

Ideal Holiday Destinations

Activity Type

Reading Exercise:
comprehension questions

Speaking Activity: asking
and answering questions
from prompts, guided
discussion, freer practice
(pair work)

Focus

Describing places:
*name, location, climate,
landscape, scenic spots,
historical sites, wildlife,
leisure activities, nightlife
and getting around*

Making preferences

Aim

To describe and discuss
ideal holiday destinations.

Preparation

Make one copy of the
two-page worksheet for
each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

35 minutes

Introduction

In this talking about places activity, students describe their ideal holiday destination and find out about their classmates' holiday destinations, discussing which one they would prefer to visit and why.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

First, students read a text describing a holiday destination and answer questions about it in complete sentences.

Exercise A - Answer key (wording may vary)

1. It is in the southwest corner of Australia south of Perth.
2. It has a mild climate with cool wet winters and hot dry summers.
3. The landscape is mostly rural with rolling hills dotted with farms and vineyards. The area also has some beautiful coastal landscapes that include beaches, bays, and rocky headlands.
4. Some of the more popular scenic spots include the Boranup Karri Forrest, Sugarloaf Rock, and Lake Cave.
5. Yes. Historical sites include the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse built in 1895, and Ellensbrook Farm established in 1857.
6. Yes. The area is great for whale watching especially during the spring as Humpbacks migrate up the coast.
7. Wine tasting tours of some of the area's famous wineries are very popular. The area is also a popular destination for surfers from around the world.
8. The nightlife is a bit quiet as there is only a pub and a few restaurants for entertainment.
9. No. Because there is little to no affordable or convenient transport options, so you need to bring your own car.

Next, students think of their ideal holiday destination and complete the second column in a table with notes about their ideal destination using the useful language to help them.

After that, elicit the questions the students need to ask for each category using the questions from the first exercise.

Questions:

What's the name of your ideal holiday destination?
Where is...?
What is the weather like there?
How would you describe the landscape there? Etc...

(continued on the next page)

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Procedure continued

Students then ask two classmates about their ideal holiday destinations, recording their answers in the table.

Afterwards, students find a new partner and discuss which of the six destinations from their two worksheets they would prefer to visit and why.

Finally, as a class, students discuss which holiday destinations they liked the most and the similarities and differences between them.

As an extension, students create a short promotional talk about their ideal holiday destination, describing it and explaining why it's ideal. Afterwards, in groups, students give their talk to the group who votes for the best one.

A. Read the text and answer the questions in complete sentences.

The name of my favourite holiday destination is Margaret River. Margaret River is located in the southwest corner of Australia south of Perth. It has a mild climate with cool wet winters and hot dry summers. The landscape is mostly rural with rolling hills dotted with farms and vineyards. The area also has some beautiful coastal landscapes that include beaches, bays, and rocky headlands. Some of the more popular scenic spots include the Boranup Karri Forrest, Sugarloaf Rock, and Lake Cave. Historical sites include the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse built in 1895, and Ellensbrook Farm established in 1857. The area is great for whale watching especially during the spring as Humpbacks migrate up the coast. Wine tasting tours of some of the area's famous wineries are very popular. The area is also a popular destination for surfers from around the world. After dark, people can enjoy a drink at the Settler's Tavern or eat at one of the quality restaurants on the main street. It is best to bring your own vehicle as public transport options are not only very limited but also expensive.



1. Where is Margaret River?

.....

2. What is the weather like there?

.....

3. How would you describe the landscape there?

.....

4. What are some popular scenic spots to visit in the area?

.....

5. Are there any places of historical interest to visit?

.....

6. Is it possible to experience any wildlife in the area?

.....

7. What are the most popular leisure activities to do there?

.....

8. How would you describe the nightlife? Why?

.....

9. Is it easy and convenient to get around the area? Why? Why not?

.....

B. Think about your ideal holiday destination and complete the table with the information using the useful language below to help you. Then, ask two classmates about their holiday destinations using the questions from the first exercise.

Details	My ideal holiday destination's destination's destination
Name of place			
Location			
Climate			
Landscape			
Scenic spots			
Historical sites			
Wildlife			
Leisure activities			
Nightlife			
Getting around			

Useful language:

Location: north of, to the south of, in the middle of, off the coast

Climate: wet, dry, humid, changeable

Landscape: mountainous, coastal, rural, green

Scenic spots: a waterfall, a forest, a beach, mountains, a bay

Historical sites: temples, monuments, ruins, castles

Wildlife: animals, fish, birds

Leisure activities: kayaking, swimming, skiing, tennis

Nightlife: clubs, restaurants, theatres, cinemas

Getting around: bicycle, taxi, motorbike, tram

