NEWS LESSON

Would You Go There Without the Photo?



BEFORE YOU READ

1 Warm up

Talk about these questions with a partner.

1. Have you ever seen a photo that made you want to visit a place?
2. Do you take many pictures when you travel?
3. What makes a holiday a good one for you?

2 Key words

These words are in the article. Write the letter of the meaning (A to H) in each box.

1	**imagine**	☐	A	for the most part
2	**empty**	☐	B	to know something because you have seen it before
3	**recognise**	☐	C	to make a picture of something in your head
4	**mainly**	☐	D	to be happy to see someone arrive
5	**view**	☐	E	the cars and buses on a road
6	**welcome**	☐	F	with nothing or nobody in it
7	**worry**	☐	G	to feel afraid that something bad will happen
8	**traffic**	☐	H	what you can see from a place

3 Read

Read the article and underline the key words from task 2. The paragraphs are numbered.

A video can make a place look perfect. What happens when everybody else has seen the same video?

1 Imagine you are at home one evening, moving through videos on your phone. One of them shows a small beach somewhere warm. The sea is bright blue, the sand is almost empty, and for fifteen seconds you forget the weather outside your window. You save the video. You tell yourself that one day you will go.

2 Months later, you are standing on that beach. It is real and it is beautiful. There is also a line of about twenty people waiting to stand exactly where the camera stood.

3 That traveller is imagined, but the situation is easy to recognise. Social media has made the world feel closer. A short clip can show you a town you had never heard of, or a market you would never find in a guidebook. For a lot of people, watching those videos is part of the pleasure of planning a trip, and sometimes it is the only trip they take that year.

4 The difficulty is that a camera only shows what is inside the picture. The car park is outside it. So is the traffic and the hour somebody waited for the light to be right. A quiet street at six in the morning looks very different at midday. The street has not changed. The photograph simply showed one small part of it.

5 Pictures can also change what you do when you get there. One survey of travellers in Spain, Italy and the UK found that nearly four in ten had visited a place mainly in order to take a photo or a video. You may spend an afternoon looking for a view instead of enjoying the one in front of you. One friend wants to wait for the sunset. Another wants to put the phone away and order lunch.

6 None of this makes photographs the enemy. They help us remember a good day and show it to people who could not come. A video can bring customers to a small restaurant that needed them. People who live in busy places may welcome visitors, worry about the crowds, or feel both things on the same afternoon.

7 So perhaps the question is not whether to take pictures. It is what you want from the trip before you arrive. A famous view can be wonderful. So can a slow lunch in a place nobody told you to visit.

Sources: ABTA, Holiday Habits 2026-27 report; TUI Musement, Travel in the age of scrolling. Picture: .

4 True, false or not given

Circle **T** (true), **F** (false) or **NG** (the article does not say).

1. In the video, the sand on the beach looks almost empty. T F NG
2. When the traveller arrives at the beach, nobody else is there. T F NG
3. The traveller takes a photo on the beach. T F NG
4. In the survey, nearly four in ten travellers had visited a place mainly to take a photo or video. T F NG
5. The writer says photographs are bad for every holiday. T F NG

5 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed.

crowd	customers	difficulty	enemy	luggage	pleasure	souvenirs

1. Looking at maps before a trip gives many people real _____ , and they smile as they plan.
2. A small restaurant cannot stay open without enough _____ who pay for their meals.
3. The biggest _____ of travelling with small children is keeping them busy on long journeys.
4. Some people think tourists are the _____ of a quiet village, but others say they bring money.
5. We left the viewpoint early because the _____ of people made it impossible to see anything.

6 Verb forms

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. Last summer we _____ to a small beach that we saw in a video. (GO)
2. A friend _____ me a video of a town in Italy yesterday. (SEND)
3. He _____ a lovely view and stopped to take a photo. (SEE)
4. Before the video, we _____ anything about that beach. (NOT KNOW)
5. After the long queue, everyone _____ tired and hungry. (FEEL)

7 Language focus: prepositions

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed. Some words always go with one small word. Learn them as a pair: afraid of, depend on, interested in.

at	for	from	in	of	on	to

1. Many travellers are afraid _____ missing the best view.
2. Choosing a hotel often depends _____ the price and the view.
3. I'm terrible _____ taking photos in the dark.
4. She is interested _____ villages that tourists don't know.
5. The village is famous _____ its beautiful old bridge.

SPEAK

8 Talk about it

Discuss in pairs or small groups. Give reasons for your answers.

1. Would you visit a beautiful place if you could not take any pictures?
2. Is it a problem to go somewhere mainly for a photograph?
3. What matters more on holiday: the place or the people you are with?

9 Role-play: one famous beach or a quiet day

Work in pairs. Read your card, then have the conversation. Swap roles and do it again.

Student A · the friend with the video

You saw a video of a beautiful beach and you saved it. You want to spend the whole day there and take photos. Explain why it matters to you, and listen to your friend's worries.

Student B · the friend who wants a quiet day

You've heard the beach will be packed. You'd prefer a slow lunch somewhere nobody told you about. Say what worries you, then suggest a plan you can both accept.

Useful phrases

I'd love to see that beach from the video.

It's going to be packed, though.

We don't have to take a hundred photos.

How about half a day there and half somewhere quiet?

That's fair, I'm happy to compromise.

What matters most to you on this trip?

Afterwards, tell the class: where did you decide to go, and how did you share the time?

ANSWER KEY

2 Key words

1 C · 2 F · 3 B · 4 A · 5 H · 6 D · 7 G · 8 E

4 True, false or not given

1 T · 2 F · 3 NG · 4 T · 5 F

5 Vocabulary

1 pleasure · 2 customers · 3 difficulty · 4 enemy · 5 crowd

6 Verb forms

1 went · 2 sent · 3 saw · 4 did not know or didn't know · 5 felt

7 Language focus

1 of · 2 on · 3 at · 4 in · 5 for

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