**Title:** Tourism and environment in Arctic region

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**Introduction**

People always want to get new experience, to explore the world so it’s natural that humans want to see Arctic region even though it has extreme conditions for us. They have different goals, for example, someone wants to test their self’s limits, or another desires to visit areas with unusual nature and the weather, but the result is the same – more and more tourists move to Arctic region and it obviously impacts on an Arctic environment.

Attributes that characterize the Arctic environment include persistence of cold (long winters and short cool summers), tundra with permafrost (year-round frozen ground), large seasonal differences in amount of sunlight, and a very limited range of plant foods usable by humans. All these attributes make arctic so unfriendly for humans and so attractive in the same time because people always have curios nature and desire of new experiences. So tourism in Arctic region is growing and will continue grow in the future.

Now there are many programs which have aims to save Arctic nature. For example, WWF cooperates with governments because governmental decisions around the world guide and regulate the actions of individuals and businesses (they press governments to fully implement commitments to the Arctic, including The Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy, The Arctic Council’s Circumpolar Protected Areas Network, Treaties and conventions on migratory birds, toxics, climate change and biodiversity). And also they communicate with business and people to promote mutual respect for the nature, and it’s really good. And I think that it’s very important to find a balance between tourism and an environment in addition to all what was said before.

Arctic region is the area within the Arctic Circle, including the icy North Pole and the Arctic Ocean. Arctic has many glaciers, rivers of ice formed from snow falling over thousands, even millions, of years. Glaciers spread and move with freezing and thawing temperatures and by the force of their own weight and gravity. Glaciers form on land, near lakes, and along the coast. When the tip of a glacier reaches the edge of the sea, it breaks off and forms an iceberg in a process called calving. The Arctic region also includes the tundra—meaning “treeless plain”— unique ecosystem. The plants and animals of the tundra must be adapted to face all challenges, including not only extremes of day length and temperatures, but also harsh winter winds, long periods of below freezing temperatures, and permanently frozen ground. Hundreds of plant species have adaptations allowing them to thrive in the arctic region. Plants that grow in the arctic are adapted to grow very quickly in the short window of prime growing conditions each summer.

All plants and animals adapted for so cruel environment but will they adapt for human tourism activities? How can we preserve the nature from us? How not to hurt the Arctic ecosystem?

**Aim and objectives of the project**

The main aim of the research is to find a balance between tourism and an environment, to find new ways to protect unique environment in Arctic. There are some objectives of the project work which include:

- Analyzing the situation in Arctic region;

- Collecting and learning relevant data;

- Summarizing all methods which are used to protect an environment now;

- Finding new ways to preserve Arctic nature.

**Methodology and data**

I’m going to make qualitative and quantitative research with using relevant information about Arctic region. Also I’m going to use some statistic of last 10-50 years to see a dynamic, how an environment has changed since people started to go regularly in Arctic.

**(Expected) Results**

This project work will be a sum of knowledge about Arctic which will be written shortly, and I expect to find some new methods to protect nature from tourism impact which nowadays is becoming more and more popular.

**References**

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