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DARK TOURISM

A social and cultural phenomenon

When you visit a site like Anne Frank's house in Amsterdam, Ground Zero in New York or a concentration camp, you are engaging in dark tourism.

More than 23 million people have paid their respects at the 9/11 Memorial since it opened in 2011. In 2015, the Auschwitz Birkenau Concentration Camp accepted 1.53 million visitors, and Cambodia's Killing Fields (Choeung Ek) drew more than 210,000 in 2014.

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**DARK TOURISM REFERS TO VISITING
SITES ASSOCIATED WITH DEATH AND
SUFFERING**

Some people think that dark tourism is just a commercialization of death.

Death is an essential component of human experience.

Sites of deaths and disasters may also act as archives for public memory and for this reason they should be properly understood.

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO DEATH TOURISM

- Travel to sites where death has occurred, i.e. Auschwitz
- Travel to graveyards and memorials
- Travel to sites where evidence of the dead has been assembled, i.e. museums.

These places have a major historical value, and that is the major reason people visit them.

The problem lies not with the choice of destination, but with the intention behind the choice.

The first thing we should ask ourselves: Are we travelling to a place to heighten our understanding and learn from past mistakes, or simply to indulge some morbid curiosity?

DOOM TOURISM

Doom tourism refers to visiting places, sites, countries or regions, which are under some kind of environmental and/or human threat. («Last chance tourism»)

There are critics that feel the growing popularity of doom tourism is speeding up the deterioration process of these threatened sites.

FAMOUS DOOM TOURISM LOCATIONS

- - THE MALDIVES - the islands are sinking
- THE GREAT BARRIER REEF - the coral is dying
- VENICE - the canal city is slowly sinking
- THE ALASKA GLACIERS - they are melting because of global warming