
THE FAROE ISLANDS CLOSE TO TOURISTS, OPEN TO VOLUNTEERS

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Faroe Islands – For two days, the archipelago is urging tourists not to visit but to volunteer for local improvement projects instead.

In order to keep its ‘unspoiled, unexplored, unbelievable’ motto a reality, **Visit Faroe Islands** has launched an **initiative** that will close the islands to visitors on 26–27 April . However, on the same days it is inviting 100 volunteers to come and work with local residents on projects that will protect the islands’ natural habitat.

The islands, located between Iceland and Scotland, launched the campaign to avoid the pitfalls of overtourism, an epidemic that has hit its neighbouring Iceland. ‘We could see that more tourists affect nature, which is very vulnerable here,’ says Guðrið Højgaard, director at Visit Faroe Islands. While the islands have not yet been overwhelmed by tourists, the country welcomed an estimated 110,000 visitors in 2018, while being home to just 50,000 residents.

To discover how destinations can protect heritage sites and beat over-tourism, read our **round-up** of the steps governments are taking.