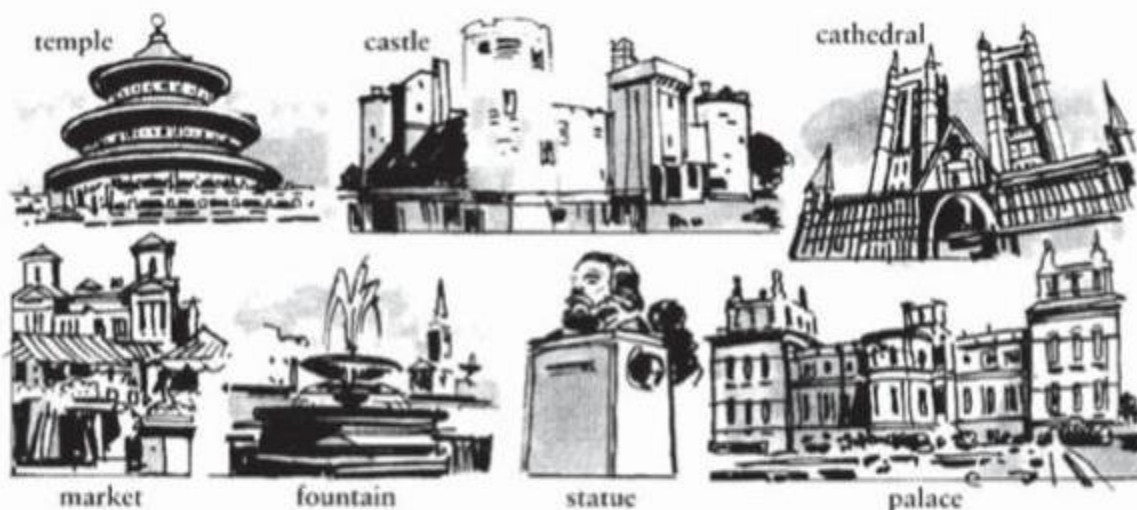


## 88 A sightseeing holiday

### A Sightseeing

You may do a bit of sightseeing on holiday, or you may do a lot of sightseeing, but you will probably go to a museum or art gallery, and see or visit some of these things:



Many people go on a sightseeing tour of a town (usually in a bus); they can also go on a tour of the castle / the cathedral / the art gallery, etc. When you are sightseeing, it helps to buy a **guidebook** (= a book of information for tourists) and a **map** of the town you are in.

### B Things that tourists often do on holiday

look round the shops / have a look round the shops

take photographs

spend a lot of / lots of money

buy **souvenirs** (= typical products from the country)

get lost (= lose their way)

go out most evenings (= go to different places for social reasons, e.g. restaurant or disco)

have a good/great time (= enjoy themselves)

### C Describing 'places'

The word **place** is very common and can describe a building, an area, a town, or country:

Bruges is a lovely **place** (= town) and we found a really nice **place** (= hotel) to stay.

The town is full of interesting **places** (= areas/buildings).

These words are often used when we describe places:

Venice is beautiful but it's always **packed** (= very crowded/full) with tourists in the summer.

New York is very **cosmopolitan**. (= full of people from different countries and cultures)

Vienna has lots of **historical monuments**. (= places, e.g. castles, built a long time ago)

Many beautiful cities have become very **touristy**. (= a negative word: 'too much tourism')

Sao Paulo is a really **lively** place (= full of life and activity) and the **night-life** is fantastic.

**Note:** If you want to ask if it is 'a good idea' to visit a place, you can use **worth + -ing**:

A: If I go to Scotland, is it **worth** spending a few days in Glasgow?

B: Yes definitely. And if you want to travel round a bit, it's **worth** renting a car.

## Exercises

- 88.1** Complete this postcard that John sent to his family while he was on holiday. You may need a word or phrase in each space.

Hi everyone, I've been in Paris for almost a week now and I'm having a <sup>(1)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. I spent the first few days <sup>(2)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ - The Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, and all the usual tourist attractions. Most places are absolutely <sup>(3)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ with tourists (it's the time of the year I suppose), so yesterday I decided to have <sup>(4)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ round the shops and I bought a few <sup>(5)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. Today I've been to a couple of very interesting art <sup>(6)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. I got <sup>(7)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ on my way back to the hotel but it didn't matter because I discovered a really fascinating <sup>(8)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ with lots of little stalls selling just about everything from apples to antiques. I ate in the hotel the first night but usually I <sup>(9)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and have dinner in a restaurant - the food is fantastic. I'm afraid I've <sup>(10)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of money, but it's a great place and I've <sup>(11)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ lots of photographs so you'll be able to see for yourself when I get back home on the 24th. See you then, John

- 88.2** Which of these places do you usually visit or go to when you are on holiday?

museums   art galleries   churches/cathedrals   tourist shops   concerts  
discos / night clubs   castles/palaces/temples   the cinema   markets   restaurants  
bars   the theatre

- 88.3** Confirm the information in the questions without repeating the same words and phrases. Use words and phrases from the opposite page.

*Example:* A: You've got quite a few pictures, haven't you?

B: *Yes, we took lots of photos.*

- 1 A: Is it a nice city?  
B: Yes, it's a \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 A: There's a big mix of people in New York, isn't there?  
B: Yes, it's very \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 A: Was it very crowded?  
B: Yes, it was \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 A: There's a lot to do in the evenings, isn't there?  
B: Yes, the \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 A: Did you enjoy yourselves?  
B: Yes, we \_\_\_\_\_

- 88.4** Without using one town more than twice, name a town or city in your country which is:
- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| lively             | packed with tourists in the summer                          |
| cosmopolitan       | famous for its historical monuments                         |
| very touristy      | really worth visiting if you are interested in architecture |
| not worth visiting |   |