

The Geography of Tourism

Lesson Map: <http://esriaustralia.com.au/education/SpatialActivity41>

Engage

Tourism industry

- Tourism is a 7 trillion-dollar industry, based around attracting, accommodating and entertaining the millions of people who visit other cities, states or countries.
- ? There are many reasons why people travel. What are some of the main reasons?
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- There are many ways to measure the tourism industry. The most obvious is total visitor arrivals per country. Another common way that the tourism industry is measured is by tourism receipts. The [World Trade Organisation](#) defines this as the expenditure of international visitors, including passenger transport.

Explore

Top tourist destinations

- If someone asked your class where they would like to go on holidays, chances are most people would have a different idea of their dream holiday. Some might want to backpack through Europe, travel across America, safari across Africa or swim in The Maldives.
- ? Where is your dream destination?
- Click on the lesson map URL above and turn on the layer 'Tourism Visitors'.
- ? Which region receives the highest number of visitors a year? **Europe.**
- Click the Table button to see all the data.



- ? Click the Visitors per 1000 column and choose 'Sort Descending'. What are the

Download student worksheet [here](#).

Time

40 minutes

Activity

Investigating the geography behind tourism, including why people travel, how much they spend and the risks they face.

Learning Outcome

Students will be able to:

- Identify why people travel
- Explore the most popular travel destinations
- Analyse tourism related revenue and the link to GDP
- Investigate the risks that travelers face in different countries

VCE Syllabus Link

Geography

[Year 11 Unit 2: Tourism](#)

QLD Syllabus Link

Tourism

[Year 11 Topic 1: Tourism as an industry](#)

Teacher Feedback:

To share your feedback on this, or any Spatial Activity, please contact education@esriaustralia.com.au

top five tourist destinations and their total visitors? Fill in the table below.

Rank	Country	Visitors (Per 1000)
1	France	86918
2	Spain	81786
3	United States	75608
4	China	60740
5	Italy	58253

- ? What do you think makes these countries more popular than Australia? *These countries have a rich history and culture that millions flock to see each year. Each destination is riddled with tourist attractions and an array of landscapes that will interest every traveler. But perhaps one of the most defining factors is simple geography: these countries receive huge traffic from their geographic locations!*

Explain

Show me the money!

- ? Turn on the layer 'Tourism 2017 – Total US Dollars' and turn off all other layers. This layer refers to the total tourist receipts spent in another country. Which country has the highest tourism receipts? *The United States, with 210747 billion US Dollars.*
- ? How many billion dollars is spent in Australia? *41 billion dollars.*
- Although this revenue may be high, it is important to consider what percent of a country's gross domestic product (GDP) it makes up. For example, although the United States has the highest proportion of dollars spent, it only makes up for 7% of the country's GDP.
- ? Turn on the layer 'Tourism Percent of GDP 2018'. What percent does Australia overall tourism revenue contribute to our GDP? *Only 11.08%.*
- ? In a country as big as Australia, why is it misleading to look at an overall number like this? *Although Australia wide it is only 11%, in some areas it could be the primary source of income.*
- ? Turn on the layer 'GDP more than 50' and turn off all other layers. This layer represents countries where tourism accounts for more than half of their GDP. What do you notice about the geographic features of these countries? Why does the geography of a country matter when you are analysing contribution to GDP? *These countries all have a small land area or are isolated islands, which make it*

near impossible to establish regular income sectors such as mining or transport.

- ? What risk do these countries face due to their heavy reliance on tourism? These countries could face economic collapse if the tourism industry was impacted and the number of arrivals and/or dollars spent was hindered. As an example, most of these countries are islands, meaning they are at risk from sea level rise which would very likely see a reduction in tourist numbers and therefore impact the economic stability of the country.

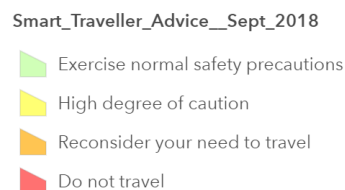
Extend

The world is (almost) yours

- ? As much as we would love to travel the world, the reality is there are large portions of this earth that we cannot visit. What are some reasons why you could not travel to a country?

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- The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade have published a website that includes their own advice for travelers, called smartraveller.gov.au.
- Turn on the layer 'Smart Traveller Advice Sept 2018' and turn off all other layers. The government has four different categories, including:



- ? What are five countries they have stated to not travel to? Students choose from: Mali, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Libya, Niger, Iraq, South Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Yemen.
- ? The top destination in the world, France, received a 'High degree of caution' rating. Why do you think this is? [View the Smart Traveller page for more information](#). France has experienced several major terrorist attacks over the past few years. Since 2015 over 200 people have tragically died and hundreds more injured.

- ? Earlier in this lesson we asked you what your dream destination is. What is the advice for that country?

- It is common for Australians to receive vaccinations before heading overseas. Many travel related illness or diseases can be prevented with a quick visit to your local GP. Click on the last layer 'Disease Travel Risk' and turn off all other layers.

- ? Which regions face the highest travel disease risk? **The highest risk areas are Africa and South Asia.**

- ? What diseases do you think travelers are susceptible to in these areas? **Malaria and Yellow Fever are two common diseases that are vaccinated or medicated for.**

Next Steps:

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