

## IELTS Holiday and travel vocabulary

### Part 1-style questions

Examiner: What kind of holiday do you like?

Miguel: I try to avoid **tourist traps** ... I like **to get away from it all** and prefer going somewhere **off the beaten track** ... last year I had **the holiday of a lifetime** ... a two week **wildlife safari** in Kenya.

Examiner: What do you like to do when you're on holiday?

Anna: I enjoy visiting the local **places of interest** ... I like **to go sightseeing** and always sign up for **guided tours** as it's a chance to be shown around and take photographs ... one of my hobbies.

Examiner: Do you have many tourists in your country?

Amy: Yes ... we have a lot of **holiday resorts** along the coast that are popular with tourists ... most people come on **package holidays** and stay in one of the many hotels and **self-catering** apartments.

### Part 2-style task

Describe a beautiful place you once visited. You should say:

- when you went to this place
- where it was
- who you went with

and say why you liked it so much.

Sally: A few years ago I went on a **long weekend** to the Lake District in the UK ... it's a very popular **holiday destination** in the north of England ... I went on my own and had a wonderful time ... I stayed in a **youth hostel** and met some really nice people ... but the most memorable thing about the holiday were the **breathtaking views** ... and lovely **picturesque villages** ... it can get very busy with **hordes of tourists** so I decided **to go out of season** in the autumn ... the weather was fantastic and the shops were full of **local crafts** ... a really great holiday ... it's certainly not the kind of **short break** for someone looking for a busy nightlife but if you want to relax in the middle of **stunning landscape** I would certainly recommend a holiday to the Lake District.

### Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What do you think has led to the growth in the tourism industry?

Miguel: It's much easier and affordable to travel now ... nowadays you can get cheap **charter-flights** or **all-in packages** ... to somewhere near or to a **far-off destination**.

Examiner: How do people tend to choose a destination?

Anna: The Internet is a great source of information and high street **travel agents** are still very popular ... that's where I like to go to get **holiday brochures** for the place I'm interested in.

Examiner: People sometimes say flying is the most glamorous form of travel. Do you agree?  
Amy: I'm not so sure really ... flying can be quite boring ... queuing up at the **check-in desk** ... going through **passport control** ... sitting for ages in the **departure lounge** ... then the flight itself can be quite uncomfortable ... no ... I'm not sure I agree.

#### Definitions

- **all-in package/package holiday**: a holiday where you purchase the travel and accommodation together
- **breathtaking view**: an extremely beautiful view
- **charter-flight**: a cheaper form of flying than a scheduled flight
- **check-in desk**: the place at the airport where you register for your flight and deposit your luggage
- **departure lounge**: where you wait for your flight to be called
- **far-off destination**: somewhere a long way away
- **to get away from it all**: to take a holiday to escape a busy or stressful lifestyle
- **guided tour**: an organised group shown around a place of interest by an expert
- **holiday brochure**: a glossy publication with details of holiday packages
- **holiday destination**: where you go for a holiday
- **holiday of a lifetime**: a special holiday that you are unlikely to repeat
- **holiday resort**: a place where lots of people go for a holiday
- **hordes of tourists**: crowds of tourists
- **local crafts**: objects produced locally
- **long weekend**: an extended weekend holiday including Friday or Monday
- **out of season**: outside of the main holiday period
- **picturesque village**: very pretty village
- **passport control**: the place where your passport is checked
- **places of interest**: sites of interest to tourists
- **wildlife safari**: a holiday, often in Africa, to observe wild animals
- **self-catering**: a holiday where you supply your own food
- **short break**: a short holiday
- **to go sightseeing**: to look around the tourist sites
- **stunning landscape**: extremely beautiful countryside
- **travel agent**: a shop that specialises in booking holidays
- **tourist trap**: somewhere where too many tourists go
- **youth hostel**: a cheap form of accommodation

#### IELTS Speaking Vocabulary. Travel & Holidays

- **accommodation**: a room or building in which you stay during holidays or live. *While I'm travelling, my favourite types of accommodation are hotels.*
- **all holiday**: a time after you lost your job. *He lost his job yesterday. Now it's all holiday for him.*

- **all-inclusive:** a hotel deal where the price includes accommodation, meals and drinks at any time. *I've never thought that hotels with all-inclusive service are so comfortable! You can grab a piece of cake at 6 a.m. or get a cocktail at midnight.*
- **half-board:** if you request 'half-board' at a hotel, breakfast and dinner would be included in the hotel price (as part of the package). *John and Lily liked their tour with half-board service. They spent breakfasts and dinners in the hotel and bought lunches in the nearby cafes.*
- **full-board:** if you request 'full-board' at a hotel, that would include all three meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) in the price of your accommodation.
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- **self-catering:** a holiday deal where meals are not provided. *Mary thinks that self-catering is neither pleasant nor efficient.*
- **to book (something):** to arrange and confirm a place on a flight, a room in a hotel or a ticket for an event in the future. *If you book your plane tickets in advance, they will be much cheaper.*
- **brehtaking view:** an amazing view. *I've seen many breathtaking views during my journey to Paris.*
- **busman's holiday:** when you spend your free time similarly to the time when you work. This expression comes from the idea that a bus driver would spend his holiday traveling somewhere on a bus. *Unfortunately, many people spend a busman's holiday nowadays.*
- **charter flight:** a cheap regular flight. *Due to our modest budget, we had to take a charter-flight.*
- **check-in desk:** the place at the airport where you register for your flight and deposit your luggage.
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- **far-off destination:** a distant place. *Australia is a far-off destination, nonetheless I want to visit it.*
- **getting away from it all:** escaping in order to rest from a daily routine. *After I passed my exams, I wanted to get away from it all for at least a couple of days.*
- **go off the beaten track:** to visit an uncommon place. *Unlike my brother, I prefer to go off the beaten track.*
- **guided tour:** a tour in which a group of people is guided by an expert. *Guided tours are a great way to learn about different places of interest.*
- **head for:** go in a direction for. *I'm heading for France for my next holidays.*
- **holiday brochure:** a publication with details of holiday. *Our guide gave us a great brochure about our hotel.*
- **holiday destination:** where you go for a holiday. *We chose New York as our holiday destination for the next summer.*

- **holiday of a lifetime:** a very special holiday, once in a lifetime. *Last year me and my family had a holiday of a lifetime in Italy.*
- **holiday resort (tourist resort):** a place where lots of people go for a holiday. *Last year my family went on a journey to London. We lived in a great tourist resort.*
- **hordes of tourists:** crowds of tourists. *Hordes of tourist can be seen during summer near the city park.*
- **in the middle of nowhere:** in a place that is far away from where most people live. *My grand-mother lives in the middle of nowhere, but she loves her old little village.*
- **local crafts:** things made in the region. *My sister bought some amazing local crafts on her trip to India.*
- **out of season:** not within the main holiday period. *I decided to go on a journey with my friends out of season.*
- **passport control:** a place where you get your passport checked. *I spent a few hours waiting in line on a passport control.*
- **package tour:** a holiday at a fixed price in which the travel company arranges your travel, hotels, and sometimes meals for you: *We bought a cheap package tour to Italy and stayed in a big hotel by the sea.*
- **picturesque village:** a nice, beautiful village. *My grandparents live in a picturesque village.*
- **places of interest:** memorable and honorable places. *My native city has a variety of places of interest.*
- **short break:** a little holiday. *My father had a short break this year, I hope he'll be able to relax some more.*
- **stunning landscape:** a beautiful countryside. *Stunning landscapes are only one of many reasons why I want to visit Africa.*
- **to go sightseeing:** to go visiting sights of interest. *Today we went sightseeing with my friends.*
- **to travel on foot / horse** *When I'm in a small town I prefer to travel on foot.*
- **to travel by bus / plane / car / bicycle / motorcycle** *Although I usually travel by car, when I decided to visit Paris I had to travel by plane.*
- **tourist attractions:** places which tourists tend to visit. *Despite not being a tourist attraction, new fountain is very popular among the locals.*
- **tourist trap:** place with many tourists. *We've visited many tourists traps lately.*
- **travel agency:** a shop that specializes in booking holidays. *I've bought tickets for my trip through a travel agency.*
- **wildlife safari:** an observational holiday, mainly in Africa. *I'd love to go on a wildlife safari sometime.*
- **youth hostel:** a cheap hotel. *During our trip we stayed in a hostel, because we didn't have enough money for a hotel.*