

Postcard from hell 来自地狱的明信片

Vocabulary: *Suffering* 词汇: 受苦受难

Sun, a sandy beach and a nice view. Is that what all tourists want? Not quite. Trips to sites of death, **brutality** and terror are on the increase. About 350,000 people now visit Robben Island in South Africa every year. That's where Nelson Mandela was **imprisoned** for 18 years. The prison was closed in 1996 and is now a so-called '**dark tourism**' destination.

This trend has **intrigued** researchers at the University of Central Lancashire, which has even created an Institute for Dark Tourism Research. They examine why people feel **compelled** to visit places like Auschwitz in Poland or New York's Ground Zero. Is it just a case of **morbid fascination**?



Pripyat, where Chernobyl's workers lived, has been a ghost town for 28 years

Director Philip Stone says his research suggests that visitors want to find some kind of meaning in these places of **suffering**. They try to **empathise** with victims and imagine the motivations of the **perpetrators**, he says. Then they have a **sense of relief** that they can step back into the safety of their own lives.

And what appeal could Chernobyl, the site of a **catastrophic** nuclear accident in 1986, have? Stone says such **grim** places make people face their "own **mortality**". In a culture that usually removes death from the **public domain**, these destinations are strongly associated with loss of life, he says.

And yet this kind of activity has a long history, according to Stone: "It's always been there. You could say that a medieval **execution** was an early form of dark tourism."

The researcher, who worked in the tourism industry before becoming an academic, also pointed out an example of dark tourism closer to home. In Pendle in Lancashire in the 17th Century 11 people were charged with murder by **witchcraft**.

"Four hundred years ago they were innocent people who were killed. Now they're a tourist destination," says Stone.

What about you: would you visit the battlefields of World War I and II or the former prison of Robben Island?

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Where was Nelson Mandela held for 18 years?
2. What do visitors feel when they leave Auschwitz, according to Philip Stone?
3. Why are people likely to go to Chernobyl to think about death?
4. What example does Philip Stone give to show dark tourism is not new?
5. Which word is used to indicate someone who commits a crime?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. There was a fire in the city centre. I _____ when I found out you were safe at home.

empathised	felt compelled	had a sense of relief	felt upset
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2. I wonder why people like to visit sad places? I _____ by it.

am relieved	have a fascination	empathise	am intrigued
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3. The detective said he would only put the name of the suspects _____ after the investigation was concluded.

in the public domain	in society	who are perpetrators	for execution
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4. Chernobyl is quite a _____ place to visit, but many tourists do go there.

suffering	grim	catastrophic	witchcraft
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5. It makes sense to visit the Eiffel Tower. It is a very well-known _____ destination.

tourist	touristic	touring	touristical
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Where was Nelson Mandela held for 18 years? **In a prison cell on Robben Island in South Africa.**
2. What do visitors feel when they leave Auschwitz, according to Philip Stone? **He says they feel a sense of relief because they live in a safe place, unlike the victims of the concentration camp.**
3. Why are people likely to go to Chernobyl to think about death? **Because our culture avoids the subject, according to Philip Stone.**
4. What example does Philip Stone give to show dark tourism is not new? **People watching executions in the Middle Ages.**
5. Which word is used to indicate someone who commits a crime? **Perpetrator.**

Exercise 练习

1. There was a fire in the city centre. I **had a sense of relief** when I found out you were safe at home.
2. I wonder why people like to visit sad places? I **am intrigued** by it.
3. The detective said he would only put the name of the suspects **in the public domain** after the investigation was concluded.
4. Chernobyl is quite a **grim** place to visit, but many tourists do go there.
5. It makes sense to visit the Eiffel Tower. It is a very well-known **tourist** destination.

Glossary 词汇表

brutality	暴行
to imprison	监禁
dark tourism	黑色旅游
intrigued	使某人好奇
compelled	觉得必须做（某事）
morbid fascination	病态的迷恋
suffering	受苦受难
to empathise	同情
the perpetrator	加害者，行凶者
sense of relief	如释重负的感觉
catastrophic	灾难性的
grim	可怕的，压抑的
mortality	死亡率
public domain	公共领域
execution	死刑
witchcraft	巫术