

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN REPRESSED BY SHOPS THAT cater solely to tourists. Even the tourists have started to complain now - because all they get to see is other tourists."

Amsterdam is by no means the only European city where locals suffer from growing numbers of visitors. This summer, residents of Venice and Barcelona held angry protests at the effect mass tourism was having on their cities.

Amsterdam has introduced a series of measures to tackle the problem, including a crackdown on Airbnb rentals that do not stick to the letting rules, placing a moratorium on new hotels, increasing the tax on tourists' rooms and banning more shops targeting tourists in the historic centre. This week it banned *bierfiets* or "beer-bikes" - part vehicle, part bar.

To a certain extent, the problem is of the city's own making. During the global financial crisis of 2008, Amsterdam decided to heavily invest in tourism.

"We saw it as our lifebuoy," says Sebastian Meijer, who speaks for the council on economic affairs. "For years we have actively stimulated property developers to build hotels in the city, and our marketing organisation travelled around the world promoting Amsterdam as a tourist destination."

It worked - perhaps too well. In a decade, the number of hotel guests in Amsterdam increased by 61%. The total number of visitors leapt from 11m in 2005 to almost 18m in 2016.

That's a lot for a city of 850,000 residents with a historic 17th-century centre. Many streets and alleyways are simply too narrow to allow large crowds of people to pass. The growth is expected to continue to 23m visitors in 2030, according to Meijer. "We now realise we need to get a grip on this," he says. "Amsterdam wants to be a hospitable city, but mass tourism has too many drawbacks."

Iping considers that an understatement. "I am glad they realise something



"The chemist, hairdresser and shoe shop have been replaced by shops selling ice cream and cannabis"

TOURISTS. It has had a real impact on social coherence, she says. Residents tend to take care of their neighbourhoods, "whereas tourists are mainly interested in having a good time".

Bert Nap, a 59-year-old teacher and writer, has seen this at first hand on the small, picturesque square, close to the red light district where he has lived for more than 40 years. "The problem is that Amsterdam has always advertised itself as a city where everything is possible," he says. "That's why many tourists indulge in wild partying. They do things here they wouldn't dream of doing at home."

In the past, tourism in the city observed seasons, he remembers. "You had busy times, but there were quiet times too. Nowadays it's always crowded. When I go outside, I cannot keep my normal pace, I have to adapt to the slow stroll of the tourist masses in the street. I have nothing against guided tours through my neighbourhood. But it's a different thing when 40 people block the entrance to your house while listening to a guide who's giving a loud, 20-minute performance that looks more like a stand-up comedy act than a guided tour."

He says his neighbourhood's identity has been lost among the masses. "For me a line was crossed when a Venetian gondola appeared in the canals. That's when we realised the tourist industry was definitely taking over."

Meijer says the council is hoping to come up with more ways to influence the behaviour of tourists. "For a long time our marketing policy was simply aimed at making people come to Amsterdam. Now we are want to spread a new message: 'come to Amsterdam, but please behave'."

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Clockwise from top: tourist boats follow a canal in the Voorburgwal area; one of the part-vehicle, 'beer bikes'; fridge magnets of shops; and a pair of souvenir clogs Main photograph: Getty

'I'm only bleeding': menstruation art displayed on Stockholm metro

Elle Hunt

The Swedish capital's metro, or tunnel-

women with unshaven legs and visible menstrual blood.

One image, of an ice skater in repose

Strömquist told the broadcaster she was used to her work causing controversy, and felt The Night Garden had provoked

'It's weird that it's

not have a certain policy regarding art expressions of the naked human body. "Art is a form of tradition w