

Nine things you love that are being wrecked by climate change

December 27 2019, by Rod Lamberts



Enjoy the skiing while the snow lasts. Credit: [Yun Huang Yong](#), [CC BY](#)

There are so many stories flying around about the horrors already being

wrought by climate change, you're probably struggling to keep up.

The warnings have been there for decades but still there are those who deny it. So perhaps it's timely to look at how [climate](#) change is affecting you, by wrecking some of the things you love.

1. Not the holiday you hoped for

We often choose holiday destinations with weather in mind. Sadly, [climate change](#) may see your usual destinations become less inviting, and maybe even disappear entirely.

But there's more to think about than your favourite beach retreat being drowned, or the [Great Barrier Reef](#) decaying before you see it.

Now we have to worry that "[extreme weather events pose significant risks to travellers](#)." The warnings here range from travel disruption, such as delayed flights due to storms, through to severe danger from getting caught in cyclones, floods or snowstorms.

Simply getting where you need to go could become an adventure holiday itself, but not a fun one.

2. Last chance to see some wildlife

There are more and more examples of animals falling victim to [climate-change](#) induced [extreme weather events](#), such as the horror of [mass "cremations"](#) of koalas in the path of recent Australian bush fires or [bats dropping dead](#) during heatwaves.

On top of that, news of the latest climate-related [animal extinctions](#) are becoming as common as reports of politicians doing nothing about it.

3. History and heritage at risk

The Italian city of Venice recently experienced its [worst flooding since the mid 1960s](#), and the [local mayor](#) clearly connected this with climate change.

Aside from the human calamity unfolding there, we are seeing one of Europe's most amazing and unique cities and a [World Heritage site devastated before our eyes](#).

Climate change threatens more than 13,000 archaeological sites in [North America](#) alone if sea levels rise by 1m. That goes up to more than 30,000 sites if sea levels rise by 5m.

UNESCO is worried that climate change also [threatens underwater heritage sites](#), such as ruins and shipwrecks. For example, rising salinity and warming waters increases ship-worm populations that consume wooden shipwrecks in the Baltic sea.

4. Taking the piste

Warming temperatures have already had [negative impacts](#) on the [US snow sports industry](#) since at least 2001.

In Australia, ski resorts are expected to see significant drops in snow fall by 2040 and, as temperatures warm, they will be [unable to compensate](#) for this by snow-making, because it doesn't work if ambient temperatures are too high.

Perhaps recent efforts to make [artificial snow](#) will give us a few more years on the slopes, but I'm not holding my breath.

5. Too hot for sport and exercise

It's not just snow sports that will be affected. As temperatures warm, simply being outside in some parts of the world will not only be less pleasant, but more [harmful](#), causing greater [risk of heat stress](#) doing any sport or exercise.

That also means lower incentives for—and greater difficult in undertaking—incidental exercise, such as [walking to the bus stop](#).

6. Pay more for your coffee

As the climate changes, your coffee hits will probably become [rarer and more expensive](#), too.

A [report](#) by the Climate Institute in 2016 suggested coffee production could drop by [50% by 2050](#).

Given how rapidly negative climate predictions have been updated in the three years since, this might now be considered optimistic. Yikes.

7. You and your family's health

As the climate changes, the health of [your children](#), [your parents and your grandparents](#) will be at greater risk through increases in air pollution, heatwaves and other factors.

It can be heartening to see the strong, intelligent and [positive action](#) being taken [by the world's youth](#) in response to the lack of climate action by many governments.

But the fact this is a result of literal, existential crises becoming a normal

part of every day life for young people is utterly horrifying.

8. Home, sweet home

The recent [bush fires in Australia](#) and [the United States](#) reveal how dramatic and destructive the effects climate change can be to where you live. Hundreds of houses have already burned down in Australia this fire season.

Fires are getting [more frequent and more ferocious](#). The seasonal windows where we safely used controlled burning to clear bushfire fuel [are shrinking](#). It's not only harder to fight fires when they happen, it's becoming harder to prevent them as well.

Fires aren't the only threat to homes. All around the planet, more and more [houses are being destroyed](#) by rising seas and increasingly wild storms, all thanks to climate change.

9. Not the wine, please!

Still not convinced climate change is wrecking things you love? What if I told you it's even coming for your wine.

Less water, soil degradation and higher temperatures earlier in the season all lead to [dramatic negative effects on grapes and wine-making](#).

One small upside is that disruption to traditional wine growing regions is creating opportunities to [develop new wine growing areas](#). But there is no reason to believe these areas will maintain stable grape growing conditions as climate change progresses.

So what now?

It's easy to be sad. But to change our trajectory, it's better to be mad. In the words of that great English singer songwriter John Lydon (aka Johnny Rotten), "[anger is an energy](#)."

So maybe use this list as motivation to think, talk and act. Use it as fuel to make [small](#), [large](#) or a combination of changes.

Share your concerns, share your solutions, and do this relentlessly.

What's happening right now is huge, overwhelming, and also inevitable without concerted action. There's no sugar-coating it: [climate change](#) is wrecking the things we love. Time to step it up a notch.

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