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Venice set to charge tourists to enter the city – 24th August, 2021

Level 0

Venice is a top tourist destination with around 20 million visitors a year. This causes problems like pollution and overcrowding. The city wants tourists to pay to visit Venice. An Italian newspaper said the fee could be \$10. Venice might also limit the number of visitors who can enter the city. Tourists may need to book their visit.

People are worried about Venice. Some people worry about its marine life. Others worry about its buildings. Italy said UNESCO could add Venice to its list of World Heritage in Danger sites. A hotel worker says Venice needs tourists because they "spend big". A city worker worries Venice could become a "theme park".

Level 1

Venice is a top tourist destination. Around 20 million visitors a year can visit. This causes problems such as cruise-ship pollution and overcrowding. The city is planning to charge tourists to visit Venice's historical centre from the summer of 2022. An Italian newspaper said this could be as much as \$11. There might also be a limit on the number of visitors who can enter the city centre each day. Tourists may need to book their visit before they go.

People have talked for years about the city's problems. Environmentalists worried about damage to marine life. Heritage lovers want to protect the city's squares from tourists. Italy said there is a "concrete risk" of UNESCO adding Venice to its list of World Heritage in Danger sites. However, a hotel worker says Venice needs cruise ships because tourists "spend big". A city worker worries a tourist fee will turn Venice into a "theme park".

Level 2

Venice is one of the world's top tourist destinations. It can get around 20 million visitors a year. This causes problems such as pollution from cruise ships and overcrowding. City officials are now planning to charge tourists to visit Venice's historical centre and canals. Italy's *La Stampa* newspaper said this could be as much as 10 euros (\$11.70). This could start from the summer of 2022. They might also set a limit on the number of visitors who can enter the centre each day. Tourists may need to book their visit to Venice before they go.

City officials have talked for many years about different problems. Environmentalists worried about the damage from cruise ships to marine life. Heritage lovers want to protect the city's famous squares from the millions of tourists. Italy's Culture Minister said that there is a "concrete risk" of UNESCO adding Venice to its list of World Heritage in Danger sites. However, a hotel worker says Venice needs cruise ships because tourists "spend big in a short time". A city official is worried that charging tourists to enter the city will turn Venice into a "theme park".

Level 3

Venice, Italy is one of the world's top tourist destinations. Before the coronavirus pandemic, around 20 million visitors a year visited the city. This caused many problems such as pollution from cruise ships and overcrowding. To deal with these problems, city officials are planning to charge tourists to visit the city's historical centre and its beautiful canals. According to Italy's *La Stampa* newspaper, entry into Venice could cost between three euros (\$3.50) and 10 euros. This could start from the summer of 2022. There are also plans to set a limit to the number of visitors who can enter the centre each day. Tourists may need to book their visit to Venice before they go.

Venice officials have talked for many years about the number of visitors flocking to the city. Environmentalists are worried about the damage cruise ships do to marine life in the Venice Lagoon. Heritage lovers want to protect Venice's famous squares and architecture from the millions of tourists. This made Italy's Culture Minister say that there is a "concrete risk" of the United Nations culture agency UNESCO adding Venice to its list of World Heritage in Danger sites. However, a hotel worker said Venice needed cruise ships. He said: "They spend big in a short time, before sailing out." A city official is worried that charging tourists a fee to enter will turn Venice into a "theme park".

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