINATIONS AT RISK: THE INVISIBLE BURDEN OF TOURISM.



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HOW THE TOURISM FRESK WORKS

- Initial connections
- Support mechanisms
- Trade-offs & hidden costs
- Sustainability interventions

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Tourism activity



Coastal construction



Local livelihood



Visitor spending



Public service costs



Water efficiency



Congestion

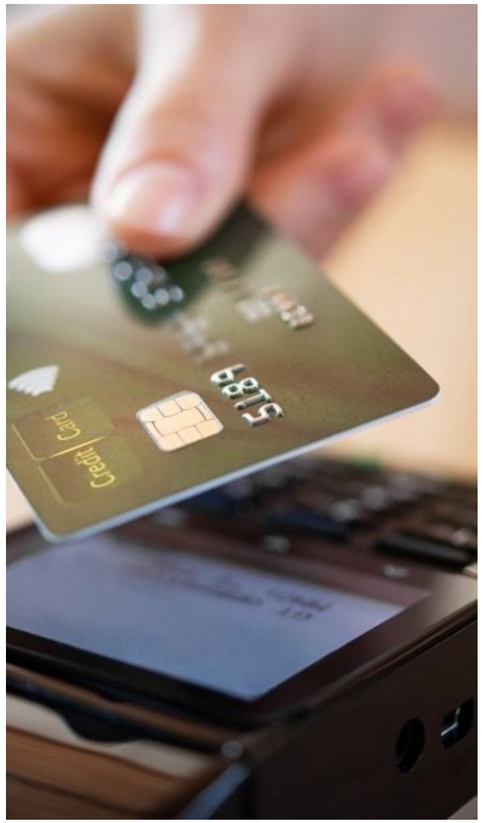


Wastewater treatment



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Tourism creates both benefits and pressures.



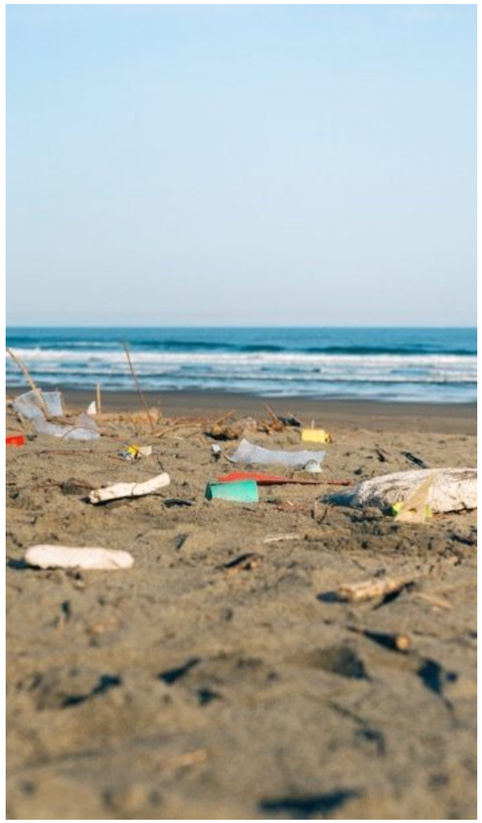
Visitor spending



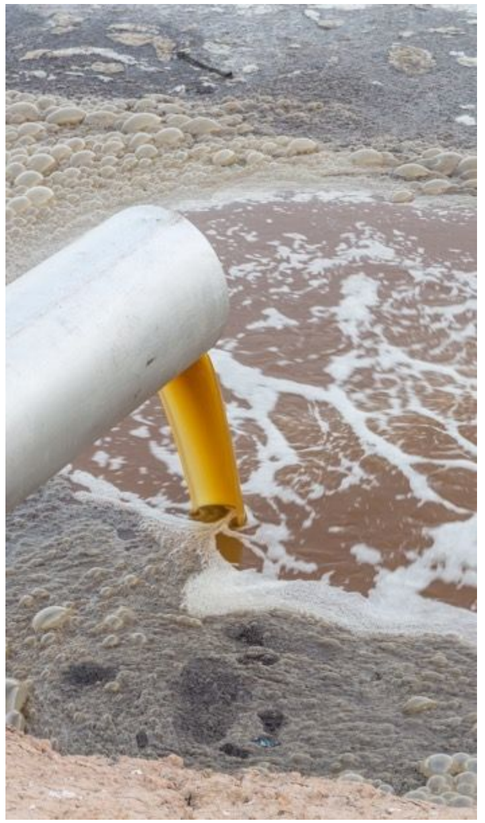
Local livelihoods



Congestion



Waste

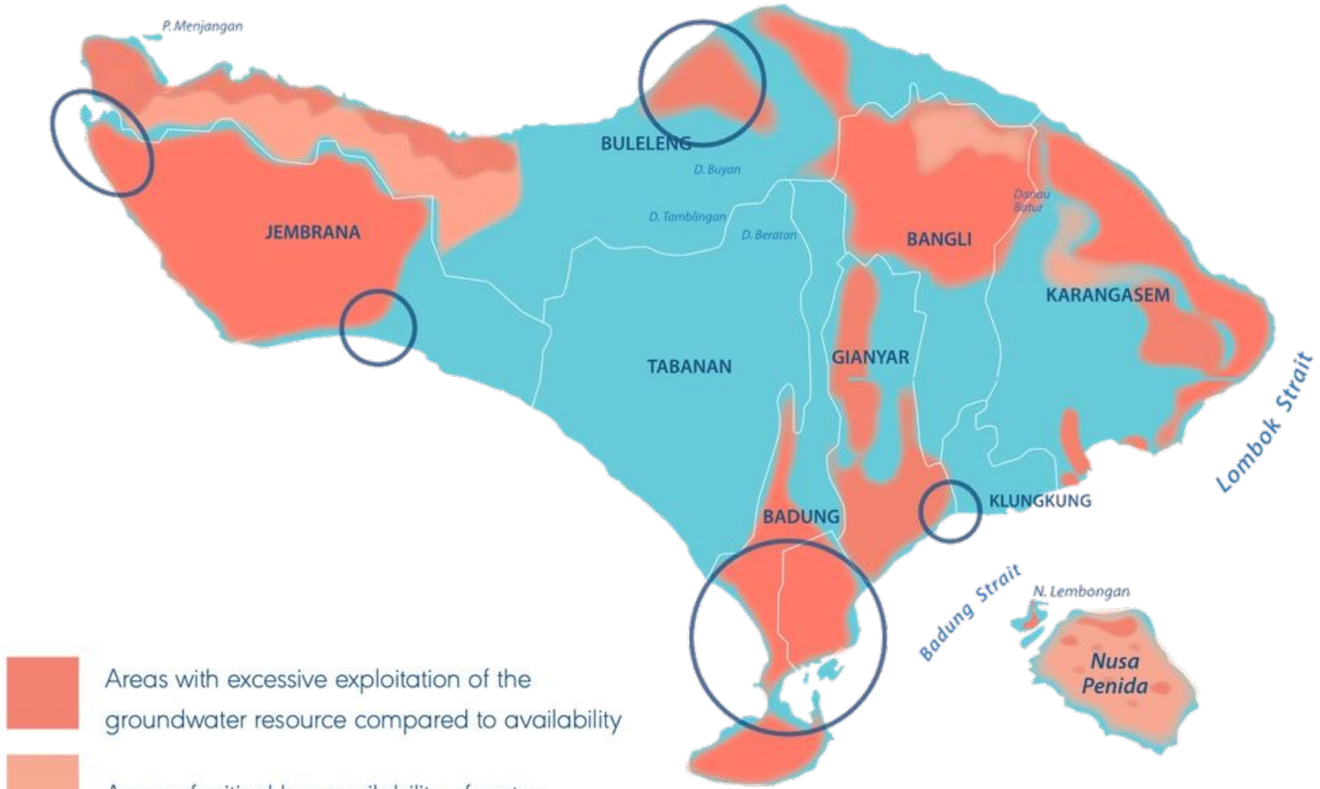


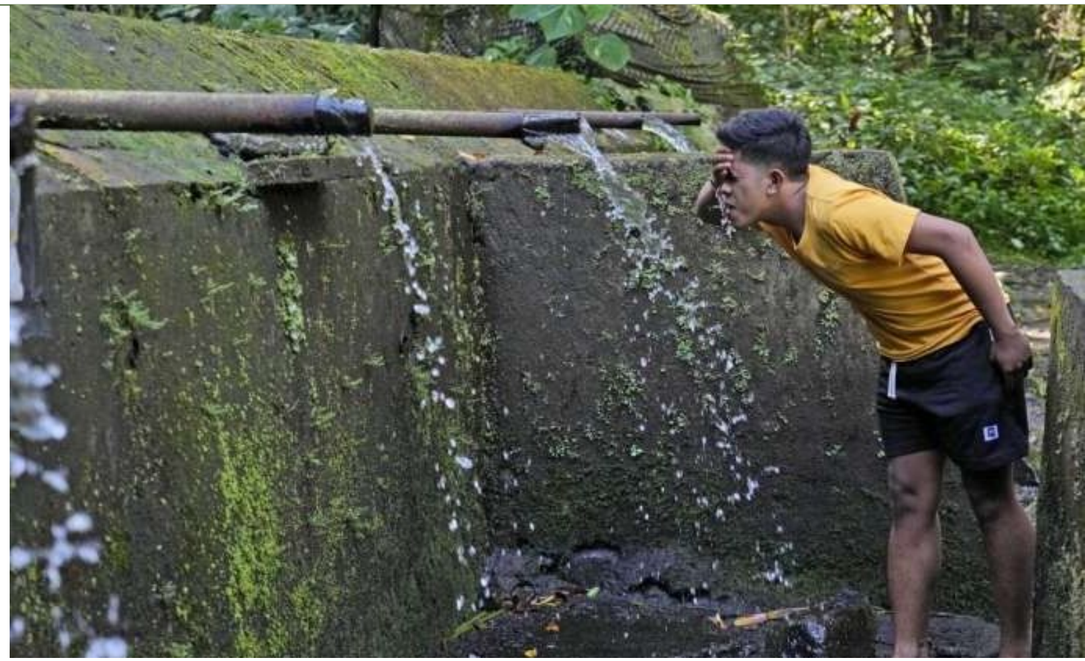
Wastewater

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WATER SHORTAGES

BALI, INDONESIA







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VISITOR CONCENTRATION

KYOTO, JAPAN







https://kyoto.travel/en/responsible-travel/mind-your-manners/

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Tourism depends on destination assets and services.



Infrastructure



Public services



Housing supply



Transport networks



Freshwater supply



Solid waste management



Wastewater treatment



Ecosystems



Cultural assets

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RESORT-BASED TOURISM
THE MALDIVES

Table 3: Resort beds by Atolls, 2021-2025 (Registered Capacity)

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
Atoll	Beds	% Share	Beds	% Share	Beds	% Share	Beds	% Share	Beds	% Share
Haa Alifu	394	1.0	446	1.1	446	1.0	448	1.0	448	1.0
Haa Dhaalu	118	0.3	118	0.3	118	0.3	162	0.4	162	0.4
Shaviyani	457	1.2	444	1.1	444	1.0	444	1.0	444	1.0
Noonu	2,134	5.4	2,542	6.1	2,542	5.8	2,542	5.7	2,566	5.6
Raa	3,670	9.3	4,146	9.9	4,546	10.3	4,586	10.3	4,548	9.9
Baa	3,120	7.9	3,128	7.5	3,362	7.6	3,604	8.1	3,660	8.0
Lhaviyani	2,774	7.0	2,862	6.8	3,492	7.9	3,492	7.8	3,326	7.2
Kaafu	12,810	32.3	13,954	33.3	14,448	32.7	14,676	32.8	16,022	34.9
Alifu Alifu	2,224	5.6	2,224	5.3	2,224	5.0	2,242	5.0	2,426	5.3
Alifu Dhaalu	4,350	11.0	4,354	10.4	4,554	10.3	4,534	10.1	4,582	10.0
Vaavu	694	1.8	694	1.7	794	1.8	794	1.8	794	1.7
Meemu	440	1.1	614	1.5	614	1.4	614	1.4	614	1.3
Faafu	250	0.6	250	0.6	250	0.6	250	0.6	250	0.5
Dhaalu	2,860	7.2	2,860	6.8	2,864	6.5	2,864	6.4	2,864	6.2
Thaa	152	0.4	152	0.4	152	0.3	152	0.3	152	0.3
Laamu	242	0.6	242	0.6	360	0.8	360	0.8	360	0.8
Gaafu Alifu	1,279	3.2	1,279	3.0	1,279	2.9	1,289	2.9	1,301	2.8
Gaafu Dhaalu	550	1.4	550	1.3	550	1.2	550	1.2	550	1.2
Seenu	1,086	2.7	1,086	2.6	1,086	2.5	1,086	2.4	824	1.8
Total	39,604	100.0	41,945	100.0	44,125	100.0	44,689	100.0	45,893	100.0

Source: Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation

https://www.lta.gov.sg/content/ltagov/en/newsroom/2026/10/news-releases/reminder-f1-2026-traffic-arrangements.html



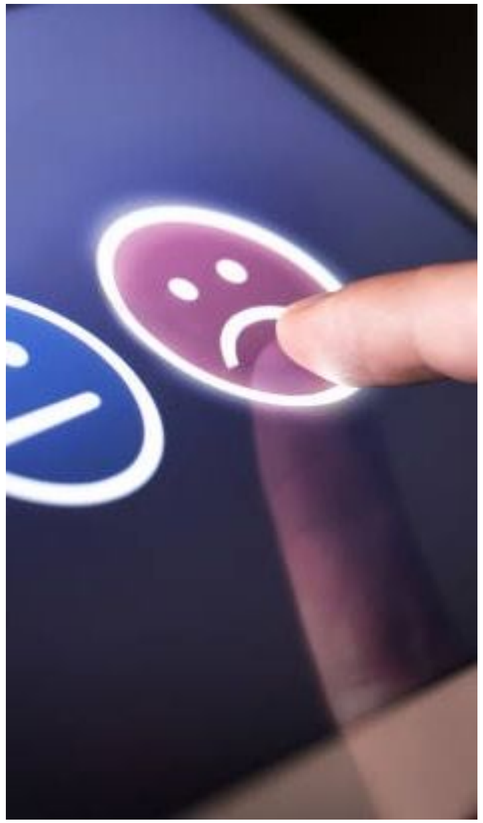


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Tourism can put destination assets and services at risk.



Degraded ecosystems



Reduced visitor appeal



Service distruptions



Funding gaps



Community wellbei

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REEF DEGRADATION

CORON & EL NIDO, PHILIPPINES

Cluster and Sites	2018 Visitors	Average	Peak Day	PCC	RCC
Coron					
Coron MTC 1					
Kayangan Lake	121,404	333	603	267	70
Twin Lagoon	98,913	271	491	444	97
Siete Pecados	38,000	104	189	2,978	833
Bintuan MTC 2					
Coral Gardens	84,584	232	420	44	12
Lusong Wreck	84,584	232	420	89	28
Sangat wreck and beach	44,500	122	221	289	81
El Nido					
Bacuit Bay MTC 1					
Secret Lagoon	371,844	1,019	1,631	667	186
Big Lagoon	371,844	1,019	1,631	3,200	40
PE. Pangulasian Island	66,106	181	290	13,556	3,199
Poblacion–Villa Libertad MTC 2					
Ubogon Cove–Cadlao	90,895	249	399	1,289	304
Nat Nat Beach	90,895	249	399	1,244	294
Villa Libertad (Ipil Beach etc.)	90,895	249	399	18,667	5,384

MTC = marine tourism cluster, PCC = potential carrying capacity, RCC = real carrying capacity.





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ROAD CLOSURES

SINGAPORE



https://www.lta.gov.sg/content/ltagov/en/newsroom/2026/10/news-releases/reminder-f1-2026-traffic-arrangements.html

Reminder on Traffic Arrangements for the Formula 1 Singapore Airlines Singapore Grand Prix 2026

News Releases 02 Oct 2026 formula one (F1) road closures

The public is reminded of the road closures around the Marina Centre and Padang area from **7 to 13 October 2026** to facilitate preparations for the Formula 1 Singapore Airlines Singapore Grand Prix 2026.



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Tourism can help sustain what it depends on.



Maintain critical water & sanitation systems



Protect natural & cultural assets



Improve public services & infrastructure



Strengthen local benefits & partnerships



Secure long-term financing

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ISLAND CLOSURE FOR CORAL RECOVERY

KRABI, THAILAND



Tourism killed Thailand's most famous bay. Here's how it was brought back to life

https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/maya-bay-thailand-recovery-c2e-spc-intl

Thailand's famous Maya Bay reopens October 1 after its annual closure

The Phi Phi Leh beach seen in Leonardo DiCaprio's The Beach returns to visitor itineraries after a two-month conservation break

https://www.timeout.com/bangkok/news/thailand-famous-maya-bay-reopens-092926



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Discussion





Beyond the Tourism Fresk: What Will You Take Forward?



