

Paradise lost: Tourist spots in danger of being loved to death

October 24 2018, by Cecil Morella



Boracay has morphed from a backpacker paradise in the 1980s to an increasingly developed beach resort, fuelled by a quadrupling of visitors in just a decade

The Philippines' most famous resort island Boracay re-opens Friday after a six-month clean-up intended to fix the damage done by

unrestrained mass tourism.

Here are some other global hotspots that authorities have moved to protect:

Bali, Indonesia

Officials on the holiday island, Indonesia's top [tourist](#) destination, declared a "garbage emergency" last year after the palm-fringed Kuta beach was swallowed up by mountains of trash.

Indonesia, second only to China as the world's biggest contributor to marine debris, deployed 700 cleaners and 35 trucks to remove roughly 100 tonnes of debris each day from Kuta and two other popular beaches to a nearby landfill.

Easter Island, Chile

Known for its 900-odd human figures standing up to 10 metres (32 feet) tall, the isolated Pacific island severely curtailed visitor numbers in August this year due to concerns over the remote Chilean territory's environmental sustainability.

Tourist stays on the island, believed to have been settled by the Rapa Nui people around the 12th century, were cut to 30 days from 90, after the population—along with the crime rate—doubled in a few decades.

Those who wish to live on the island are now required to be a parent, partner or child of the Rapa Nui people.



Bali's Kuta beach is a popular spot for many of the tourists who visit the island every year

Dubrovnik, Croatia

Dubrovnik, which boasts an old walled city, saw cruise ship arrivals shoot through the roof after it was used as a backdrop in the smash television drama series "Game of Thrones", causing congestion as tourists made a beeline for the shoot locales.

Mayor Mato Frankovic told AFP the authorities plan to cut cruise ship numbers coming into the Adriatic port, while deploying cameras to count the number of people entering the old town.

Venice and Florence, Italy

Venice authorities are trialling a system that forces visitors to make a reservation if they want to go to the popular Saint Mark's Square during peak hours.

They are also fining tourists 500 euros (\$585) for bathing or having picnics in the city's famous canals.



The Moais—stone statues of the Rapa Nui culture—on Easter Island, are on many global travellers' bucket lists

In Florence, officials have resorted to hosing down public spots such as

church steps where many visitors congregate to eat picnics. This aims to prevent people from sitting on the wet pavement.

Machu Picchu, Peru

Peruvian authorities increased surveillance at the 15th-century Incan citadel high in the Andes mountain range in 2014 as nude photos and streaking became increasingly common.

Tourists have since at least 2013 been posting their naked selfies on social media, which the government described as a "disrespectful act" aimed solely at getting attention.

Maya Bay, Thailand

The glittering Thai bay immortalised in the movie "The Beach" was closed indefinitely on October 1 to allow it to recover from the impact of mass tourism, after a four-month respite failed to ease beach erosion and pollution.

About 5,000 tourists had arrived by boat each day to the beach framed by limestone cliffs that was made famous by the 2000 film starring Leonardo DiCaprio.



'Game of Thrones' sparked a huge surge in Dubrovnik's visitor numbers



The many canals of Venice are a popular tourist draw



The Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu is embedded within a dramatic landscape at the meeting point between the Peruvian Andes and the Amazon Basin



Maya Bay was once a pristine deserted beach, but has been swamped in recent years by as many as 5,000 selfie-taking tourists every day, prompting authorities to shut it

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