

NEWS LESSON

Too Hot for a Beach Holiday?

BEFORE YOU READ

1 Warm up

Talk about these questions with a partner.

1. Would you choose a cool holiday over a hot one?
2. What weather can spoil a trip for you?
3. Do you prefer following the sun or avoiding the crowds?

2 Key words

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

1	**trend**	☐	A	less cold or less hot than before
2	**destination**	☐	B	the place where you are going on a trip
3	**wildfires**	☐	C	something that more and more people start to do
4	**pressure**	☐	D	tell someone that something bad may happen
5	**climate**	☐	E	a problem that comes when there is too much of something
6	**crowded**	☐	F	full of too many people
7	**milder**	☐	G	big fires in forests or on hills that spread fast
8	**warn**	☐	H	the usual weather in a place over many years

3 Read

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

Some travellers are swapping hot beaches for cool air, rain and a good night's sleep.

1 You have paid for a week in a beautiful city, but by midday the streets are too hot to explore. You end up hiding in an air-conditioned room, waiting for the evening. This is not the summer holiday you imagined. After several very hot European summers, some travellers are making a surprising choice: instead of flying south for sunshine, they are heading north for cool air, light rain and a comfortable night's sleep.

2 The trend is called a "coolcation". Visitors choose places such as Scotland, Norway or Sweden, where they can walk, kayak or visit towns without planning every hour around the heat. The attraction is not bad weather for its own sake. It is the chance to make the most of the whole day, sleep comfortably and come home feeling rested rather than exhausted.

3 Scotland is one place benefiting from the new interest in cooler holidays. In August, the BBC met holiday-cottage owners near Glencoe who said visitors were choosing the area partly because of its weather. Some guests were even pleased when it rained. They could walk, kayak or sleep comfortably without needing air conditioning. Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland have also attracted travellers looking for milder summer temperatures and beautiful natural scenery.

4 The travel industry has noticed. Research reported by Euronews in July found growing interest in northern destinations. Norway's tourism organisation said about one in five foreign visitors chose the country partly for its cooler weather. But experts warn that it is too early to say everyone is giving up Mediterranean holidays. Spain, Italy and Greece remain extremely popular, and people choose places for many reasons, including price, food, culture and beaches.

5 Cooler destinations also have their own problems. Norway's Lofoten Islands, for example, have experienced crowded roads, rubbish and pressure on local communities as tourism has grown. A peaceful-looking destination can fill up quickly when everybody has the same idea. And northern countries are not protected from climate change. Scotland experienced unusual heat and wildfires during the same summer that visitors were travelling there to cool down.

6 Perhaps the biggest change will be when people travel, rather than where. A family might still choose Greece, but visit in May or October instead of August. Others might spend summer in the mountains or by a northern lake. Sunshine will always be part of the holiday dream for many people. But as summers grow hotter, a little rain and a comfortable night's sleep are starting to sound surprisingly attractive to some travellers.

Sources: BBC News. Picture: AI illustration.

4 True, false or not given

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

1. Scotland experienced unusual heat and wildfires that summer. T F NG
2. Spain, Italy and Greece have stopped attracting summer visitors. T F NG
3. Norway's tourism organisation said about one in five foreign visitors chose Norway partly for its cooler weather. T F NG
4. Flights to Scandinavia have become cheaper as a result. T F NG
5. Some guests near Glencoe were unhappy when it rained. T F NG

5 Vocabulary

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

attractive	benefiting	communities	peaceful	protected	rubbish	scenery

1. Small hotels in the north are _____ from the growing number of visitors.
2. Visitors left a lot of _____ on the beach, and the town had to clean it up.
3. Too many tourists can cause problems for small local _____ .
4. Sun cream keeps your skin _____ from the sun.
5. The cheap price made the offer very _____ to us.

6 Verb forms

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. Some travellers are _____ north for cool air and light rain. (HEAD)
2. Norway's Lofoten Islands _____ many more visitors in recent years. (WELCOME)
3. In August, the BBC _____ holiday-cottage owners near Glencoe. (MEET)
4. Climate change _____ every country in Europe. (AFFECT)
5. Last summer, we _____ a week by a cold lake in Sweden. (SPEND)

7 Language focus: linking words

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed. Some linking words give a reason, some show a result, and some show a contrast. Think about the meaning before you choose.

because	but	despite	however	otherwise	so	unless

1. Some travellers choose Norway _____ the weather is cooler there.
2. It was too hot to walk, _____ we stayed in the hotel.
3. The beaches were lovely, _____ the heat was too strong.
4. Spain is still very popular. _____ , more people now visit in spring.
5. We will go to Scotland _____ the forecast is terrible.

SPEAK

8 Talk about it

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

1. Would you change a favourite destination because its summers felt too hot?
2. What makes a place a good holiday choice beyond its weather?
3. Could becoming a popular cool destination create new problems for local people?

9 Role-play: choosing a summer holiday

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

Student A · the friend who wants a cool holiday

You want to spend a week in Norway or Scotland this summer. You hate very hot weather and sleep badly when it is hot. Try to persuade your friend.

Student B · the friend who wants a beach holiday

You want a week in Spain. You love sunshine and swimming. Explain why, and listen to your friend's ideas. Try to agree on a plan.

Useful phrases

I'd rather go somewhere cooler.
I can't sleep when it's too hot.
That's a fair point, but I love the beach.
What if we went in May instead?
Let's compare the prices first.
I'm happy to compromise.

Afterwards, tell the class: where did you decide to go, and who gave way more?

ANSWER KEY

2 Key words

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

4 True, false or not given

1 T · 2 F · 3 T · 4 NG · 5 F

5 Vocabulary

1 benefiting · 2 rubbish · 3 communities · 4 protected · 5 attractive

6 Verb forms

1 heading · 2 have welcomed · 3 met · 4 affects · 5 spent

7 Language focus

1 because · 2 so · 3 but · 4 However · 5 unless

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