

Fig. 1 for Question 1

Benicàssim – four day Music Festival, Spain (Festival Internacional de Benicàssim)

This four day culture and music festival takes place in Benicàssim, a small coastal town in eastern Spain. Up to 40 000 visitors come to this quiet Spanish seaside town one week every July. Many visitors stay in the local accommodation but most use the campsite that is run by the event organisers and situated next to the festival site. It is open for 9 days; this makes it possible for visitors to have a longer holiday. The festival site is purpose-built for hosting cultural and musical events as it is flat and accessible. Around the main stage are stalls and shops where visitors can enjoy local food, arts and crafts. The festival runs from 22:00 until 06:00 daily these being the coolest hours of the day. The majority of visitors are between the ages of 18 and 35. As well as Spanish performers, the event attracts famous bands and singers from all over the world.

Benicàssim is really a holiday town for domestic tourists. It is next to the beautiful “Desierto de las Palmas” mountains.

Fig. 1

Fig. 2 for Question 2

Travel and tourism in Thailand

Ecotourism

The beautiful country of Thailand is working hard to create eco-awareness. It does this by encouraging visitors to spend their time doing soft adventure sports

such as cycling, trekking, or kayaking in the country. These will have less detrimental impact on the environment than those who travel around in tour buses with their carbon emissions. However, choosing a responsible tour operator is not easy, as just about all of them use the word 'ecotourism' in their brochures and websites.

Nevertheless, some hotel groups, such as the Banyan Tree resorts in Bangkok and Phuket, have made huge efforts over the past decade to implement sustainable projects, including a pledge to reduce their carbon footprint in all of their resorts by 10% each year. They also ensure that their eco-friendly, luxury resorts use little electricity and recycle as much as possible.

Wildlife

In more than 110 national parks, visitors can see the local wildlife species in residence, as well as appreciate the delicate balance of each habitat. The more popular parks have clearly displayed interpretation facilities at their visitor centres, as well as trails with bridges and markers explaining the important elements of the environment and its inhabitants.

However, there are conflicts between economic and ecological interests. Environmental problems include deforestation, air and water pollution, flooding, habitat loss, and consequent species loss. Among the 33 mammals in danger of extinction in Thailand are tigers, leopards, and elephants. Only a few thousand elephants remain and many of these spend their time entertaining tourists at elephant camps.



Fortunately, several non-government organisations (NGOs), such as the World Wildlife Fund For Nature, have an active presence in the country, attempting to draw attention to the most serious problems. They also work with the Thai authorities who are, themselves, also taking steps to preserve the nature and wildlife of its many different ecological zones, from swamp jungles in the south, to mountain forests in the north, to the many marine parks in the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea.



Fig. 2

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