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МЕТОДИЧНІ ВКАЗІВКИ

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до самостійної роботи з дисципліни

Іноземна мова в галузі

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Рецензенти: к. філол. н., доцент В.П. Новіков,
к. н. з соц. ком., доцент Ю.Г. Полежаєв

Відповідальний за випуск: ст. викл. Г.В. Василенко

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Пояснювальна записка

Самостійна робота з іноземної мови має важливе значення в аспекті професійної підготовки майбутніх менеджерів туризму, оскільки іноземна мова є обов'язковою частиною їх фахової компетентності. Завдання з самостійної роботи включають різні теми і ситуації професійного спілкування в галузі туризму і націлені на формування і розвиток міжкультурних, лінгвістичних та мовленнєвих навичок.

Дана методична розробка включає збірку з дванадцяти авторських статей з Інтернет джерел про подорожі та визначні місця. Статті, які переважно зорієнтовані на читачів-мандрівників, мають інформативний, описовий та розважальний характер. Студентам важливо не тільки читати і добре сприймати викладену інформацію, але й засвоїти туристичну лексику, стилістичні звороти і структури, притаманні такого типу текстам, навчитися вживати ідіоми мандрів та розваг, усталені словосполучення і фрази в усному мовленні при роботі з клієнтами. Набуті навички будуть у нагоді під час трансферу, інформативної зустрічі, презентації, екскурсії тощо.

До текстів статей складено завдання практичного спрямування, які зокрема включають: читання, переклад, переказ, заучування напам'ять, бесіда за змістом статті, узагальнення змісту, аналіз лексичного і синтаксичного складу, функції стилістичних засобів даного типу текстів; усні та письмові вправи у створенні власних текстів професійного вжитку, вміння висловлювати власну думку, пропонувати, просувати туристичний продукт, описувати та презентувати туристичний об'єкт. Культурологічний аспект роботи передбачає вміння вірно вибрати варіант перекладу, врахування та застосування енциклопедичних, географічних, історичних, етнографічних та інших чинників у процесі роботи з текстом та поза ним.

Методичні вказівки можуть бути рекомендовані для використання в самостійних домашніх завданнях, або частково на заняттях і вдома під час вивчення іноземної мови в галузі на другому – четвертому курсах залежно від рівня підготовки студентів. Матеріал вказівок є змістовним, різноплановим і новим, оскільки містить матеріали публікацій останніх трьох років.

Read and summarize the article.

**TRAVEL CAN TEACH US MANY LESSONS,
IF WE'RE OPEN TO LEARNING**

By Samantha Kofsky.

"Sometimes you find yourself in the middle of nowhere, and sometimes in the middle of nowhere you find yourself." – Unknown.

Most of us get caught up in this routine called *life*. We wake up with the sunrise, push ourselves through our workday, race through our all of our errands, and jump into bed when the first free second presents itself.

Although hard work is quintessential for success, is this really how we are meant to live our lives?

When we get caught up in this routine called *life*, we lose ourselves. We lose our sense of importance for recognizing the beauty around us, and our inner lust for adventure that lies somewhere deep within us all.

If you happen to be stuck in this routine called life, which we all experience from time to time, my suggestion for you would be to stand up for yourself and break this cycle. Search for the life that you have always dreamed of.

"If not now, when?" - Hillel The Elder

Whether it's for two days, two weeks, or if you're lucky, two months, you should buy that plane ticket for the destination that has always been on your bucket list and put this routine called life on hold.

I truly believe that travel is the cure for the weary and the recipe for reinvention. However, if you still need some extra convincing, here are four of the greatest lessons that travel teaches us. They all ultimately bring us back to ourselves in the most honest and pure way possible.

1. To become a child again

"Never Lose Your Sense of Wonder" - Unknown

When we drop ourselves off in a new country, we have no choice but to instantly become a child again. Everything you see is new and this brings out your inner explorer. You will find yourself pointing at iconic structures that you thought you would only come across in magazines. You may stumble across an old beaten-path that leads to the most breathtaking waterfall. Your senses will come alive. Whether it's touring the perfume gardens in France or taking your first bite of an Italian pizza, these new experiences will capture your heart in a way that you forgot existed.

2. Confidence

“The traveler’s rush’ that hits you upon arrival to a new place is like a drug. And like a drug, the more you expose yourself to the more you want it”. – Clayton B. Cornell

When we travel to a new place, we are unfamiliar with our surroundings to say the least. From the second you step off that plane you may experience situations that you make you feel uncomfortable or nervous. You will experience everything from language barriers to your cab driver taking you to your hotel on the “wrong” side of the road. Although being unfamiliar with your surrounds may seem daunting, when you are able to grasp the values of a particular culture it is extremely rewarding. You have another place to call home.

Sometimes it helps to get a fresh perspective.

3. To get a new perspective

“Travel doesn’t become adventure until you leave yourself behind” – Marty Rubin

When we travel we quickly move from being the majority to the minority. Therefore, to function in this new society, we need to place our values on the backburner in order to truly gain a new perspective on life. Whether it’s an unfamiliar religion or a new way of dress, each culture’s history has uniquely shaped their current belief system. Traveling is not about replacing our current belief system with theirs, but it is instead about collecting new perspectives on life that make our own more universal and whole.

4. To be appreciative of what we had all along

“A good traveler has no fixed plans, and is not intent on arriving” – Lao Tzu

When we travel we come across people who are much less fortunate than ourselves. Maybe you meet someone who did not have a fair chance at success due to his or her country’s education system. Or it is very possible that you will come across individuals struggling to bike to and from work each day because they cannot afford a motor vehicle, or even a place to call home.

When we arrive home from our trip, our journey comes full circle. We realize that maybe our troubles weren’t so bad all along.

If we come home from our trip with a greater knowledge of how to *actually* live life each day, instead of watching it pass by, then travel has done its job. It has performed its lesson that no other teacher can teach.

“If you’re brave enough to leave behind everything familiar and comforting, which can be anything from your house to bitter, old resentments, and set out on a truth-seeking journey, either externally or internally, and if you are truly willing to regard everything that happens to you on that journey as a clue and if you accept everyone you meet along the way as a teacher and if you are prepared, most of all, to face and forgive some very difficult realities about yourself, then the truth will not be withheld from you,” Elizabeth Gilbert.

Author Bio: Samantha Kofsky has definitely been bit by the travel bug and has no desire of getting rid of the symptoms. Ever since she studied English and world religions abroad at Regent’s University London, her life just hasn’t been the same. Since her semester abroad she has spent time in twenty-two countries and believes that the world is the greatest classroom. Whether she is traveling by plane, car, or boat, Samantha has the urge to travel to new places in order to learn about new cultures, to experience new ways of living, and to learn how to live in the moment, which she believes travel teaches best.

Read and analyze the article according to the following points: reasons for travel; places to visit; peculiarities of perception; language to describe attractions; structure of the article; final impressions.

ROAD TRIP THROUGH UKRAINE

By Rupert Parker.

Ukraine is opening up to tourism with visa-free travel. We suggest you get behind the wheel or a hire car or indeed to hop on a train.

Ukraine, the country famous for banning Hollywood Steven Seagal from visiting, is opening up to tourism with visa-free travel. Add to that direct flights from the UK and the fact that it is still remarkably good value for money, this is as good a time as any to visit. We suggest you get behind the wheel or a hire car or indeed to hop on a train.

Lviv

Situated in the far west of the country, just 50 miles from the Polish border, Lviv was known as Lemberg when it was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire from 1772 to WW1. That’s reflected in its quaint cobbled streets, proliferation of churches and architecture reminiscent of

those other Hapsburg cities like Vienna and Budapest. Of course it also has trams, trolley buses and coffee houses. Indeed they say that the first coffee shop in Vienna was opened by an Ukrainian from Lviv in 1686.

It's a pleasant place to wander round, with street musicians on every corner, and the Market Square in the old town is lined with renaissance houses. The elaborate Lviv Opera House still stages productions of opera and ballet and imposing Cathedrals beckon you inside. My visit coincides with National Embroidered Blouse Day so everyone is sporting one, men and women alike.

Outside the old town, the 18th-century Lychakiv Cemetery has ornate tombs, chapels and shrines plus a special section dedicated to those who are still being killed in the armed struggle on Ukraine's Eastern borders. Most Ukrainians I speak to believe that it's Russian mischief making and can't understand why their former ally is making trouble. Central and Western Ukraine show no signs of the war, so travellers shouldn't be alarmed.

Carpathian Mountains

The Carpathians form an arc running roughly 1000 miles across Central and Eastern Europe, making them the second-longest mountain range in Europe. They occupy the South West of Ukraine, separating the country from Romania, with the highest peak, Mount Hoverla, reaching over 2000m. Life carries on here much as it's done for centuries and during the Soviet period was left almost untouched. Even guerrillas fighting their Russian oppressors stayed holed up here for years.

Kolomyia

It's a three hour drive across the Ukrainian steppes to Kolomyia, famous for the world's only Pysanka or Easter Egg Museum. Of course it's built in the shape of a giant egg and houses an impressive collection of intricately decorated specimens from all over the world. Nearby is another museum dedicated to the Hutsuls, the largest ethnic group in the Carpathians, scattered through both Ukraine and Romania. It's an excellent introduction to their culture with an exhibition of ethnic costumes, arts and crafts.

Yaremche

River Prut Yaremche (c) Rupert Parker

The landscape begins to change as I climb up to the town of Yaremche at 580m. The wide cornfields give way to forested hills, wooden houses and quaint chapels by the side of the road. The River Prut runs

through the centre of town in a series of rapids, and there's a rather tacky craft market on either side of the ravine. However if you're in the market for woolly slippers or dodgy fruit wine, this is the place for you.

Bukovel

Another 40 minutes of climbing brings me to Bukovel, the largest Ski resort in Eastern Europe at 900m. It opened in 2000 and has 16 ski lifts with roughly 30 miles of pistes, and more are promised. There's a boating lake but otherwise there's not much character here. A few of the ski lifts remain open and, at the top of one of them, there's a rather terrifying Roller Coaster Zip line which hurls you high through the trees. I prefer a spot of gentle hiking.

Verkhovyna

I head deeper into the Carpathians and the roads worsen, potholes everywhere and rickety bridges to traverse. The railway arrived in the 1880's, attracting tourists with fresh mountain air, and Vorokhta is an attractive spa town. Further on, just outside Verkhovyna, is Kryvorivnia, a Hutsul village where the movie "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors" was shot in 1965. It's nothing more than a collection of attractive wooden shacks with a restored fortified Hutsul house, known as a Grazhda, filled with traditional artefacts. It's Sunday and the singing from inside the tiny church drifts across the valley.

Chernivtsi

Leaving the mountains and journeying East, I come to the city of Chernivtski, capital of the region of Bukovina. Also a part of the Hapsburg Empire, it was known as Little Vienna because of its architecture is similar. It's only 30 miles from Romania and, between the wars was part of that country. The Romanians were responsible for the city's attractive art deco buildings. Chernivtsi University, a red bricked Moorish fantasy, with a Technicolor tiled roof, was built by a Czech architect in 1882, and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Khotyn

An easy day's excursion from Chernivtsi, is the fairy-tale fortress of Khotyn, on a cliff overlooking the Dniester River. It was built around 1400 by the Moldavians but fell into Turkish hands in 1713. They kept it for another 100 years, until the Russians became the final owners. These days it's been much restored but it's still an impressive, with walls 40m high and

6m thick. It's been the location for many feature films, including the Ukrainian version of Robin Hood.

Kamyanets Podilsky

Nearby is another stunning fortress protecting the bridge connecting the medieval city, built on an island, with the mainland. The 14th century castle sits high above a bend of the Smotrych River, its steep cliffs forming a natural moat. It originally had as many as twelve towers but only a few remain today. It's still relatively well preserved, however, and is one of the few medieval constructions left in Ukraine.

Kiev

I catch the overnight train to Kiev, the carriages built in former East Germany and full of communist charm. It's slow but comfortable, although all the windows seem to have been nailed shut.

Ukraine's capital city has wide leafy boulevards, onion-domed churches and relatively few of those dull Soviet architectural monstrosities. Since Ukraine's independence many of the buildings have been restored and repainted as symbols of national pride.

Don't miss the 1980's reconstruction of the Golden Gates of Kiev or the 11th-century Orthodox cathedral of St. Sophia. I like the 19th century St. Volodymyr's cathedral which was a museum of atheism during Soviet times. The big attraction is the Lavra Cave Monastery which is a complex of religious buildings with catacombs below containing mummified bodies of former monks. Nearby is the huge Motherland Monument, known locally as "Brezhnev's Daughter", 62m high, dominating the skyline. It's part of the WW2 museum and you can climb up to the mother's hand in an interior elevator.

No visit to the city is complete without a walk around the Maidan Nezalezhnosti, the central square of the city and the venue for pro-democracy demonstrations in recent years. It's a place of tragedy as over 100 people were killed by snipers in February 2014. As a result former President Viktor Yanukovich fled the country. Today, written in large letters on cladding covering building work, "Freedom is Our Religion", is a slogan signifying that the struggle is still ongoing.

Chernobyl

Although there's a small museum dedicated to the nuclear disaster in Kiev, a day trip to Chernobyl is the best way to appreciate the scale of the tragedy. It's perfectly safe, they say, and it's around a two hour drive from

the city. You pass through a 30km checkpoint before entering a 10km exclusion zone where you're warned not to touch anything. The reactor now has a new shiny metal shell, but the town of Pripyat, once housing 50,000 workers, is slowly being swallowed by the forest. This is a ghoulish tourist attraction but a grim reminder of the dangers of nuclear power.

Read the article, define the literary allusion, words and collocations to describe emotions and feelings, explain the main reason to visit Portugal in spring.

THE SPRING BEACHES OF PORTUGAL

By **Nicole Falmbigl.**

Guincho, Portugal. The old man and the sea. Regardless of the season, or the weather, or the day of the week, he will be sitting on the big rock between the shore and the endless ocean. Just sitting. Watching. Resting. Contemplating. Nodding.

Like most Portuguese people, regardless of age, he wears sunglasses and a typical hat. Yet he can't help winking and shielding his face with one hand from the sparkling sun; the other hand clutching yesterday's newspaper, which might have been wrapped around a fresh flounder just this morning.

The air is pregnant with the scent of salt and moisture on this magnificent morning of blue skies as I walk onto the sand near the old man and the sea. I hear him murmur, so I turn my eyes to his weathered form.

A leathery and wrinkled face beneath the same type of hat has joined him. Together, the two men gaze at the blinding reflection of the sun against the horizon of the ocean. Unpacking fishing gear and bucket, they exchange a few words. Then the conversation ends. Patience and contentment take over the scene.

The silence and the sun's comforting warmth lulls me into a deep revelry – and then, wham! – icy drops of cold water yank me from my peaceful state. Tall, unruly waves roll against the sharp rocks nearby, breaking against the small boats anchored at the dock just feet away. Brushing away the intruding wetness, I move back from the sea and continue my observation.

Buoyed on top of sleek white surfboards, youngsters in black suits crawl across the water towards the horizon, eager to catch the next Big Bad

Wave. Due to the constant exposure to sun, their long wet hair has more highlights than most other locals, for Portuguese hair is usually quite dark. I watch as surfers on the shore, wearing colorful Hawaiian shorts and shirts, shout with glee as they run to meet the eager waves.

It is just another typical spring day on the shores of Portugal.

Before making my home in the seaside village of São João do Estoril, I had imagined that the beaches would be deserted during this season. But in fact, the opposite is true: During summer, the walkway is empty, as everybody is sun-bathing in a horizontal position on the sand, while in spring and spring, people get their daily significant sun time in a vertical setting, either jogging, bicycling, walking their dogs, fishing, rollerblading or simply ocean-watching.

Just the other day, I watched a mother and her little girl have a picnic right next to the water. With her mouth still full of food, the girl pointed her finger at the horizon in total joy at a school of dolphins passing by.

The spring brings it own special beauty. While summer is a time for beach-lovers to focus on themselves and others, nature takes center stage during the spring. For it is in spring that nature shows her authority, her power.

That strength is ever present. My friendly, elderly neighbor has warned me on various occasions not to approach the water too closely, as powerful waves have sucked people into the vast waters, never to be seen again.

There is something compelling about the spring sea. I am mesmerized by its movements, its rhythms, and its strength. The constant roar of waves is a song to my ear, and my eyes grow weary watching seagulls overhead swoop and soar.

Such sights and sounds are regenerating food for the soul, a massage for the body wrought by inhuman hands. Best of all, the relaxation, the sights, the endless beauty come at no charge or expense. Nature's best show costs nothing at all.

Read and translate the article. Learn by heart the introduction and descriptions of two beaches.

TOP 5 BEACHES OF THE GREEK ISLANDS

By **Cliff Blaylock.**

While it is impossible to tell you about every beach worth visiting in Greece, there are a few that are simply unmissable.

Greece is famous for many things: it's bright and exuberant culture, a fascinating and complex history, tales of legendary monsters and heroes and, of course, its stunning scenery and beaches.

With thousands of islands and a diverse mainland, Greece's coastline is the 11th largest in the world. Couple that with its hot, but comfortable climate and the glorious Mediterranean Sea, and you have ample opportunity for some truly stunning beaches.

While it is impossible to tell you about every beach worth visiting in Greece, there are a few that are simply unmissable.

Navagio, Zante

Probably one of the most famous beaches in Greece, this tucked away gem can be found on the island of Zante – known locally as Zakynthos. Surrounded by steep cliff edges and only reachable via boat, Navagio owes its reputation to a wrecked smugglers' ship that ran aground in the early 20th century and now sits on its pristine sandy shore. A beautiful place to spend the day, many tour companies also offer boat and beach parties that stop on Navagio; adding a bit of excitement for those after more than just a relaxing afternoon of sunbathing.

Red Beach, Santorini

Found on the volcanic island of Santorini, the Red Beach proves that white sand isn't a necessary ingredient when it comes to producing a top quality beach. Covered in red and pebbles and backed by tall red clifftops, you can probably guess how this beach got its name. A beautiful and quiet place to unwind, it is the uniquely charming setting of this beach that makes it a place you simply have to experience when visiting Greece.

Elafonissi, Crete

Elafonissi beach, with pinkish white sand and turquoise water, island of Crete, Greece. Forget the golden coast of Australia, or the shores of Thailand, if you want a truly tropical beach, head to Elafonissi on the island of Crete. The most southern of the all the major Greek islands, Crete boasts a lot of incredible beauty spots, but none are quite like this one. A long and soft white sandy beach, its coastal waters are very shallow and have the same silky sand resting below the surface; perfect for dipping you feet into. When the sun shines, the water is a gentle and enticing baby blue and at low tide sandbars appear, allowing visitors to walk to the island just off the beaches shore. Here, you'll find businesses offering straw roofed cabanas,

sunbeds and umbrellas right on the water's edge. Out in a place like this, you'd be forgiven for thinking you'd ended up in the Bahamas.

Egremni, Lefkada

Beautiful summer at Egremni Beach in Lefkada Island, Ionian Sea, Greece. You'll find a number of beaches around Greece with the name paradise sprinkled somewhere in their title, but for a true taste of heaven you'll want to head for Egremni on Lefkada. A long winding shoreline, backed by towering white cliff tops, Egremni a great example of the perfect traditional Greek beach recipe. Take some pristine sand, bright white and soft on the feet, add turquoise mediterranean waters, clear and warm. Mix together with beautiful rock formations and overhanging trees, then finish with great sunset views. The result? One stunning Egremni Beach.

Sarakiniko, Milos

Located on the gorgeous isle of Milos, Sarakiniko is probably the least beachy beach you'll ever visit. No sand in sight, instead this coastal area consists of smooth rock formations that glide down towards the glimmering Med. Here, in protected bays, visitors can swim and enjoy the crystal clear waters; sheltered from the winds and currents by the rocks, with great visibility thanks to the lack of sand grains floating around near the surface. An unusual place, the utter uniqueness of this place makes it something rather special. You'll struggle to find a place like Sarakiniko anywhere else in Europe.

Read the article and retell it according to its structure. Underline the proper names and exotic words and explain their functions in the text.

48 HOURS IN BAKU, AZERBAIJAN

By **Edward Crawford**

Azerbaijan's capital Baku had the world's attention when the Eurovision song contest came to town. So what can the avid traveller cram into 48 hours in this relatively undiscovered Caucasus gem?

Azerbaijan's capital Baku in 2012 had the world's attention when the Eurovision song contest came to town and the millions invested in prettifying Baku has given the Azerbaijanis something to sing about.

The Eurovision spotlight has since left Baku but this spectacular capital has been left with a more than just a bright sparkle. So what can the

avid traveller cram into 48 hours in this relatively undiscovered Caucasus gem?

Must Stay

The Boyuk Gala Hotel is ideally situated in the side streets of the Baku old city which is hemmed in by a sand coloured ancient wall. For business trips or a couples retreat the Boyuk Gala is ideal. The rooms are decorated in typical Caucasus style, deep colours adorning the walls with delicate pastel colours all blending together to give a feel of warmth and comfort. The antique furniture, buffed to perfection, helps add to the comfortable feel of the room and support the necessary mod-cons. Free Wi-Fi, plasma television and a marble balcony are all extra luxuries that come as standard in this well priced abode.

Must Stroll

On a sunny morning it is a pleasure to walk along the restored cobbled roads and side streets of the Baku old city. Baku means the ‘city of wind’. The brisk winds blowing in from the Caspian Sea barely effect the old city. The ancient city walls offer a wind break as well as a glorious spectacle to glaze at from the comfort of an Azeri restaurant.

Stalls and local shops are well placed in the old city. Tucked into old buildings and around the various historical monuments they offer everything from tourist trinkets to the national speciality – carpets.

Baku carpets

The high streets with impressive modern Azeri buildings have fantastic shopping opportunities with everything from H&M to Prada available. Baku has a mix of old and modern, east and west and somehow they all blend into, something ‘Azeri’.

Fountain Square in down town Baku was first constructed in Soviet times and has since been developed and remodeled by the Azerbaijanis. To get there it is easiest to walk up Nizami Street past several 19th century buildings that inspire the imagination. The fountains at night are lit up and during the day it is a popular destination.

Must Lunch

Sadj fried chicken. If you are on a budget, there are huge varieties of street food available from stalls and open air markets throughout the city. Going in December the choice of having roasted chestnuts and an Azeri coffee for under €3 is a perfect nibble for the peckish explorer. As you walk along the Neftçiler Prospekti promenade by the sea you come to the Sahil restaurant. The Sahil restaurant serves Azerbaijani and western food with

fluent English speaking staff who are warm and welcoming. It is not cheap by Azeri standards but with such a favourable conversion rate it is a shame not to indulge. The Caspian Sea fish arrives fresh off the boat every morning, making the taste as authentic of true Azeri Caspian cuisine as possible.

Wine lovers take note: if you're a fan of new world wine you will love the local grape. The whites are crisp, flavourful and retain an aroma individual to the locally grown grape.

Must Visit

Baku Old Town. The Maiden Tower is a UNESCO World Heritage historical monument in the old city of Baku. Take a tour and see the view from the top looking across the Baku seafront for a small fee. The tower dates back to the 15th century and is one Azerbaijan's most distinctive national emblems. The curved, sand coloured structure looks magnificent in the Caucasus sun which adds to its splendor. The Palace of the Shirvanshahs, on the opposite side of the old city, dating from the same period espouses traces of the Azeri Muslim identity.

The fruit markets are a spectacle in themselves. The locals are warm and friendly they make it more of a delight while sampling the local produce. The open air market Baki Takhil Bazar on Aliyar Aliyev Street in Narimanov district is my choice especially for fresh pomegranates and feijoa fruit.

The Haydar Aliyev Center is a modernist styled architectural delight opened in 2012 which has been hailed as a spectacle of enlightened engineering. It is something you do not see every day, a building shaped like a signature with so many beautiful curves and sections veering off in a myriad of directions, an architectural enthusiasts dream and well worth a visit.

Martyrs' Lane is a memorial for the fallen Azeris from Black January and the Nagorno-Karabakh war. To the south of the city, perched on top of a steep hill this emotion evoking memorial offers the best panoramic view of the city available with the Flame Towers up close.

Must Dine

In the old city, the restaurants have kept their traditional feel and design, still serving the same delicious local delicacies as generations before. The Terrace Garden & Q-bar, is my favourite restaurant in Baku. Difficult to find but worth the search. Just behind the important Azeri historical monument – the Maiden Tower over the bridge, past the carpets

and up the stairs you can find this delight. The postcard view of Baku on offer as you dine is irresistible. Opting for an Azeri ‘winter warmer’ of stew with a tender lamb shank within, is magic when coupled with a glass of dark coloured, flavourful Azeri red wine. The terrace where you dine is encased by glass, so on all sides you can see the stars, the Caspian Sea and the famous Flame Towers illuminating the surroundings.

Must Visit Museums

On Yusuph Safarov street just at the end of the seaside promenade to the east side of Baku you can find the the Baku Museum of Modern Art. If you are an art lover the Museum, which opened in 2009, has exhibitions from world renowned Azerbaijani artists such as Altay Sadikh-Zadeh. The building itself could be an art piece with beautiful metallic structures and a minimalist layout. The well organized layout showcasing both paintings and sculptures will keep you entertained for hours. The Avant-guard of the Azerbaijani art world are here to see with sculptural masterpieces from the 1950s onwards on display.

The Carpet Museum, close to the old city, to the west of the seaside boulevard is a must. The building is even shaped like an ornate carpet being unrolled. Even if carpets are not your thing, you cannot help but be spellbound by the intricate details and craftsmanship that goes into one of these Caucasus weaving feats. Inside you will find the history of Azerbaijan displayed and explained with signs in English beside carpets representing times, places, people and events. The designs are so detailed that it is almost like having an illustrated history lesson about Azerbaijan.

Must Catch a Show

While the Azerbaijanis have shown their singing talents, one of their lesser known attributes is their skill in ballet. On Nizami Kūçəsi Street in possibly the most stunning buildings in Baku you can find Azerbaijan State Opera and Ballet Theatre. The building has Eastern Orthodox styled features like rustic domes, stained glass windows and engravings of royal insignia. The building looks like something you might find in the Winter Palace, Moscow or any fairytale book, so impressive that it forces your imagination to run wild. The acoustics are fabulous inside and the classical instruments are mellifluous when their notes reverberate around the room. Either for a ballet or opera performance I would stick my neck out and say this theatre can rival any other theatre in the world – this I do not claim lightly.

Must Drink

Being British and passionate about tea I was pleased to discover that its not just a British obsession. A shared enthusiasm for tea is something the Azerbaijanis and British have in common although in Azerbaijan they do it in style.

Azeri tea and pakhlava

Tea is available everywhere throughout Azerbaijan and often is served with a side of sweetened apricots or feijoa fruit. Try Çay Evi tea house on Suleyman Rustam Street near the central bus station. Don't let the exterior décor fool you, outside it's plain and simple looking but inside its resembles an Azerbaijani sultans lounge. Snug in the velvet bright coloured cushions for a reasonable price you can choose from a mind boggling array of tea. The staff can explain why different teas are for different occasions and some are better suited for morning, afternoon or evening. When the tea arrives in a small, bolt-black, hard iron kettle with its own heater beneath and the delicate glasses with saucers are displayed it is wonderful. Sipping on steaming hot Azeri tea and watching the world go by was a great way to relax after a busy day of sightseeing and exploration in this remarkable city.

Read and summarize the stories. Write your own traveller's story. If possible, use foreign culture experience.

GO WORLD TRAVEL READERS' TALES

By **Danielle Martin, John Scheleur, Cindy Patten.**

Everyone has a story, especially when we travel. Here are some of the latest travel tales submitted by Go World Travel Magazine readers.

A Friend When in Need

It's funny the way one person can define a whole country. Take Andrew, from Perth, Australia.

When I was 20, I spent several weeks backpacking through Europe with a friend. As two girls traveling alone, things had gone fairly well for us. Besides a few overly zealous Italian men in Rome, we had felt safe and happy.

Then we headed to Interlaken, Switzerland to stay at Balmer's Herberge, a wildly popular youth hostel. Just our luck, but we were some of the few young women staying there that night. No matter. We joined a large group of Australian guys who were watching a James Bond film in the main

room. The beer had flown freely that night, and soon the “American women” jokes began.

At first we just kept our mouths shut, hoping they wouldn’t notice we were American. But our wide-eyed American naïveté must have given us away, and harassment ensued. Just when we were about to leave in frustration, a quiet young man in the back of the room came to our aid. With a cutting comment to the others, Andrew nodded for us to follow him. We walked to a Swiss coffee shop, where we sat and talked for hours.

Years later, when I was sent to do some work in Australia (the first of many such trips), it was Andrew who came to mind. The drunken boys at the hostel were long forgotten, and it was this kind young man who represented Australia for me. My work in Australia was the beginning of a long love affair with that great country. But that affection began with one young man who was willing to step out and be a friend. — Danielle Martin.

Hiking in England

My wife, Pat, and I spent an incredible week a few years ago, walking the National Trail along Hadrian’s Wall in the north of England. This 84-mile hike starts on the east coast of England, near Newcastle, and ends in the small hamlet of Bowness on the Solway on the west coast, and offers some of the loveliest scenery and friendliest people anywhere in England.

We set off as a lone couple, but quickly met others with the same goal — completing the hike! After six days of sharing fascinating stories, tired feet, crazy weather and delicious meals with our new friends, we all convened for one final celebration at the Kings Arms Pub in Bowness.

The sun was just setting over the Scottish hills and the warmth in the pub was very special. As the evening wore down, one of the locals, who obviously had downed many a pint here in his day, waved me over to his table in the corner. “You people walked the entire length of the wall?” he said.

When I nodded, he said that we had made history. When he saw the perplexed look on my face, he replied, “The Romans were never *that* crazy!” — John Scheleur.

We Don’t Serve Beef

The mystery dish. After 12 hours of touring Nanjing in a bus crammed with cranky teachers, I craved space. As the bi-fold door chuffed open to freedom, our leader (a sprightly woman with the stamina of an ox)

announced that dinner would be in three-quarters of an hour, and we must return to the bus in 30 minutes.

As I twitched involuntarily, I heard my seatmate growl under his breath. “Wanna sneak out?” I whispered. “Meet me in the lobby in ten!”

Ten-and-a-half minutes later we ducked into a tiny restaurant that was hidden behind shrubbery, and were given a back table.

We pulled out Chinese-English dictionaries and flipped to the restaurant scenarios. Ordering beer was easy; ordering sustenance required patience and humor. We received a tasty meal, including a wonderful beef-and-peppers dish. Now relaxed, celebrating success, we preserved our memories digitally.

Two nights later we returned. Deciding on the beef-and-pepper dish again, we were informed by a total of five wait staff that the restaurant didn’t serve beef. Ever.

Baffled, I pulled out my digital camera and scrolled to the evidence. “Look! Beef with peppers!” Our waiter leaned in, frowning in concentration. He straightened up with a snap, grinning happily: problem solved. “That,” he pronounced, “was not beef!”

“What was that?” my friend asked, but I put my hands over my ears. “Please, don’t tell me, don’t tell me!”

The waiter looked at each of us, smiled hugely, and rubbed his stomach cavity. A lot was left to our imagination.

Read the article and identify the holiday idioms and collocations, travel brochure adjectives, phrases and structures used to describe and promote the destination. Pay attention to the tenses used in the description of the adventurous journey.

EXPLORING TURKEY BY BUS: UNEXPECTED ADVENTURES

By **Inka Piegsa**.

Until a few months ago, I lived in Didim near Bodrum on Turkey’s Aegean coast. Fascinating as the proximity of such outstanding archaeological sites as Ephesus, Pamukkale and Halicarnassus were, my itchy feet urged me to go further afield and to explore as much of the rest of Turkey as I could.

The best way to get around in Turkey is by long distance coach. There are several companies and the coaches are extremely comfortable and modern, providing drinks and snacks, TV and music and frequent stops

along the way because they – mercifully – don't have toilets. Attendants look after you, store your luggage, sprinkle your hand with lemon cologne and make your journey as comfortable as possible.

An added bonus is that surprisingly few foreigners use them, probably because of a totally unjustified prejudice that they aren't safe. This means that once you are on the coach to the destination of your choice, at very reasonable prices at that, you are surrounded by locals. With typical Turkish hospitality, they even welcome the foreigner, share food and tea with them and, if you are able to utter only a few words of Turkish, they become your friends for life.

Early one morning, I boarded such a bus belonging to my favorite company KamilKoc. My destination was Urfa and Mardin in the far southeast of Turkey. It just so happened that I also made frequent trips to Istanbul and, on a visit to Istanbul Modern, the Museum of Modern Art, I came upon a photo exhibition featuring Hasankeyf in Mesopotamia, an ancient settlement on the shores of the river Tigris. Hasankeyf was in imminent danger of being devoured by the waters of a massive dam. These pictures were so mesmerizing that I decided on the spur of the moment to visit before it was too late.

The bus journey took more than 14 hours, but it was one of the most entertaining trips I have ever enjoyed. Hardly had the coach left the bus station, as my fellow travelers brought out the tapes and started to dance in the aisle. The bus shook so much from the festivities, I was afraid it might come off the road. Thankfully the driver was used to this kind of entertainment and kept it steady. Next were the food baskets, homemade pastries and other delicacies offered to the starving foreigner with a smile. They would not take no for an answer, even when my stomach reached bursting point.

Finally, we pulled into the central bus station in Mardin, a beautiful town spilling down a hillside in tiers of medieval buildings, narrow streets, mosques and workshops of the famous silversmiths of the region.

I took a taxi to my hotel which was on the top of the hill, just below a mosque and with fabulous views of the Tigris and the wide valley of Mesopotamia. I felt thrown back into biblical times sitting on the roof terrace and enjoying the very tasty and famous Mardin kebab.

The next day, I hired a car and asked the driver to take me to the river and Hasankeyf. In my experience, this is the best way to explore a country

because you get a driver, interpreter, body guard and local expert rolled all in one. Ali didn't disappoint.

The first thing he asked me after pulling up in his old but freshly polished Mercedes was if I had had breakfast. Nice as the hotel was, breakfast was nothing to write home about and I said so. He only lifted a finger and started jabbering on his mobile. Then he grinned. "Surprise, madam," he said. "You'll be my family's guest".

It turned out, that he took me to his home where his mother and sisters had laid on a Turkish breakfast spread for me, the likes of which I had never had before. We were sitting on the floor and comfy cushions and stuffing our faces with dish after dish and gallons of tea until it was time to set off for Hasankeyf. With kisses, embraces and good wishes we were finally on our way.

Approaching the mighty river Tigris and seeing the medieval bridge spanning the width of the waters is a sight you will never forget. Along the shore Kurdish shepherds were tending to their flock of goats and sheep, a scene straight from biblical times. I asked if we could go down and talk to them and that's where having an interpreter comes in handy. They showed me how to milk a goat and a good laugh was had when I tried myself.

Perhaps it was just me, but the arches of the bridge looked to me like sad accusing eyes, as if they knew that modern times and the dam would put an end to their existence after hundreds of years dominating the mighty river Tigris. Not only is the bridge affected, but also countless manmade caves which line the surrounding mountains and other testimonies of time gone bye.

After many protests and stops to the project of the Illisu hydroelectric dam, the project was approved and relocation of the cave dwellers has already begun. Site like the mosque Ulu Cami and the Zeynel Bay Mausoleum will also be moved, similar to what happened in Abu Simble.

However, the place and its unique atmosphere will never be the same again, so visit before the waters devour a historic place which has survived for hundreds of years only to fall now victim to modern time. Whatever the final outcome, it's one place in Turkey that you should not miss.

The best way to reach Hasankeyf or Turkish Mesopotamia is by long distance coach from every major city in Turkey. There are several bus companies, the biggest one being METRO, KAMILKOC or Ulusoy. Urfa has an airport called Sunliurfa if you prefer to travel by plane. The region features continental climate with hot summer and cold winters. As for

accommodation, there are many boutique hotels in Mardin and Urfa. If you'd like to find a private driver, it's best to ask at reception.

Author Bio: Born in Germany, Inka obtained law degrees in Germany, The UK and Spain, running her own international law firm for over 30 years in London and Marbella/Spain. A few years ago, she turned novelist, travel writer and photographer. Her novel 'The Househusbands Club' won Readers Favorite Award in the US in 2009. Her latest book, 'Istanbul, city of the green-eyed beauty' is a literary guide to Istanbul following the footsteps of authors Barbara Nadel, Orhan Pamuk and Pierre Loti. Her travel articles have been published in GoNomad, Europe Up Close, Off Beat Travel, Literary Traveler and many more. She is a regular contributor to Travel Generation, all exciting, weather2travel and spain-holiday.com and she has recently been commissioned by BBC Travel. Her blog www.glamourgrannytravels focuses on her solo travel adventures around the world with the emphasis on luxury and comfort. Inka has lived in Switzerland, Miami, London, Beirut and Istanbul and has currently settled in the South of Spain.

Read and summarize the article, copy and translate the new words, learn by heart the introduction and the description of 1 out of 10 top free things tourists can do in Edinburgh.

TOP 10 FREE THINGS TO DO IN EDINBURGH

By **Rachel Laidler.**

A city of arresting beauty, Edinburgh is a place at once antiquated yet vital, traditional but eclectic. Famous as much for its fortified castle as its yearly Fringe Festival, Scotland's capital is filled with an unending diversity of sights, sounds and smells. From the cobbled streets of the Royal Mile to the princely architecture of Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh is a city begging to be explored.

And yet, a visit to the Scottish capital can be expensive. Apart from accommodation and transport costs, the admissions fees of different attractions can push your budget. But it doesn't have to be. Some of Edinburgh's best sights don't cost a penny. Read on for the top 10 free things to do in Edinburgh.

1. Bring the Past to Life

Edinburgh has a truly archaic feel to it. The past can be found on almost every corner, whether in the form of a striking bronze statue, immortalizing the figure of a famous Scot, or in the weathered facades of its architecture. But even though history is woven into the city's very fabric, sometimes its particulars remain locked away, its secrets unreachable. Unlock them by grabbing a Scottish power breakfast (black pudding optional) and hitting the streets on a walking tour.

There are countless to choose from, but while informative and great fun, they tend to be rather expensive — except Sandeman's. Two and a half hours long, it covers a range of topics from the Enlightenment to witch burnings, and Harry Potter to the Stone of Destiny. Best of all, it is completely free. Walk through graveyards, down winding staircases, and along cobbled lanes, as your guide recounts the stories of the city, and brings Edinburgh's spirit and past vividly to life.

2. Walk a Mile

Regarded as the heart of the city, the Royal Mile forms the main thoroughfare of the Old Town, linking the ancient seats of Scottish Power — the castle and Holyrood Palace — together. Made up of a succession of streets, it's bursting with pubs, cafes and restaurants, all sitting alongside whiskey, tartan and souvenir shops.

Spending in any of these establishments is undoubtedly expensive, but a walk down the Mile — with its towering tenement buildings, ornate churches, and narrow closes that branch off elusively — is completely free. Its friendly buzz invites exploration and if you're there during the Fringe, be prepared for a wild ride — the Mile becomes packed with street performers, musicians and tourists, an electric atmosphere permeating the air.

Year round, there are also plenty of free attractions lining the Mile, from the elaborate St. Giles cathedral and the world-famous Museum of Childhood, to Parliament Square and the Heart of Midlothian.

3. Get Lost in the Old Town

Once you've finished inspecting the Royal Mile's delights, scout out the rest of the Old Town. Traverse the Grassmarket, previously a medieval market place and the site of public executions. It's now filled with traditional pubs, quirky shops and great restaurants. A stone's throw from here is the Cowgate, a low-level road situated under George IV Bridge. Not particularly impressive during the day — it's been called 'the bowels of the

city' on more than one occasion – its many pubs and clubs come alive at night.

Edinburgh University's central area is also worth a look. Made up of two squares, it contains some fascinating architecture, including the 'Hogwarts-esque' Teviot Row House, the oldest purpose-built student union in the world, and McEwan Hall, a stunning, 19th century circular building.

4. Get Political

The Scottish Parliament is quite unlike anything else in the city. Constructed from steel, oak and granite, it appears to have germinated from the very soil, a living entity. Situated next to Holyrood Palace, there's lots of room for independent exploration.

Peruse the exhibition and artwork in the main entrance hall, or check out the Debating Chamber (parliamentary business allowing) where heated debates on Scotland's future trajectory occur. You can also take a free tour to learn about the history, procedures, work, and design of this utterly unique building. Don't miss the inspiring Cannongate Wall, where the words of famous Scots are inscribed into different types of Scottish stone.

5. Meet Bobby

No trip to Edinburgh would be complete without meeting Bobby, the city's most famous canine. This little Skye terrier spent 14 years faithfully guarding the grave of his dead master, and has been immortalised in Scottish history ever since.

Find the bronze statue dedicated to his memory on George IV Bridge, and spare a moment to pat his nose. Locals say it brings you good luck. Then visit the site of Bobby's long vigil, Greyfriars Kirkyard, with its lesser known but just as fascinating history. Here, Franciscan monks and paranormal activity go hand-in-hand with the birth of Lord Voldemort himself.

6. Become a Culture Buff

Exciting enough that Edinburgh is filled with museums and art galleries galore, the best thing is most have no entrance fee. One must-see is the National Museum of Scotland, located on Chambers Street not far from the Royal Mile. Exhibitions include everything from Dolly the Sheep to samurai armor, Isle of Lewis Chessmen to the process of evolution. While there don't miss either the Grand Gallery, a huge, light-filled atrium detailing Scotland's contributions to the world, or the roof-top viewing platform, affording fantastic views of the Old Town and beyond.

Other free museums include the Writer's Museum, dedicated to three of Scotland's literary heroes – Scot, Stevenson and Burns. Or try the Museum on the Mound to pour over one million pounds in cash and Scotland's oldest banknote.

If you're more of an art lover check out the Scottish National Gallery (located at the bottom of the Mound) that has pieces from Van Gogh, Cezanne and Titian, amongst many others. There's also the National Portrait Gallery, recently refurbished to its 19th century splendor, and the National Museum of Modern Art containing cubist, surrealist and impressionist works.

7. Beach Out

Something you wouldn't expect from cold, wind-struck Edinburgh is a traditional seaside town. But a short bus-ride away is just that – Portobello, the city's only beach. Popular for sunbathing and swimming, on sunny days it's often packed out with locals relaxing. The promontory that runs beside it, lined with cafes, ice cream parlors, and fish 'n' chip shops, has a faded glamor which only adds to the town's charm.

If you fancy going further afield there are several other beaches within an hour of Edinburgh. Try visiting North Berwick, a picturesque fishing village only 20 minutes away by train. Explore the town's pretty streets while taking in the magnificent views of Bass Rock. Or, go to Seacliff to avoid the crowds and take in the dramatic ruins of old Tantallon Castle.

Looming protectively, Arthur's Seat observes Edinburgh with a watchful eye, a guardian protecting its charge. Lying within the royal Holyrood Park – a sweeping, wild landscape – this extinct volcano is an immensely popular spot for locals and tourists alike, a result of the spectacular panoramic views found from its peak.

Several routes lead up to its 251 meter summit, ranging from a breathless climb up steep, rocky steps to a gentle stroll that leads you gradually upwards. But be warned: its uneven and stony pinnacle makes the final ascent, no matter which route you take, rather tricky. Scaling this last hurdle is undoubtedly worth it – from the summit: the whole city is laid out before you, appearing as a perfect miniature; Leith, North Berwick, and the Pentland Hills, weather permitting, can be clearly seen in the distance; to the east, stretching ever outwards, the sea.

But Arthur is not the only attraction the Park has to offer. In fact, he shares the skyline with the striking Sailsbury Crags, a long ridge of

vertically faced rock, perched like a natural fortress over the city. There are several trails along this escarpment, although the going can be tough. If a more gentle wander is preferred, don't worry – there are multiple routes throughout the rest of the park, and plenty to see – from unusual flora and fauna, to lochs and medieval ruins.

9. Catch a View

While spectacular, Arthur's Seat does not have a monopoly on great views. Found to the east of Princes Street, Calton Hill has a slightly different – but just as beautiful – perspective on the Scottish Capital.

See from Holyrood Park to the city centre, from castle hill out to the Firth of Forth. After enjoying the panorama, take a stroll along Hume Walk and pay your respects to Rabbie at the Burns Monument. Or, try to climb the giant steps of the unfinished acropolis – a memorial to those Scots who lost their lives in the Napoleonic Wars – and crane your neck at the towering Nelson Monument, that watches over the city. There are also two observatories to check out.

If you're feeling particularly adventurous, head over to the Pentland Hills to the South West of the city. Routes range from gentle to strenuous, but whatever you do keep one eye on the ever-changing Scottish weather! From the top you can see Edinburgh, east Fife, and on particularly clear days even Ben Lomond.

10. Explore the Green Places

Edinburgh contains an abundance of greenery, parks, and gardens, giving the city a spacious, palatial feel. Alongside exploring Holyrood Park, you can picnic in The Meadows, a spacious expanse with grassy pastures and tree-lined lanes. Or admire the fountain and flowers of Princes Street Gardens, overlooked by the Castle and Gothic Scot Monument.

Most spectacular of all is the Royal Botanic Gardens, a mere mile away from the city center. With a plethora of different plants from around the world, traverse over 70 acres of landscaped surroundings, and bask in the quiet tranquility. With a number of gardens on display, amble along the Chinese Hillside's winding paths, go tree hunting in the Arboretum, or find shade in the Woodland Garden. If you have a few extra pennies, make a trip to the spectacular Glasshouses and experience a walk through ten different climatic zones.

Author Bio: After living in Edinburgh as a student for four years, Rachel Laidler knows all about exploring Scotland's capital on a tight

budget. Currently situated in the Scottish Highlands, come 2014 she'll be traveling alongside her boyfriend through Southeast Asia and Australasia.

Read and translate the article, learn by heart the introduction and present one of the journeys.

5 SPECTACULAR TRAIN JOURNEYS

By **Sophie Ibbotson.**

There is something thrilling about travelling around the world by train - a train journey is an adventure on wheels.

The Orient Express. Thomas the Tank Engine. The Flying Scotsman. There is something about railway locomotives that thrills us, especially when we are children, but even once we are fully grown, we still can't quite throw off the excitement of going on a train ride.

Thankfully, British Rail, broken ticket barriers, and the commuter crush at Waterloo don't even come into the picture: they all fall into an additional, 20th and 21st century circle of Dante's Hell.

The railway journeys we are talking about are railway adventures, where the train, the landscapes you travel through, and the final destinations, are all something very special indeed.

In the 1800s, the arrival of the railways, first in Britain and then further afield revolutionised travel for everyone. For the very first time, the masses could leave their homes, head to the cities or to the seaside, or strike out and populate frontier lands. New lines opened up the unvisited wildernesses of Canada, Russia and sub Saharan Africa, making them accessible like never before. If you were so inclined, you could hop onboard a train in London and (barring a change or three) end up on the Sea of Japan.

Our *Top 5 Train Journeys* span four continents and every imaginable terrain. Although they are disparate in their routes, classes of carriage, and costs, what they all offer is an irresistible sense of discovery, of adventure. The business traveller might now choose to fly from A to B because it is faster, but the experience of flying simply cannot compare with the finer aspects of train travel. Take advantage of this oversight, and book your next adventure by train.

Trans-Siberian Winter Wonderland

If you are looking for a strikingly beautiful, memorable winter vacation, look no further than Siberia. We are not having you on. Having ridden the entire length of the world's longest railway, the 5,772 mile long Trans-Siberian, now four times in less than a year, we can confirm that this is ultimate long-distance train ride. Whether you choose to travel eastwards from Moscow to Vladivostok, or to take the trip in reverse, you can luxuriate onboard the amply heated Golden Eagle Express whilst you admire the views from your window. Highlights of the journey include the possibility of walking on the frozen Pacific Ocean, taking a day trip into Mongolia to visit nomads in their gers, stopping at the Lake Baikal Ice Festival for dog sledding and a hovercraft ride, and, of course, an awful lot of ice-cold vodka.

Palace on Wheels

If you have ever wondered what it would be like to travel like a king, step aboard the Palace on Wheels. Each of the 14 splendidly regal carriages are named after one of India's princely states, whose maharajas frequently crisscrossed the subcontinent in their opulent private trains. Today the carriages combine the best aspects of a bygone era (antique furnishings, original artworks and personalised service) with modern amenities, making it an exceptionally comfortable ride. You can dine each night in the restaurant car, or have an intimate dinner in your room, and by day take in the architectural and cultural wonders of India: the Pink City of Jaipur with its Amber Fortress and Palace of the Winds; the Blue City of Jodhpur with its imposing Mehrgarh; and the desert citadel of Jaisalmer, surrounded by camels and sand dunes. The train returns to Delhi via the lakeside city of Udaipur and, of course, the unmissable, unmatched Taj Mahal.

Jewels of Persia

We might associate the boom in railways with the Industrial Revolution, but the international railway network is still expanding at a rapid rate, opening up all manner of new destinations. For the first time ever, you can now take a luxury train all of the way from Budapest to Tehran, crossing Lake Van with the locomotive and carriages on a ferry for the relatively short distance of absent track.

Over the course of two weeks the train crosses five diverse, yet equally fascinating countries, and arrives triumphant in the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is the only European private train allowed into the country, and itinerary highlights include the breathtakingly beautiful domes

of Isfahan; Shiraz, the city of gardens and poets; and the unforgettable Achaemenid ruins of Persepolis, where Darius the Great once ruled.

Amtrak Cascades

The shortest and most affordable of the world's best railway journeys winds its way up the Pacific Coast from Eugene, Oregon to Vancouver. It's just 12 hours long but my does it pack a punch! Not only are there incredible ocean views, but to the other side are the mountains: Mount Rainier and Mount Baker both put in impressive appearances. If you are not yet sure of the virtues of train travel and want to test your toe in the water, metaphorically speaking, you won't be disappointed if you start with the Amtrak Cascades.

Silk Road

The overland trading routes of antiquity, ridden by Marco Polo, Genghis Khan and their associates on horseback, were usurped almost overnight by the railways, yet thankfully that brought these almost mythical lands within our reach. James Elroy Flecker inspired us with his Golden Road to Samarkand, and indeed you will never forget your first glimpse of that magical city, nor of Khiva and Bukhara, of the Terracotta Warriors, or of the Great Wall.

Travelling by train from Moscow to Beijing along the Silk Road gives you an appreciation of the natural wonders of our world too. The steppes and mountains of Central Asia and western China are majestic in their size and variety, and when you travel for days through the deserts, you have unlimited respect for those earlier travellers who made their way across on foot.

Read and translate the article into Ukrainian. Highlight the tourist attraction and stylistic means the writer uses to describe them. Offer your translation of the headline in Ukrainian.

SINGING IN THE RAIN IN IRELAND

By **Guylaine Spencer.**

“Well, after all, this is Ireland, Miss,” the boy at the front desk said with a smirk, when I asked if rain was forecast for the day. Since my arrival in Galway City two days before, I'd been waiting for fair weather so I could get out and explore the countryside.

Two rural regions cradle this growing community on the west coast of Ireland: Connemara, to the north—a land of lakes, bogs and green mountains; and the Burren, to the south—a bizarre region famous for its harsh limestone hills, unusual wildflowers and the treacherous Cliffs of Moher.

With so many natural wonders at my front door, I was more than a little impatient to get going. Even the famous shining Galway Bay located at the city's edge couldn't satisfy my yearning. But the grey clouds visible through the skylight in my room looked ominous. Maybe a change of plans was in order.

At first glance the town of Galway, with a population of about 60,000, might not seem to offer a lot to do on a rainy day. It lacks the huge art galleries, royal palaces or high-tech science centers of London or Paris. To my surprise, though, I discovered several cozy, interior activities to entertain the traveler with a taste for history, nature and the arts.

Take, for example, the Galway Museum. This quirky, ramshackle, hand-lettered collection of old photos, folk-art and artifacts of daily life is located in a 200-year old house, built into the side of the Spanish Arch, one of the remnants of the medieval town wall. Up top is a little roof garden with a bench and a view of Galway Bay. On the damp summer day I visited, a stack of peat was burning in the fireplace on the first floor.

One of my favorite artifacts in this museum is an early 20th century photograph of several stern women swathed in heavy dresses and scarves, sitting bolt-upright in a row, glaring into the camera. The picture is incongruously entitled "Ladies Taking the Sun."

The delicate, soft-spoken woman who runs the museum explained that the fierce ladies in the photo were from the Claddagh, a former fishing village located just across the narrow river in front of the museum. The Claddagh originally lay outside the walls of the city.

Even up to the early 1900s, it remained culturally and politically distinct from Galway proper. There was even a Claddagh "king." Before the bridge was built, the women used to row over in their small boats jammed with rough, hand-woven baskets, to sell their fish on the stone pier.

The famous "Claddagh" ring, with the two hands clasping the heart, was used for years as a wedding band by the villagers, and today it's the most popular souvenir in town.

Speaking of fish, the Marine Museum in Salthill, a beach community, offers a close-up look at the multi-colored world of live stingrays, crabs and

other sea creatures. Here, you can hold a starfish in your hand. For lunch, try a bowl of soup in the museum's beachfront cafe. If the view through the floor-to-ceiling window tempts you, a walk along the promenade in a high wind (complete with ocean spray and the ear-splitting crash of waves) will get the blood swooshing through your veins again.

To recover from your reckless encounter with nature in the raw, you might want to step inside and warm up with a pint. A slew of pubs offering live sessions of traditional Irish music can be found in the Old Quarter of the town.

Lined with greystone buildings covered in antique carvings and bright wooden and brass signs, the streets here buzz with buskers and crowds. Musicians and Celtic dancers also perform nightly during the summer at the Siamsa Tire, a performing arts centre in the Claddagh area. For classical music, try the 13th century St. Nicholas' Church, which hosts occasional concerts.

When hunger calls, the best place to go in Galway is a teashop or bakery. MacNamara's, the Kylemore Bakery and the Lynch Café are pretty typical: they offer comfortable settings and generous servings of brown bread and scones, delicious Irish butter, heaps of ham and hot boiled potatoes, blood sausage and scrambled eggs and large metal pots of strong tea. You can tell a lot about a culture by its beverages and the way they're served.

The North American approach to tea is epitomized by the single styrofoam cup of barely boiled water, with a scrawny tea bag slammed down on top of the lid; the concoction is tepid enough to be safely bolted down the throat while driving through rush hour traffic with one hand on the steering wheel.

On the other hand, the Irish pot of tea and porcelain cup and saucer send quite a different message. They demand that the drinker sit awhile, let the tea steep, and then sip several leisurely servings.

One day, while I was obeying this command and enjoying my third cup of tea, the sun suddenly came out from behind a cloud. The next day I planned to leave Galway to start exploring the countryside. A buttery light was bouncing off the river and toasting the old stonewalls, and a tune I'd heard a busker playing in the street kept running through my head.

It was Frank Sinatra's trademark "I Did It My Way," sung in Gaelic and English:

"Regrets, I've had a few, but then again, too few to mention."

Read and retell the text, define all possible types of holidays to this destination. Highlight key words and collocations.

ROAD TRIP THROUGH SRI LANKA

By Rupert Parker.

Sri Lanka is a compact country, not much larger than Wales, but has ancient cities, hillside tea plantations, wildlife sanctuaries and, of course, glorious beaches. Getting around the country is relatively simple, with a good network of buses and trains, but to get the most out of your visit the best way is to hire a car with a driver. It's not expensive, less than £50 a day including the driver's meals and accommodation, and it gives you the flexibility to stop whenever you want. The added benefit is that many of these drivers make excellent guides, just make sure they speak good English. You can do this itinerary in a week, but it makes sense to spend longer to give you time to linger.

Colombo

After a long flight, it's worth stopping for a night in Colombo and the city is less than an hour from the airport. Of course like most Asian cities it's rapidly growing a selection of high rise buildings, but it still retains much of its leafy charm, partly because investors shied away during the long civil war. Explore its narrow lanes, lined with colonial buildings to get a sense of the old Colombo and sights include the National Museum, the Gangaramaya Buddhist temple, the restored Old Dutch Hospital, and the busy markets of Pettah.

Galle

There's new highway linking Colombo with the south and it only takes around two hours to cover the 128 Km to the city of Galle. The 18th century Dutch fort area is a UNESCO world heritage site and is the best example of a fortified European city in South Asia.

Remarkably, in spite of the boutique hotels and handicraft shops, it's still a working town with the law courts and schools drawing locals every day. It can get hot here so walk the ramparts and get some cooling sea breezes, watching local boys leap into the ocean. The 17th century Dutch Reformed church is worth a visit, but best just to wander the narrow streets past tumbledown colonial buildings and soak in the atmosphere.

Turtle Hatchery

Heading east along the coast it's worth visiting the Kosgodra Turtle Hatchery. The beach here is a prime nesting site for turtles but locals have a taste for their eggs so they're often stolen. The good folks at the hatchery either collect them from the beach, or buy them at the market, and incubate them until the hatchlings break out. They're then released back into the sea after a few days. They also rescue injured turtles and you can see a few specimens here.

Nuwara Eliya

Turning north and climbing up to hill country, it's a gruelling six hours on narrow winding roads to cover 253 km. The climate noticeably cools and the vegetation changes. It's worth stopping at Ella, at 1,000 m, for scenic views of jungle covered mountains, notably through what they call Ella gap, a niche in the hills by the side of Ella Rock.

The road climbs further upwards and soon you're in the cloud as you reach Nuwara Eliya at 1,868 m. This is the capital of the hill country and was founded by the British in 1846. It's also known as Little England, since the buildings look like they've been transplanted from Surrey (a pretty part of South East England), complete with hedges and manicured lawns. Here hard drinking tea planters spent their leisure time, in between elephant and fox hunting trips. It still has a race course and of course, a huge golf course with an appropriate club house.

Tea Plantations

Even though the British are long gone, the tea plantations continue to thrive and the hillsides are covered in the emerald green bushes, dotted with workers still picking by hand. One of the tea factories has been imaginatively transformed into a hotel, complete with its own garden where you can try your hand at picking tea. You can taste the fruit of your labours, if you wait the two days it takes to dry the leaves. Instead I visit the Bluefield Tea Gardens Factory and see each stage of the process, of course accompanied by various tastings.

Kandy

It's another three-hour drive and 85 km through the mist and drizzle to reach Kandy, Sri Lanka's former capital. The town is tucked on the edge of an artificial lake, surrounded by green hills on all sides and it's an attractive place. The big attraction is the Dalada Maligawa, or the Temple of the Tooth, where they have one of Buddha's canines, kept hidden inside a Russian box of caskets. That doesn't stop worshippers queuing up to see

the monks opening the sacred sanctum twice a day. It's a tremendous sight, with incense, drumming and exotic costumes adding to the sense of ceremony. There are usually cultural shows nearby with displays of traditional dancing and fire walking.

Sigiriya

Still heading north and descending to the plains, after 95 km and three hours driving, you reach Sigiriya, or Lion Rock. This Rock Fortress or "castle in the sky" was a royal citadel for 20 years in the 5th Century. It's a massive monolith of red stone that rises 600 ft above ground and the climb to the summit is reached between the paws of a lion.

Beneath it are the remains of the Royal Palace landscaped with waterways and lakes and there's also an excellent museum. On the way up there are well preserved frescoes depicting topless women and of course the view from the top is stunning. Signs warn of wasp attacks and they've been known to attack tourists, but there's a caged shelter in the middle of the climb, just in case.

Minneriya National Park

There are a number of protected areas in the vicinity and Minneriya is known for its large herds of Elephants who gather to drink around the reservoir of the same name. It has all the ingredients of an African safari and you transfer to special vehicles to journey deep into the jungle.

I arrive in late afternoon and am rewarded by the sight of over 250 elephants milling around on the edge of the lake, some of them taking the opportunity to have an early evening bath, as the sun sinks on the horizon.

Polonnaruwa

Not far away is Polonnaruwa, the island's medieval capital from the 11th to the 13th Centuries, before being abandoned to invaders from South India. It spreads over a huge area, fortified by three concentric walls and laid out with an irrigation system and clusters of temples and shrines. You'll need your guide to drop you off at strategic points, otherwise distances are too great to walk. The highlight is the Buddhist temple containing four colossal Buddhas carved out of the rock, sleeping, sitting and standing.

Passikudah Beach

A couple of hours east, is Passikudah, a small coastal village about 35 km from Batticaloa. What brings people here is its long bay, fringed with golden sands, and clear shallow water which makes it safe to bathe. The hotels are all recent developments and, although they're clustered next

to each other, are tastefully low rise and hidden in the palms. At the far end of the beach fishermen still set out in their canoes every night using lights to attract squid, their main catch. It's a pleasant place to relax but just be aware that it can take seven hours to drive back to the international airport in Colombo.

Read the article and highlight the exotic cultural-bound words, explain their meaning and function in the text. Offer four reasons to visit Japan.

EXPLORING THE HIGHLIGHTS OF JAPAN: FROM BUSY TOKIO TO THE MAJESTIC FUJI

By Sophie Ibbotson.

Japan is cherry blossom, and Japan is Hello Kitty. It's neon signs, sushi, and it's Sony, Nikon, and Nintendo. But beyond the brands and stereotypes which Japan exports, you will find a culturally rich, and a surprisingly diverse, country of fascinating sites to explore.

Tokyo – a megacity

The chances are that any visitor will fly into Tokyo, a mega-megacity with nearly 40 million people living in the metropolitan area. The skyscrapers soar towards the heaven, and the city glitters with lights, but behind the modern veneer is a city with a long and illustrious history.

Imperial Palace, Tokyo

The Imperial Palace, still home to the Emperor of Japan, sits amongst formal gardens; there are numerous Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples; and Tokyo National Museum and the city's other galleries have world-class collections on show.

Allow time to walk around the city. Seek out the various shopping centres such as Ameyoko Arcade, the city's only open-air pedestrianised market and the shopping centre at Hachiman-dori for its enjoyable mix of high and low end shopping.

Hakone – Shinto and Fuji

Fuji means mountain in Japanese ©JNTO. From Tokyo you can reach Hakone on a day trip: it's a little over an hour's drive away. Historically this was the site of an important Shinto shrine, the Hakone

Gongen, which lies on the shore of Lake Ashi. There has been a shrine here since 757, though the current structure was rebuilt in the late 16th century.

It's within the UNESCO-listed Hakone Geopark and the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, and the snow-capped peak of Fuji (which means "mountain" in Japanese, so you don't need to say Mount Fuji) is just as captivating as it appears in the ancient woodblock prints. If you have the time, go out on a boat trip on one of the lakes, visit the islands and hot springs, and hike to the Shiraito Falls, another UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Nagano – see the snow monkey

Snow monkeys roll in the snow and warm up in the spring

The mountainous region of Nagano — accessible from Tokyo on the bullet train — gets some of the heaviest snow fall in the world, and yet, remarkably, people still manage to live here. If you are interested in learning about the area's history, walking pilgrims trails and staying in heritage pilgrims' hostels, Walk Japan's is the best way to explore this wintery wonderland.

If you are feeling less energetic, take a trip instead to the Jigokudani Yaenkoen Park, famed for its naturally occurring hot springs. You won't be the only one in the pool, however, as the local Japanese macaque (also known colloquially as snow monkey) roll in the snow and then hop into the steaming hot springs to warm up!

Kyoto and the cherry blossoms

Kyoto is Japan's touristic heartland, and understandably so. It was Japan's Imperial capital for more than 1,000 years, and 20 per cent of the country's national treasures are located here. Of course it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and during *hanami* (cherry blossom season) from late March to May, the city is packed with visitors.

This is the cultural centre of Japan, its history, arts, and people. There are an extraordinary 2,000 temples and shrines, and Kyoto is also the ideal location to learn about the art of the Japanese tea ceremony, the highly stylised Noh theatre, and ink and wash painting. Lovers of architecture and aesthetics will be in their element.

Osaka – shopping and street food

Osaka, on Osaka Bay on the island of Honshu is the country's second largest city. Always a city of merchants, it's a great place to shop, and it's arguably the food capital of the world. Feast

on *udon* (noodles), *takoyaki* (fried octopus), and *oshizushi* (pressed sushi), and expect to develop a taste for *sake*, the local rice wine.

Several large festivals are held in Osaka throughout the year, including Tenjin Matsuri in July, where you'll see river boat processions and fireworks, drummers, lion dancers, and ornate floats with plenty of people in costumes. The city has a vibrant night life especially around Dotonbori where a maze of tightly connected streets hums with bars, restaurants with extravagant facias.

Read and translate the article. Then, choose another country destination and present it in a similar way.

NORWAY IN A NUTSHELL

By **Janna Graber**

With its majestic fjords, quiet rural villages and sophisticated capital, Norway has become an unexpected favorite destination for many – including me. I start each visit in Oslo, the capital city, which has a beautiful location along the Oslo Fjord. Oslo is home to half a million people, including the royal family. The daily Changing of the Guards ceremony at the Royal Palace is a must-see.

Norway hasn't always had such a regal history. It was once the land of Vikings. The Viking Ship Museum in Oslo celebrates the country's fierce warrior past, and has some of the best preserved Viking ships in existence.

The Norwegians have long since given up their warring ways, but they are still explorers at heart. Many of the world's top polar explorers have been Norwegians. Oslo's Fram Museum houses the vessel used by early Norwegian explorers to the North and South Poles.

My favorite stop in Oslo is the Norsk Folkemuseum, an open-air museum which brings Norway's traditions and culture to life. Historic homes, barns and a stave church have been carefully preserved here.

You can't visit Norway without exploring some of its natural wonders. From Oslo, board the Bergen Railroad, which winds through the rich farmland of central Norway. Continue on the breathtaking Flåm Railway, a steep journey that winds past spectacular waterfalls and through dramatic mountain ranges. In the village of Flåm, board a boat for a cruise through the Sognefjord, one of the world's longest and deepest fjords.

After cruising the Sognefjord, it's just a short train ride to the port town of Bergen. The Bryggen District along the wharf dates back to 1360, when it was a center of the Hanseatic League. Today, its brightly colored wooden houses are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Whether you visit the cosmopolitan streets of Oslo, the historic harbors of Bergen or the majestic Norwegian fjords, Norway is one destination that you'll want to return to.

Author Bio: Janna Graber is a managing editor at GoWorldTravel.com. She has covered travel around the world for more than 40 publications, and is the author of three travel anthologies from WorldTravelerPress.com

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