**The Tourism Problem**

1 Standing at the top of Las Ramblas, Barcelona’s biggest street, I saw a vast sea of people flowing quickly in every direction. The variety was astounding: young and old; rich and poor; a massive assortment of nationalities spread as far as I could see. This scene is commonplace in the popular tourist destination of Barcelona but crowds swell during the summer when people from all over the globe descend, like an invading army, onto this small town.

7 Barcelona sits facing the Mediterranean sea and boasts a bustling city life and relaxed beach community, something very few cities can offer. With its beautiful architecture, rich history and beach within walking distance it is the perfect city break.

10 The 1992 Olympic Games caused a change in fortune for Barcelona. It transformed from a grey, provincial city with a relatively small tourism rate into one of Europe’s top tourist destinations with a bulging holiday industry. Tacky tourist shops selling castanets and T-shirts replaced traditional shops selling locally sourced produce to locals.

14 At first I was astounded to learn that there was a movement against tourism and that locals were actively campaigning to limit the amount of people allowed to visit the city. Surely they wanted to show off their culture? Surely they made a lot of money? Surely they were proud of their city? At the time I was confused and bewildered by the opinions of those living in Barcelona.

19 But I now understand their anger.

20 With the arrival of so many tourists comes an influx of problems. Your streets become crowded and not just with people but with mechanical scooters, Segways and cyclists. Each of these pose a danger to innocent locals trying to do their weekly shop or nip to the dentist. House prices also rise as more and more property is snapped up to be rented out. Savvy entrepreneurs have realised that flats in Barcelona can make a lot of money when rented out for a few days so they are buying them no matter the cost. This leads to prices skyrocketing and poor locals being priced out the market. A more serious problem has to do with crime. Wherever there are large groups of people there will be crime. Barcelona is currently dealing with a pickpocket problem and a common warning before going is to ensure that expensive belongings are secure when going out. But it’s not just pickpockets. Fake goods are sold on street corners, drugs are offered by shady characters and violence always seems to spring up whenever large groups and alcohol are mixed.

32 So while Barcelona remains a hot holiday destination with lots to do, local residents have definitely cooled to the idea of welcoming such a large wave of tourists coming and ruining their beautiful city.

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| 1 | Re-read lines 1 – 6. How does the writer’s language convey the amount of people who visit Barcelona | 6 |
| 2 | Re-read lines 7 – 9. In your own words explain what Barcelona has to offer tourists | 3 |
| 3 | Re-read lines 10 – 13. How does the writer use contrast to show the change in Barcelona? | 4 |
| 4 | Re-read lines 14 – 18. How does the writer’s language show his confusion at the movement against tourism? | 4 |
| 5 | What is the function of line 19? | 2 |
| 6 | Re-read lines 20 – 31. In your own words explain the issues locals have with the increase in tourism. | 4 |
| 7 | How effective do you find the final paragraph as a conclusion to the text? | 2 |