

B2-C1 Worksheet: Village Ways in the Indian Himalayas - 13 March 2026

Article

In the foothills of the Indian Himalayas, a tourism project called Village Ways is helping remote communities earn a living without giving up their traditions. The idea is not to build large hotels or bus in crowds, but to welcome small groups of walkers into village guesthouses and let local people lead the experience. Over the years, the scheme has spread from a handful of communities to dozens more, offering visitors a slower way to travel and giving residents a reason to stay put rather than move away for work.

Guests walk from village to village through forests and farmland, stopping in simple homestays where meals, guiding and porter work are shared among local families. Supporters say this model keeps money in the area and shines a light on customs that might otherwise fade away. It also gives former hunters and farmers a chance to branch out into tourism while still protecting the landscape around them. Instead of rushing through famous sights, travellers are encouraged to soak up daily life and get a feel for mountain communities on their own terms.

The project is not a magic wand, and organisers admit there are hurdles such as ageing populations and quieter seasons after the pandemic. Even so, Village Ways seems to have struck a chord. By backing low-impact tourism and spreading income more evenly, it offers a practical example of how travel can support both people and place. At a time when many destinations are struggling with overtourism, this more measured approach may point the way ahead.

True/False

Decide if each statement is True (T) or False (F).

1. Village Ways focuses on attracting very large numbers of tourists.
2. The project offers local residents an alternative to leaving for work elsewhere.
3. Visitors normally stay in large luxury hotels.
4. The article suggests the model helps money remain in local communities.
5. Some local people have moved into tourism-related work.
6. The writer claims the project has solved every rural problem completely.
7. Organisers mention difficulties such as ageing populations.
8. The article presents Village Ways as one possible response to overtourism.

Phrase Match

Match the phrases (1-10) to the correct definitions (A-J).

Phrases (1-10)	Definitions (A-J)
1. give up	A. to support an idea or project
2. stay put	B. to start doing something new or different
3. shine a light on	C. to understand the atmosphere of something
4. fade away	D. to stop doing or having something
5. branch out	E. to suggest a future direction
6. soak up	F. to show or draw attention to something
7. get a feel for	G. to seem familiar or emotionally effective
8. struck a chord	H. to remain where you are
9. point the way	I. to absorb and enjoy an experience
10. back	J. to disappear gradually

Synonym Match

Match the words (1-10) to the correct synonyms (A-J).

Words (1-10)	Synonyms (A-J)
1. remote	A. the appearance of the land
2. handful	B. place where people travel to
3. customs	C. a very small number
4. landscape	D. too many visitors in one place
5. practical	E. calm and carefully controlled
6. evenly	F. useful and realistic
7. destination	G. a person who lives in a place
8. measured	H. traditions or usual ways of behaving
9. resident	I. far away from towns or cities
10. overtourism	J. spread in a balanced way

Use the new language

Please choose 5 words or phrases and make your own sentence using the new word or phrase.

Discussion Questions

Student A

1. Would you enjoy staying in a village homestay? Why or why not?
2. Do you prefer quiet destinations or famous tourist hotspots?
3. What helps you get a feel for a place when you travel?
4. Have you ever visited a rural area that struck a chord with you?
5. What local customs do visitors need to respect in your country?
6. Do you think small-group travel is better than mass tourism?
7. Would you rather travel slowly or try to see everything quickly?
8. What kind of landscape do you most enjoy when travelling?

Student B

1. Can tourism really help communities stay put, or does it eventually change them too much?
2. Should governments back low-impact tourism more strongly?
3. How can destinations prevent overtourism before it becomes a serious problem?
4. Is it possible to share tourism income more evenly in practice?
5. What balance should exist between preserving traditions and welcoming outsiders?
6. Are travellers responsible for learning about local customs before visiting a place?
7. Could projects like Village Ways point the way for tourism in other countries?
8. When does tourism improve a place, and when does it begin to damage it?

Answer Key

True/False: 1=F, 2=T, 3=F, 4=T, 5=T, 6=F, 7=T, 8=T

Phrase Match: 1=D, 2=H, 3=F, 4=J, 5=B, 6=I, 7=C, 8=G, 9=E, 10=A

Synonym Match: 1=I, 2=C, 3=H, 4=A, 5=F, 6=J, 7=B, 8=E, 9=G, 10=D

Example sentences with the phrases

1. He refused to give up his weekend walks, even during the winter.
2. We decided to stay put and wait until the rain stopped.
3. The documentary shines a light on how hard village life can be in the mountains.
4. Many childhood traditions slowly fade away if nobody keeps them alive.
5. After years in teaching, she decided to branch out and start her own business.
6. On holiday, I like to sit in a cafe and soak up the atmosphere.
7. Spend a day there and you will soon get a feel for the town.
8. His speech struck a chord with anyone who has ever lived far from home.
9. These small projects could point the way towards more responsible travel.
10. Local people backed the plan because it created jobs without harming the area.