

Iceland's Tourism Choice

Unsustainable

Future

Whaling

Tourism

Exploitation

Sustainable

Past

Conservation

To Whale, or Watch a Whale? THAT is the question...

The real issue facing Icelandic tourism is simple. Whaling or Whale-watching?

There is no evidence that whaling and whale-watching can happily co-exist. Whale-watching, and nature based tourism is the sustainable option for Iceland

Icelandic whalers are currently hunting a quota of 38 minke whales for 'scientific' purposes. Since the meat from this hunt ends up in supermarkets it is clear that this is merely commercial whaling by another name.

The Icelandic government intends to expand the 'scientific programme' and kill 250 whales next year, and has publicly stated that they want to return to full-scale commercial whaling in 2006.

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) has not approved Iceland's 'scientific programme' There is an internationally agreed moratorium on whaling. Tourism is the second biggest industry in Iceland after fishing

The whale-watching industry in Iceland has grown exponentially in the last 10 years or so, and almost 40% of visitors to Iceland go whale-watching

In 2002 whale-watching generated more than US\$ 10 million for Iceland

The UK is the third most important tourist market for Iceland after Germany and the USA The Whale Watching Association of Iceland (WWAI) opposes whaling

In August 2003 a coalition of 21 European tour operators issued a statement of concern about Iceland resuming whaling

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