

Thailand to close famous beach to protect coral

7th March, 2018



Thailand will soon close one of its world famous beaches in an effort to reverse the damage done to its coral by mass tourism. The beach is in Maya Bay on the tiny island of Koh Phi Phi Leh. It

garnered worldwide attention after it featured heavily in the Leonardo DiCaprio blockbuster movie *The Beach*. The film put the Maya Bay beach on the bucket lists of millions of travellers worldwide. The result has been an influx of up to 5,000 sun worshippers a day to its emerald shores. They arrive on hundreds of boats, which have caused irreversible damage to the bay's coral. Officials say that most of the coral in the bay has died. The beach will close between June and September to let the coral recover.

Experts predict that almost 80 per cent of Thailand's coral reefs have been destroyed, and that once pristine beaches have been damaged by tourism. The deputy dean of the Faculty of Fisheries at Bangkok's Kasetsart University is an outspoken critic of the level of tourism Thailand's coastline has to endure. He said the biggest culprits were beachfront hotels, boat anchors crashing into and breaking the coral, and plastic waste being dumped in the sea. He believes the "ideal solution" is for Maya Bay to be closed permanently. He said: "While it's a very pretty bay, visiting it with a flotilla of boats and hordes of other tourists rather detract from the magic." He welcomed the temporary closure.

Sources: sky.com / theguardian.com / foxnews.com

Writing

Tourism is bad for the environment and should be limited. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

famous / beach / damage / coral / island / movie / bucket list / emerald / recover / tourism / critic / coastline / hotels / plastic waste / ideal / solution / boats / magic

True / False

- a) Thailand will soon close a famous beach resort. T / F
- b) The beach that will close was in a famous movie. T / F
- c) Almost 5,000 people a day visit the beach. T / F
- d) Officials say that the damage to coral cannot be repaired. T / F
- e) Experts believe that around half of Thailand's coral has gone. T / F
- f) A university deputy dean said he was in favour of tourism. T / F
- g) The deputy dean believes the beach should be closed forever. T / F
- h) The deputy dean said tourists brought magic to the island. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. effort | a. globally |
| 2. mass | b. starred |
| 3. featured | c. take away |
| 4. worldwide | d. forecast |
| 5. irreversible | e. wrongdoers |
| 6. predict | f. attempt |
| 7. pristine | g. perfect |
| 8. culprits | h. unspoiled |
| 9. ideal | i. large-scale |
| 10. detract | j. irreparable |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Will any beach in the world stay pristine?
- c) What damage does tourism cause to the environment?
- d) Should hotels be banned from beachfronts?
- e) How can we reduce plastic waste being dumped in the sea?
- f) Should the Maya Bay beach be closed forever?
- g) What is the magic of a beautiful beach?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the university deputy dean?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- mass
- bucket
- an influx of up
- caused irreversible
- let the coral
- The deputy dean of the
- the biggest culprits
- plastic waste being
- a flotilla
- He welcomed the temporary
- closure
- were beachfront hotels
- recover
- tourism
- lists
- of boats
- damage
- Faculty of Fisheries
- to 5,000 sun worshippers
- dumped in the sea

Discussion – Student B

- What is your favourite beach, and why?
- How important are beaches?
- What do you know about Thailand's beaches?
- How is tourism affecting beaches?
- Should there be a limit on visitors going to beaches?
- What do you like to do at the beach?
- What can tourists do to better look after beaches?
- What are the biggest dangers to beaches?

Spelling

- in an effort to vresere the damage
- worldwide netattoin
- an fnuixl of up to 5,000 sun worshippers
- elemadr shores
- caused ersiblvirree damage
- let the coral rvoeocr
- once snrteiip beaches
- the level of tourism Thailand's coastline has to reeund
- the biggest rtplucsi
- be closed nlemepayrtn
- ecttrda from the magic
- He welcomed the yreatmrop closure

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Beaches

You think tourism damages beaches most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why tourism doesn't damage their things as much. Also, tell the others which is the least damaged of these (and why): rainforests, cultures or wildlife.

Role B – Rainforests

You think tourism damages rainforests most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why tourism doesn't damage their things as much. Also, tell the others which is the least damaged of these (and why): beaches, cultures or wildlife.

Role C – Cultures

You think tourism damages cultures most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why tourism doesn't damage their things as much. Also, tell the others which is the least damaged of these (and why): rainforests, beaches or wildlife.

Role D – Wildlife

You think tourism damages wildlife most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why tourism doesn't damage their things as much. Also, tell the others which is the least damaged of these (and why): rainforests, cultures or beaches.

Speaking – Tourism

Rank these with your partner. Put the things tourism damages most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- beaches
- rainforests
- ancient ruins
- rivers
- people's lives
- cultures
- villages
- wildlife

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.