

Dear All,

Last week, I read an interesting news item. Venice decided to introduce a tourist tax in 2022. I thought it was novel till I read about it and realized that there are a few cities and countries who have a tourist tax, and they use the tax for very different reasons.

Travel Tourism is a \$ 9 billion industry, and this industry was badly impacted by Covid. Tourism dropped 74 % in 2020 over 2019. Macau which is a pure tourist city saw a drop of 79 % in tourism and its GDP fell by 43 %.

The 6 most popular destinations in the world are:

- France 90 million tourists
- Spain 84 million
- USA 79.3 million
- China 65.7 million
- Italy 64.5 million and
- Turkey 51 million

1. Thailand has a tourist tax post covid to cover for health insurance and development of the Grand Palace in Bangkok
2. Venice is introducing a tourist tax to control tourists and decongest the season. They want to prevent 'over tourism'
3. The European Union has a tourist tax, watch your hotel bills.
4. Bhutan has a very high tourist tax, but that tax covers guide, food, accommodation, transportation etc.
5. The Caribbean islands have a departure tax on hotel bills.
6. Croatia introduced a tax in 2019 to reduce peak summer inflow.
7. The Czech Republic has tax only for one city – Prague.
8. In France the tax is added to your hotel bill. In Paris and Lyon this tax is used for infrastructure development.
9. Germany has a culture tax and a bed tax in Frankfurt, Hamburg, and Berlin.
10. Greece put a tourist tax to cut the country's debt a few years ago.
11. Indonesia has a tourist tax in Bali to help build infrastructure and preserve the Bali culture.
12. Japan has a departure tax.
Netherlands has separate taxes for land and waterways.
13. Portugal has a tourist tax up to 7 days, after 7 days there is no charge.
14. Tourism tax is here to stay especially in countries that depend on tourism. This is much like the toll tax when bridges and tunnels were constructed. The Kennedy tunnel in New York still collects toll, because it is such an important part of the city funds!

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Shiv