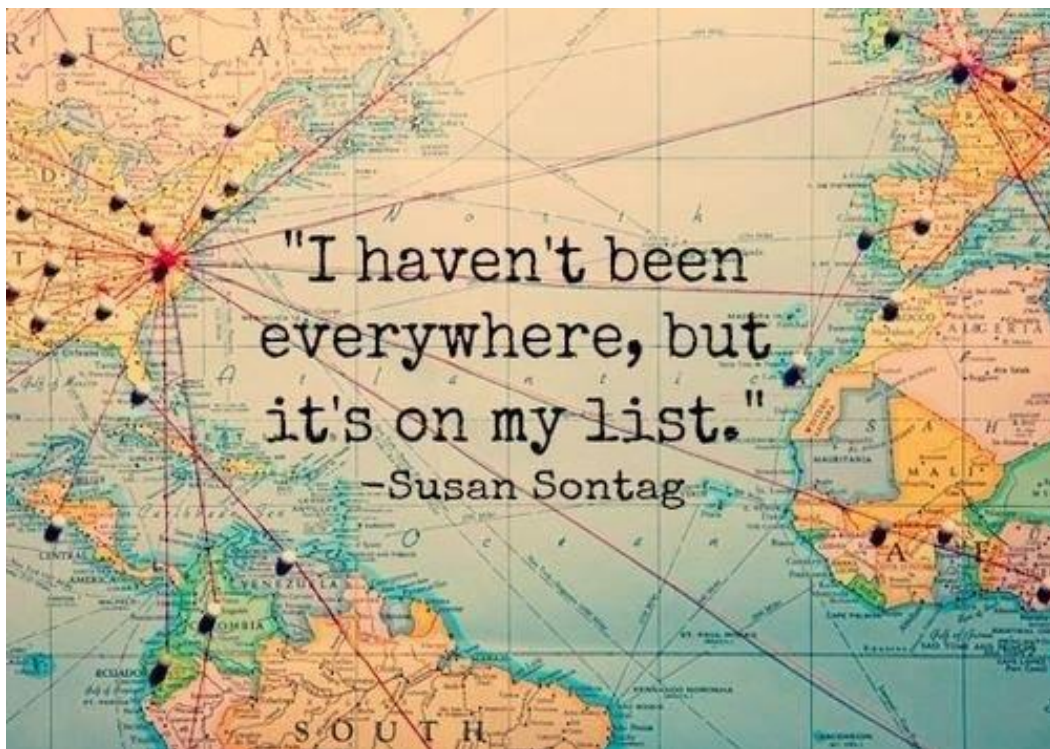


# personal english

*Presents*



## *Summer Travel Journal* 2016

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[www.personal-english.com](http://www.personal-english.com)

**Summer Travel Journal**

*Table of Contents*

TOPIC	ACTIVITY	FOCUS ON	PAGE
Travel Journal	<i>Introduction: What Is a Travel Journal?</i>	Reading	3
History	<i>The Taku Lodge (Alaska)</i>	Listening, Grammar	4
Landscape	<i>A Land of Legendary Beauty (Patagonia)</i>	Listening, Vocabulary	7
Paleontology	<i>Big Feet in Patagonia</i>	Reading, Writing	13
Flora	<i>The Dragon's Blood Tree (Socotra)</i>	Listening	17
Literature	<i>Letters from Iceland</i>	Reading, Grammar	19
Food	<i>The Bunny Chow (South Africa)</i>	Listening, Vocabulary	26
Fauna	<i>The Aye-Aye (Madagascar)</i>	Grammar	29

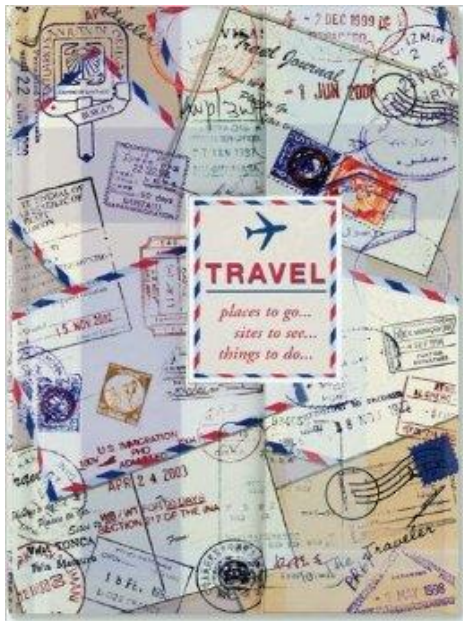


**WARNING!**

Levels of difficulty have not been marked on purpose. The Personal English method relies on the learner's exposure to authentic language: students of any level are therefore welcome to try their hand at any of the activities in this booklet, and to report their difficulties to the teacher upon resuming classes.

# INTRODUCTION

## What Is a Travel Journal?

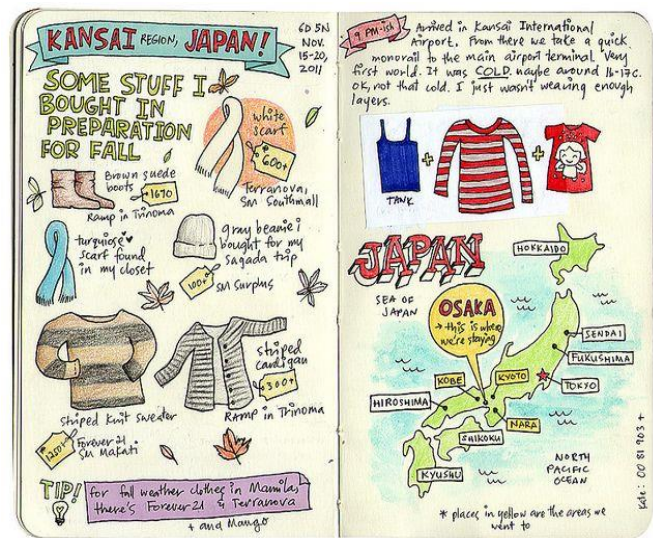


A travel journal is a notebook where you keep track of your **travel schedule** and **route**. You can jot down your **impressions** of the destinations and places you are visiting, report **funny anecdotes**, compare **food and drinks**, mark down **recipes** and **useful phrases** you have learnt in the local language, as well as take notes of the **names** and **contacts** of the people you have befriended, or ask them to share comments and impressions of the places with you. Unlike Facebook, a travel journal is first and foremost **private** or, at most, to be shared with your dear ones. It is not meant to show off someone's travelling records; rather, it's meant to help us cherish our fondest memories, and recall forgotten joys and sorrows – ideally, with

someone we loved and that may (or may not) have shared those experiences with us. Just like an old-style photo album, a travel journal is meant to **lighten up solitary winter evenings** or **rekindle old memories** with relatives, partners or friends.

If you have never kept a travel journal before, in this booklet you'll find plenty of creative ideas to get started with your own: just look out for the **Travel Journal Tips** red box. And, on the plus side, remember that keeping a travel journal is a wonderful way to **polish your writing skills** – among those people you may want to share it with, consider including your English teacher for feedback, advice and corrections ☺.

*Sit back, relax and enjoy the trip!*



**ACTIVITY #1**

**CONTINENT:** America

**DESTINATION:** Alaska

**TOPIC:** History



**SKILLS:** Listening, Grammar



**WELCOME TO THE TAKU GLACIER LODGE**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bg6LpkffLsw>

Watch the Video, then Tick the Right Option

1. The Taku Lodge is located in the environs of the Alaskan city of:

Anchorage

Juneau

Fairbanks

2. It is reachable by:

Floatplane

Ferry

Helicopter

3. The Taku Glacier is:

The largest of the Juneau Icefield

The highest in Alaska

The most isolated in the World

4. The Taku Glacier Lodge is surrounded by:

Deserted gold mines

The wilderness of the rainforest

Birch woods

5. The lodge was built by:

The Tlingit natives inhabiting the woods

A woman

A placer miner

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE TAKU GLACIER LODGE



Adapted from: <http://www.wingsairways.com/about-the-lodge>

GRAMMAR

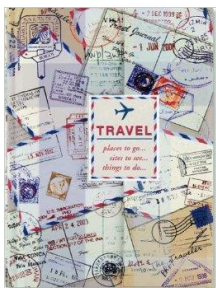
Fill in the Blanks with the Verbs in Brackets Conjugated in the Appropriate Verbal Tense

The name and the story of Ms. Joyce are linked to the Taku Glacier Lodge, a resort close to the Canadian border and accessible from Juneau by floatplane. Taku Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ (to exist) for more than 80 years, that is since Dr. Harry C. DeVighne \_\_\_\_\_ (to build, originally) in 1923. He \_\_\_\_\_ (to open) it as one of Alaska's first hunting and fishing lodges available for overnight guests. In the fall of 1930, Mrs. Erie L. Smith \_\_\_\_\_ (to visit) Taku Lodge while touring Southeast Alaska on her yacht, the *Stella Maris*. Mrs. Smith \_\_\_\_\_ (to buy) Twin Glacier Camp as a second home for both summer and winter use. Her son, Hack, \_\_\_\_\_ (to stay – habit in the past) at Taku Lodge year-round as a caretaker. In the summer Hack \_\_\_\_\_ (to keep – habit in the past) a crew of men busy constructing new buildings and maintaining the camp. Also helping out with year-round caretaking \_\_\_\_\_ (to be) Mary Joyce. Mary \_\_\_\_\_ (to hire, first) as a private nurse for Ms. Smith and Hack, but she quickly \_\_\_\_\_ (to fall) in love with the lodge and \_\_\_\_\_ (to stay – habit in the past) to help out with the year-round upkeep of Taku Lodge. Meanwhile, Mary and Hack \_\_\_\_\_ (to begin) breeding sled dogs during their years at the lodge, and \_\_\_\_\_ (not to take long) long for word to spread about these Taku River huskies. What \_\_\_\_\_ (to start) as a hobby for Hack and Mary quickly \_\_\_\_\_ (to become) a business as they

## Summer Travel Journal

\_\_\_\_\_ (to begin) to sell well-trained sled dogs all around the state of Alaska and Western Canada. In 1934, Hack \_\_\_\_\_ (to set out) on a hunting trip on the Stikine River. While in Wrangell, he \_\_\_\_\_ (to suffer) a heart attack and \_\_\_\_\_ (to die). Mrs. Smith \_\_\_\_\_ (to be) very distraught at the loss of her son, and \_\_\_\_\_ (to make up) her mind she did not want anything more to do with Taku Lodge, so she \_\_\_\_\_ (to bequeath) it to Mary.

Mary \_\_\_\_\_ (to be, always) an adventurous girl. Upon receiving an invitation to participate in the 1936 Fairbanks Ice Carnival, she \_\_\_\_\_ (to decide) to make the trip overland by dog sled. She \_\_\_\_\_ (to set out) from the lodge in December of 1935 with five dogs and a loaded sled to travel the 1,000 miles to Fairbanks. Mary She \_\_\_\_\_ (to spend) three months on the trail of which she \_\_\_\_\_ (to be) only actually able to travel fifty-two days. She \_\_\_\_\_ (to travel) twenty-miles a day in spite of temperatures to fifty degrees below zero and only a few hours of daylight each day. After her journey Mary \_\_\_\_\_ (to open) Taku Lodge and \_\_\_\_\_ (to operate) it successfully as a tourist resort, calling it Twin Glacier Lodge. She \_\_\_\_\_ (to own) Taku Lodge until 1942 when she \_\_\_\_\_ (to sell) it to Mr. and Mrs. Royal O'Reilly. In Juneau, Mary \_\_\_\_\_ (to open) two bars on South Franklin Street and \_\_\_\_\_ (to live) above the *Lucky Lady* until her death in 1976.



### Travel Journal Tip #1

#### Plunging into a Place's Daily Past

Write a 15-line text

Some places really enable the visitor to plunge into the past and imagine how their former inhabitants looked like and what activities they would do in those places. This is what **Lord Byron** must have experienced when, after visiting **Chillon Castle** in **Montreux (Switzerland)**, was so struck by the sight of its dungeon and the account of its most famous prisoner, **François Bonivard** (from 1532 to 1536) as to imagine and describe his detention years in the poem ***The Prisoner of Chillon* (1816)**. Pick a historical place and imagine who its inhabitants were and what they would usually do in that place, then describe their routine as vividly as possible.

**ACTIVITY #2**

**CONTINENT:** America

**DESTINATION:** Patagonia

**TOPIC:** Landscape



**SKILLS:** Listening, Vocabulary



**A Land of Legendary Beauty**



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nD\\_dFyfOXIo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nD_dFyfOXIo)

GRASPING FACTUAL DETAILS

Fill in the Blanks with the Missing Names and/or Data

Far away, at the fabled edge of the world, the natural wonders of Patagonia await. This last frontier of South America **slopes down**<sup>A</sup> from the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> (00':13'') towards \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> (00':14''), covering the sparsely inhabited Southern regions of both Chile and Argentina.

No destination captures the imagination like Patagonia: this is a land of legendary beauty, where \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> (00':30'') runs the show. Prepare to feel **dwarfed**<sup>B</sup> by the **mighty**<sup>C</sup> volcanoes, towering glaciers and floating icebergs that are sure to cross your path. In this remote region, even the most firmly planted human footprint is soon covered under **blankets**<sup>D</sup> of snow, erased by westerly winds or washed away by lapping waves. With its mosaic of green steppe plains and blue mountain lakes, framed by wooded hills of ever-changing colors, Patagonia paints a **mesmerizing**<sup>E</sup> picture: white-capped peaks of silvery mountains puncture the horizon while **soaring**<sup>F</sup> condors and solitary *gauchos* bring the seemingly **spellbound**<sup>G</sup> landscape to life.

This untamed land has moods as changeable as the weather and can be rugged and desolate as well as breathtakingly beautiful and inviting. Everything south of here is too **harsh**<sup>H</sup> for human settlement and it's this edge-of-the-world feeling that has captivated intrepid souls for centuries.

Summer Travel Journal

First to arrive was the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Portuguese explorer \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> (01':59''), who named the region Patagonia, "the land of the big feet". Some three hundred years later, a young \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> (02':10'') contributed to the myth that this was once a land of giants by collecting the remains of huge extinct animals.

Now, almost two centuries later, Patagonia is still a place of discovery: while the region has become much easier to reach, its mythical appeal remains. Whether you set out on a road trip or explore its far corners by cruise ship or plane, this is **bound**<sup>I</sup> to be the journey of a lifetime. On the Argentinian side, one of Patagonia's most relaxing day trips takes you from sleepy San Martin de los Andes to Villa la Angostura. Simply follow the scenic \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> (03':00''), which takes in to water-rich national parks.

This road trip will bring you to San Carlos de Bariloche, a popular ski resort on the shores of Lake Nahuel Huapi. The town has all the facilities and outdoor pursuits of the Swiss Alps – without the **price tag**<sup>J</sup>. When roaming South along the famous Rota Cuarenta, take a detour to the town of El Chalten, Argentina's trekking capital in the Southern Andes. High to the idyllic Laguna Capri, or to even higher lookout points to gaze up at the moody \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> (03':50''). Other trails provide scenic views of the **jagged**<sup>K</sup> peaks of Cerro Torre, which only few dare to climb.

Spend a night in El Calafate, just a few hours to the south. Stock up on supplies and try the regional specialty of *asado*, whole lamb grilled over an open fire. El Calafate is **nestled**<sup>L</sup> on the southern shores of Lago Argentino, the gateway lake to Los Glaciares National Park. Embark on an epic journey to one of Nature's greatest gifts: the Perito Moreno Glacier. If ice trekking over its slippery surface doesn't warm you up, perhaps a whiskey on the rocks will. From the safety of a nearby viewing platform, observe the ever-changing face of its terminus, which reaches some \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> (05':11'') above sea level. This glacier is the third largest freshwater reserve. Most Perito Moreno tours also take in the milky water of Canal Upsala, Nature's own exhibit space for some of the most spectacular sculptures on Earth – floating icebergs shaped by water and wind.

All the way south, the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> (05':42'') separates the far corners of Patagonia from mainland Argentina. When Magellan first arrived here, he spotted the campfires of native tribes and named the archipelago *Tierra del Fuego*, "the land of fire". You can get there by boat, but most visitors simply fly to the province's capital, Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world. This former penal colony was once a cold and brutal place of punishment, but now extends a warm welcome to all new commerce.



## Summer Travel Journal

In the morning, board the End of the World train for an unforgettable day trip to Tierra del Fuego National Park. An even more scenic way to reach this reserve is joining a cruise along the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> (06':40''), the closest you can get to experiencing Antarctica without actually going there. See the Magellanic cormorants **flocked<sup>M</sup>** on Bird Island and then observe the **lazy<sup>N</sup>** giants on Seal Island. The nearby Les Eclaireurs lighthouse has marked this passageway to Chile for about a hundred years.

Once you've reached the wondrous domain of Tierra del Fuego National Park, you have come to the end of your Argentinian exploration. From here, you can either return to Ushuaia and fly to Buenos Aires, or cross over into Chile to explore the west coast of Patagonia, where more adventures await.

On the Chilean side, you can find fascinating historic and cultural attractions in pretty colonial cities, such as the regional capital Punta Arenas. After a day of sightseeing in the outdoors, warm up with the local flavors that await in the region's inviting restaurants. In much of Chilean Patagonia, forests, lakes, snow-capped mountains, rivers and volcanoes dominate the landscape. With more than half of this gigantic region declared a protected **wilderness<sup>O</sup>** area, you'll find untouched nature everywhere you go.

On your way north, take a little detour to the Mílon Cave. This prehistoric shelter held the remains of a giant ground-dwelling \_\_\_\_\_<sup>11</sup> (08':30'') and other huge extinct species. It was discoveries like this that sparked Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection. Not far from the cave, the granite peaks of Torres del Paine **loom over<sup>P</sup>** Chile's wind-swept tundra like towering castles in the sky. This **dramatic<sup>Q</sup>** national park is **brimming with<sup>R</sup>** lakes in many shades of blue and green – some with distinctive white banks, and others that spill out into **gorgeous<sup>Q</sup>** waterfalls such as Salto Grande.

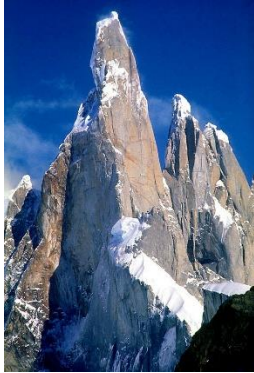
Continue north until you spot the spectacular outline of the Osorno volcano. This **fearsome<sup>R</sup>** giant is the focal point of Los Lagos, the lake region that forms the northern border of Chilean Patagonia. **Straddling<sup>S</sup>** the opposite shore of Lake Llanquihue is the small town of Puerto Varas, a good place to end your Patagonian expedition. After collecting some **mementoes<sup>T</sup>**, you can either return to Bariloche and Argentina by crossing the border via the lakes, or drive north for a stopover in Pucón and Villarica before flying out for the capital Santiago de Chile.

Travel to the land that time forgot to walk in the footsteps of early explorers or make a new discovery all of your own. This magical wilderness at the far edge of the world reminds us that we are just temporary spectators of Nature's infinite beauty.

**Summer Travel Journal**

GENERAL COMPREHENSION

Caption the Pictures below with their Names



1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_



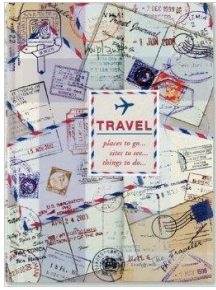
6. \_\_\_\_\_

**Summer Travel Journal**

VOCABULARY

Match the Words in Bold from the Text with their Corresponding Synonym(s) or Definitions

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>A.</b> To slope down | <b>1.</b> Scary, frightening, intimidating, daunting |
| <b>B.</b> To dwarf      | <b>2.</b> Unspoiled nature                           |
| <b>C.</b> Mighty        | <b>3.</b> Fated, destined                            |
| <b>D.</b> Blanket       | <b>4.</b> Inactive, idle, sluggish                   |
| <b>E.</b> Mesmerizing   | <b>5.</b> Imposing, stalwart                         |
| <b>F.</b> To soar       | <b>6.</b> Captivated, bewitched, enthralled          |
| <b>G.</b> Spellbound    | <b>7.</b> Rugged, uneven, craggy                     |
| <b>H.</b> Bound         | <b>8.</b> Keepsake, collectible, memorabilia         |
| <b>I.</b> Price Tag     | <b>9.</b> Scenic, impressive                         |
| <b>J.</b> Jagged        | <b>10.</b> Layer                                     |
| <b>K.</b> To flock      | <b>11.</b> To gather, bunch up, huddle together      |
| <b>L.</b> Lazy          | <b>12.</b> To tower, to predominate                  |
| <b>M.</b> Wilderness    | <b>13.</b> To fly high in the sky                    |
| <b>N.</b> To loom       | <b>14.</b> To descend or decline                     |
| <b>O.</b> Dramatic      | <b>15.</b> To extend across, span                    |
| <b>P.</b> To brim with  | <b>16.</b> Dazzlingly beautiful or magnificent       |
| <b>Q.</b> Gorgeous      | <b>17.</b> Expensiveness                             |
| <b>R.</b> Fearsome      | <b>18.</b> To put in the shade, eclipse or diminish  |
| <b>S.</b> To straddle   | <b>19.</b> Hypnotic, spellbinding                    |
| <b>T.</b> Memento       | <b>20.</b> To overflow with, spill over              |



## Travel Journal Tip #2

### Looking Out of the Window

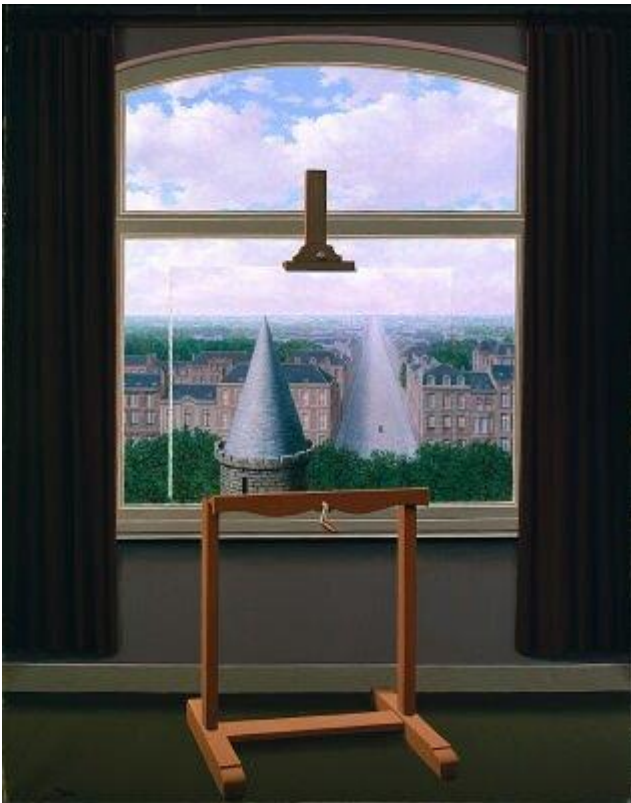
Write a 15-line text



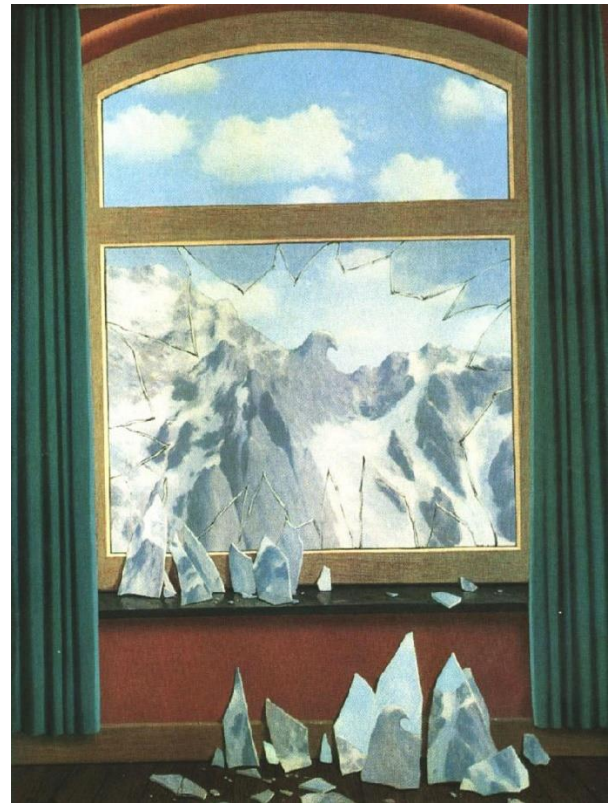
When travelling – especially on my own – one of the experiences that I find most pleasant and engrossing is **sitting by the window** of my accommodation. I just drop my stuff, take a bath, make myself some tea and sit by the window to gaze at the landscape and catch a glimpse of the **sluggish or hectic life of the place**. I find it particularly pleasant at **dusk**, when the light changes and local people alternatively come back home or set out for the evening. Take the time to sit by the window for a while and describe both what you see and the **impressions that sight fosters** – **thoughts, memories** or anything else that may cross your mind.

### René Magritte: The Painter at the Window

Have a Look at the Pictures below to Draw Inspiration for Your Own Travel Journal Entry



*The Promenades of Euclid*  
1955



*The Domain of Arnheim*  
1949

**ACTIVITY #3**

**CONTINENT:** America

**DESTINATION:** Patagonia

**TOPIC:** Paleontology



**SKILLS:** Reading, Writing



## Big Feet in Patagonia



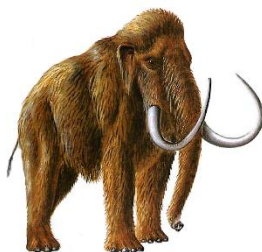
Ground-dwelling Sloth



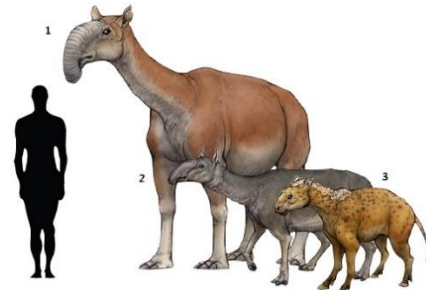
Saber-toothed Cat



Short-faced Bear and South American Horse



Woolly Mammoth



Macrauchenia Patachonica

The following text is adapted from: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3646997/The-double-whammy-killed-ice-giants-Global-warming-hunting-doomed-sabre-toothed-cats-giant-sloths.html#ixzz4Fyig9wbp>

Summer Travel Journal

Elephant-sized sloths and saber-toothed tigers once roamed the **windswept**<sup>1</sup> plains of Patagonia in the southern tip of South America. These giants of the ice age survived while humans **encroached**<sup>2</sup> upon their **turf**<sup>3</sup> and temperatures remained cold.

But the animals were pushed into extinction within 100 years by a double **whammy**<sup>4</sup> of a rapidly warming climate and hunting by man, according to a new study. The research led by the University of Adelaide revealed it was only when the climate warmed, long after humans first arrived in Patagonia, that the megafauna suddenly died off, around 12,300 years ago.

Until now the timing and **spark**<sup>5</sup> that caused their rapid extinctions had remained a mystery. 'Patagonia turns out to be the Rosetta Stone – it shows that human colonization didn't immediately result in extinctions, but only as long as it stayed cold,' said Professor Alan Cooper.

'Instead, more than 1,000 years of human occupation passed before a rapid warming event occurred, and then the megafauna were extinct within a hundred years.'

Researchers from the US, Australia and Argentina studied ancient DNA extracted from radiocarbon-dated bones and teeth found in caves across Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, to trace the genetic history of the populations. Species such as the South American horse, giant jaguar and saber-toothed cat and the enormous one-ton short-faced bear – which was the largest land-based mammalian carnivore – were found widely across Patagonia. But the species seemed to disappear shortly after humans arrived. The pattern of rapid human colonization through the Americas, coinciding with contrasting temperature trends in each continent, allowed the researchers to look into the relative impact of human arrival and climate change.

'The Americas are unique in that humans moved through two continents, from Alaska to Patagonia, in just 1,500 years,' said Professor Chris Turney, from the University of New South Wales. 'As they did so, they passed through distinctly different climate states - warm in the north, and cold in the south. 'As a result, we can contrast human impacts under the different climatic conditions.'

The only large species to survive were the ancestors of today's llama and alpaca, the guanaco and vicuna, and even these species almost went extinct. 'The ancient genetic data show that only the late arrival in Patagonia of a population of guanacos from the north saved the species, all other populations became extinct,' added lead author Dr Jessica Metcalf, from the University of Colorado Boulder. Dr Fabiana Martin, at the University of Magallanes said: 'In 1936 Fell's cave, a small rock shelter in Patagonia, was the first site in the world to show that humans had hunted Ice

1



2

To intrude on someone else's territory or space; to go beyond usual or accepted limits.

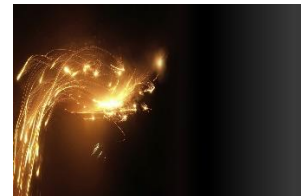
3



4

An event with a powerful and unpleasant effect; a blow.

5



6

In the end, finally

7



8

To prosper and flourish

## Summer Travel Journal

Age megafauna. 'So it seems appropriate that we're now using the bones from the area to reveal the key role of climate warming, and humans, in the megafaunal extinctions.'

There are several leading theories for what killed off the ice age giants like the woolly mammoths. These enormous beasts are thought to have roamed the Earth from more than 200,000 years ago, **eventually**<sup>6</sup> dying out 10,000 years ago. At this time the planet was undergoing a major change in climate that is thought to have led to a **shrinking**<sup>7</sup> of their habitat. Unable to find the food they needed their populations became smaller and increasingly isolated.

A study in 2008 estimated that changes in climate as a result of the end of the last glacial period saw their habitat shrink from three million square miles to just 310,000 square miles. Some researchers have suggested that the spread of forests – which overtook the extensive areas of frozen grassland and tundra where mammoths **thrived**<sup>8</sup> – led to their extinction. The changes in climate also opened up large parts of the northern hemisphere to humans, allowing groups to spread more widely around North America, Asia and Europe.

Many blame over-hunting by humans for finally finishing off the **dwindling**<sup>9</sup> populations of megafauna like mammoths. More recently some scientists have adopted theories that sudden changes in climate, known as the Younger Days period, left many large animal species unable to cope. It is thought this period of cooling may have been caused by the collapse of the North American ice sheets into the Atlantic Ocean, leading to the seas cooling **dramatically**<sup>10</sup>. Others have suggested this was **triggered**<sup>11</sup> by a large explosion from an asteroid or comet impact that spread **debris**<sup>12</sup> around the globe.

9 To decrease, reduce or shrink

10 In a considerable, substantial, and often abrupt way

11



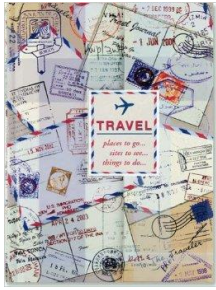
12



### READING COMPREHENSION

#### Answer the Questions

1. What huge species inhabited the Patagonian plains in prehistoric times?
2. What was the largest ground-dwelling mammalian carnivore back then?
3. Was over-hunting by man the primary cause of Patagonian megafauna's extinction?
4. For how long did some of the huge prehistoric animals share the Patagonian habitats with human groups?
5. What event severely hit their population and caused it to shrink?
6. How long did it take to this event to wipe these species off the face of the Earth?
7. What are the only large species that survived this event? How did they do so?
8. What factors caused the extinction of the woolly mammoth?
9. Why did humans spread more widely across the northern hemisphere?
10. What are the three hypotheses about the final blow dealt to the megafauna?



### Travel Journal Tip #3

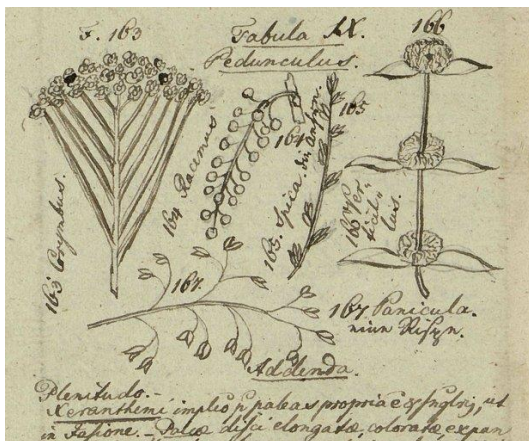
#### Collecting Fossils, Minerals, Shells or Leaves & Flowers

#### Catalogue your own Collection

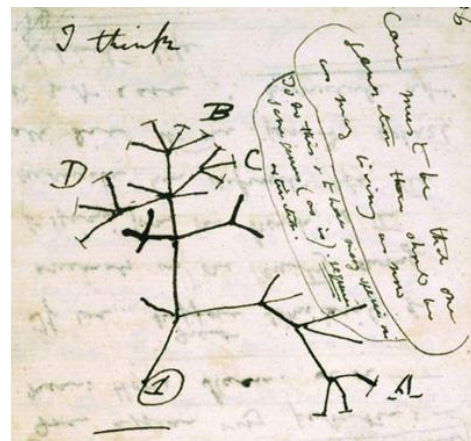


Well before the birth of Discovery Channel, some young men would break new ground in the understanding of the humankind's links to other animal groups and the phylogenic relations among the different groups of creatures that (used to) inhabit the Earth. Such young men as **Carl Linnaeus** (1707-1778), **Charles Darwin** (1809-1882) and **Konrad Lorenz** (1903-1989) were only equipped with piercing observation and some notebooks where to strike up connections among those observations. Those connections were possible to figure out only subsequent to painstakingly **classifying all of their own findings**. That is the reason why most of their writings, journals and notebooks feature **drawings** and **sketches** of their findings, set one next to the other following a criterion of resemblance and proximity.

If you enjoy collecting fossils, minerals, shells or leaves and flowers, you may want to experiment with **cataloguing** the items you've been collecting during your trip, marking down your observations about the **resemblances** bringing them together or the **differences** setting them apart.



An Illustration from Carl Linnaeus' Botanical Notebook



The First Phylogenetic Tree: A Sketch from Charles Darwin's Notebooks

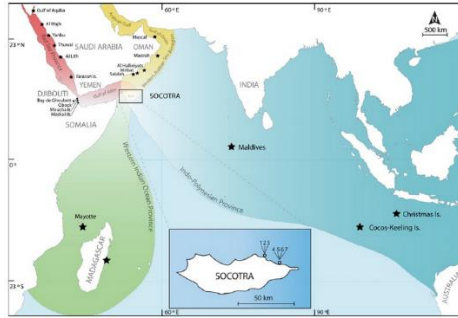


**ACTIVITY #4**

**CONTINENT:** Asia

**DESTINATION:** Socotra

**TOPIC:** Flora



**SKILLS:** Listening



## The Dragon's Blood Tree

The island of **Socotra** measures **132 km in length** and **49.7 km in width** and lies some **240 km east of the Horn of Africa** and **380 km south of the Arabian Peninsula**. This location makes it one of the most isolated places in the world, so much so that it has been described as the **most alien-looking place on Earth** due to its unique plants. In effect, a third of its plant life is found nowhere else on the planet. The most extraordinarily impressive of the plants that grow on the island is the so-called **Dragon's Blood Tree**.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbFqtDwUGGY>

Watch the Video,  
Then Answer the Questions:

1. What other plants grow uniquely on this island?

---

2. What does the Dragon's Blood tree owe its name to?

---

3. Why has there been a sharp decline in the number of the trees over the last few years?

---

4. What attempts are being made at safeguarding the survival of this tree?

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## Summer Travel Journal



5. How long does it usually take a Dragon's Blood Tree to fully blossom?  
\_\_\_\_\_

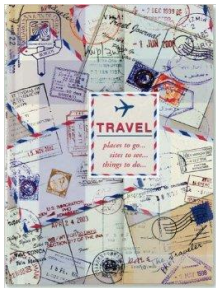
6. In what area does the tree regenerate, according to botanist Nadeem Talib?  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. What climactic phenomenon has proved harmful to the germination of the tree's seeds?  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What are the Italian researchers led by Mr. Fasola doing on the island?  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Why is the protection of wild flora and fauna so difficult on the island?  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Who is currently in charge of the task of protecting the species unique to this island?  
\_\_\_\_\_



### Travel Journal Tip #4

#### Describing Something Strikingly Impressive or Beautiful

#### Practice Automatic Writing

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1802, English poet **William Wordsworth** – then on a trip in the **Lake District** with his sister Dorothy – took a walk in the nature and ran across a patch of **daffodils** made to dance by the breeze. Enthralled by the unexpected sight of such overwhelming beauty, Wordsworth gave a vivid description of it in one of his most famous poems, ***I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud***. Following in the footsteps of the English Romantic poets, sit down by the window to recollect in tranquility the emotions and feelings felt upon seeing the most impressive landscape you've ever seen. Then, put pen to paper and write whatever comes to your mind without either sifting or organizing the ideas – just anything occurring to you in the order it does and without any punctuation strain or limit. Every idea will just be a paragraph without any commas or final periods. What you will find on the paper at the end of this exercise will be a so-called **stream of consciousness**, an exercise in **automatic writing** which usually proves useful and enlightening for **self-exploration**.

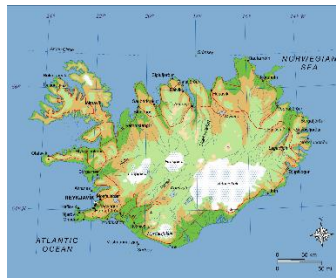


**ACTIVITY #5**

**CONTINENT:** Europe

**DESTINATION:** Iceland

**TOPIC:** Literature



**SKILLS:** Reading, Grammar



## Letters from Iceland

by W.H. Auden and Louis MacNeice





In **1936** a young English poet, **Wystan Hugh Auden**, and an Irish writer, **Louis macNiece**, set out for **Iceland**, then an isolated and relatively little-known country reachable by ferry-boat from the United Kingdom; the trip would usually take some five days. Since W.H. Auden – who would later move to the United States and be awarded with the **Pulitzer Prize** for his 1947 long poem **The Age of Anxiety** – was openly homosexual, some people mistakenly tinge this journey with romance. Nothing could be farther away from the truth, though, as MacNiece was once described by British art historian Anthony Blunt (a close friend of his) as “totally, irredeemably heterosexual”. The point of their journey was different and twofold. On the one hand, to embark on an adventure for an exotic destination; on the other, to jointly record (mis)haps and thoughts in a co-authored **travel journal** meant for publication. The result was **Letters from Iceland**, a **humorous** and **irreverent** travel book collecting letters home written in verse and prose where the two writers flippantly comment on people, politics, literature, and much more.

Summer Travel Journal

Letter to Graham and Anne Shepard

by Louis MacNiece

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 To Graham and Anna: from the Arctic gate<br/>I send you this letter to <b>N.W.8</b><sup>1</sup>,<br/>Hoping that Town is not the usual mess,<br/>That <b>Pauli is rid of worms</b><sup>2</sup>, the new cook a success.</p>   | <p><b>1</b> A postcode area in London.</p>  |
| <p>5 I have got here, you see, without being sick<br/>On a boat of eight hundred tons to Reykjavik.<br/>Came second-class – no air but many men;<br/>Having seen the first-class crowd would do it again.<br/>Food was good, mutton and bits of fishes,</p>  | <p><b>2</b> Pauli most likely was the couple's son, still a child and affected by pinworms the poet hopes he has now gotten rid of.</p>   |
| <p>10 A <b>smart</b><sup>3</sup> line-up of Scandinavian dishes –<br/>Beet, cheese, ham, jam, smoked salmon, <b>gaffalbitar</b><sup>4</sup> [sic],<br/>Sweet cucumber, German sausage and <b>Rye-Vita</b><sup>5</sup> [sic].<br/>So I came here to the land the Romans missed,<br/>Left for the Irish saint and the Viking colonist.</p> | <p><b>3</b> Whereas in US English 'smart' means <i>clever, intelligent</i>, in UK English it means <i>sophisticated, elegant</i>.</p>   |
| <p>15 But what am I doing here? <i>Qu'allais-je faire?</i><br/>Among these volcanic rocks and this grey air?<br/>Why go north when Cyprus and Madeira<br/>De jure if not de facto are much nearer?<br/>The reason for <b>hereness</b><sup>6</sup> seems beyond conjecture,</p>   | <p><b>4</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Gaffelbitar is a Norwegian popular canned snack made of herrings in sherry sauce.</p> |
| <p>20 There are no trees or trains or architecture,<br/>Fruits and greens are insufficient for health<br/>And culture is limited by lack of wealth,<br/>The tourist sights have nothing like Stonehenge,<br/>The literature is all about revenge.</p>  | <p><b>5</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Ryvita is a rye-based crispbread similar to a cracker.</p>                            |
| <p>25 And yet I like it if only because this nation<br/>Enjoys a scarcity of population<br/>And cannot rise too many bores or hacks</p>  | <p><b>6</b> Hereness refers to the condition of being here.</p>   |

Summer Travel Journal

Or paupers or poor men paying **Super-Tax**<sup>7</sup>.  
 Yet further, if you can stand it, I will set forth  
 30 The obscure but powerful ethics of Going North.  
 [...] I have come north, gaily running away  
 110 From the grinding gears, the change from day to day,  
 The creaks of the familiar room, the smile  
 Of the cruel clock, the bills upon the file,  
 The excess of books and cushions, the high heels  
 That walk the street, the news, the newsboys' yells,  
 115 The **flag-days**<sup>8</sup> and the **cripple's flapping sleeve**<sup>9</sup>,  
 The ambushes of sex, the passion to retrieve  
 Significance from the river of passing people,  
 The attempt to climb the ever-climbing **steeple**<sup>10</sup>  
 And no one knows what is at the top of it,  
 120 All is a **raffle**<sup>11</sup> for caps which may not fit,  
 But all take tickets, keep moving; still, we may  
 Move off from movement or change it for a day;  
 Here is a different rhythm, the juggled balls  
 Hang in the air – the pause before the soufflé falls.  
 125 Here we can take a breath, sit back, admire  
 Stills from the film of life, the frozen fire;  
 Among these rocks can roll upon the tongue  
 Morsels of thought, **not jostled by the throng**<sup>12</sup>,  
 Or morsels of un-thought, which is still better,  
 130 (Thinking these days makes a suburban clatter).  
 Here we can practice forgetfulness without  
 A sense of guilt, fear of the **tout and lout**<sup>13</sup>,  
 And here – but Wystan has butted in again  
 To say we must go out in the frightful rain  
 135 To see a man about a horse and so  
 I shall have to stop. [...]

**7** In 1909 the Government introduced an additional income tax levied on top incomes that remained in existence until 1972.

**8-9** References to the boom of nationalism in between WWI and WWII: the 'flag-days' are the European countries' national days, whilst the 'cripple's flapping sleeve' refers to the number of the disabled ex-servicemen subsequent to WWI.

**10**



**11** A lottery.

**12** Not contradicted by the crowd.

**13** Bilingual wordplay: 'tout' means *everything* in French and *illegal salesman* in English (tout is the guy who buys tickets for an event to resell them for a profit); the English word 'lout' (boor, unrefined or aggressive man) is made to rhyme with 'tout', pronounced the British way.

**Summer Travel Journal**

GENERAL COMPREHENSION

Answer the Questions

1. This is a funny letter written in verse: identify three playful lines and explain their humor.

Line #\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Line #\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Line #\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. At lines 109-124 the poet lists a series of reason for making up his mind for Iceland. Explain them with your own words and clarify both what the poet is looking for and what he is escaping from.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. By stating that 'thinking these days makes a suburban clatter' (l.130) the poet is sarcastically criticizing the society he belongs to: what does he mean, in your opinion?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What does it mean that in Iceland one can 'practice forgetfulness without a sense of guilt and fear of the tout and lout' (ll. 131-2)? Explain this passage.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

GRAMMAR



The Interrogative Form – Come Up with a Questions for Each of the Answers below:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
Iceland lies 290km south-east of Greenland, 790 km north-west of Scotland and 970 km west of Norway.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
Iceland totals 320,000 inhabitants.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
Its capital city is Reykjavík.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
Iceland was first discovered around 800 CE by Irish monks, who may well have set their course by following the migration of geese.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
A Viking pirate by the name of Naddoddr is said to have been the first Icelandic settler. He probably reached the Icelandic shores in the 9<sup>th</sup> century.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
No, Iceland has not always been a Republic. It was ruled by Scandinavian crowns (Norwegian, first; Danish, later) until 1944.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
No, Iceland hasn't got a long-lasting agricultural tradition due to the harshness of its climate.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
Iceland has four major glaciers: Vatnajökull, Hofsjökull, Langjökull and Myrdalsjökull.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
Iceland has an area of 103,000 km<sup>2</sup>.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
Icelanders speak Icelandic, a North Germanic language related to Old German.

**Summer Travel Journal**

Modal Verbs – Guess What is Happening in the Pictures below

by Using Such Modal Verbs as *Must, May or Might*



1. Icelanders \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



2. The horses \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



3. Later the weather \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



4. The Icelandic winter \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

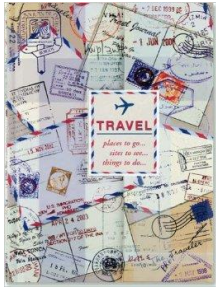


5. The stone on top of the pile \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



6. The ice surface is even and slippery. The girls \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





## Travel Journal Tip #5

### Poking Gentle Fun at the Locals or the Tourists

#### Write a 15-Line Text



Before the invention of political correctness, travel journals were a free means for elaborating **cross-cultural differences** and commenting upon them – often **in a humorous vein**. Such was the case with English writer **Tobias Smollett**, who in his *Travels through France and Italy (1766)* makes fun of the Roman Catholic faith as well as of the proud and petty Italian nobility represented by the so-called *cicisbei*. He would later be parodied in turn by the character of **Smelfungus** in *A Sentimental Journey through France and Italy (1768)*, where **Laurence Sterne** paints a picture of Smollet as a jaundiced and grumbling traveler.

If you have ever been struck by some local habit or tradition that dramatically swerves from your own cultural standards, describe it humorously by poking gentle fun at the local traditions or attitudes. You can also describe in a humorous or sarcastic tone the behaviors of tourists that take you aback for any reason.

For example, while travelling my attention is almost unfailingly drawn not only to locals, but also to tourists – especially, as an Italian, to my fellow citizens' behaviors. One of the things that puzzles and appalls me the most is the way many Italians stay glued to their mobile phones and turn a blind eye to even the most jaw-dropping monument or landscape ever. Instead of enjoying the sight for which they have travelled that far, they often narcissistically endeavor to make themselves the center of attention by prattling aloud about the pettiest details of their own lives on the phone – as if they were of any interest to bystanders. They don't seem to realize that such an attitude is not only ridiculous, but annoying to those who have travelled that far to enjoy the view, and not to get pestered by self-centered boors on the phone sticking together as gregariously and noisily as a flock of sheep...

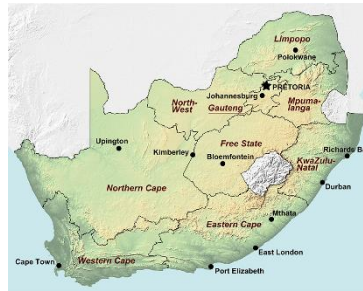
Summer Travel Journal

**ACTIVITY #6**

**CONTINENT:** Africa

**DESTINATION:** South Africa

**TOPIC:** Food



**SKILLS:** Listening, Vocabulary



*The Bunny Chow*



During the **Great Depression** (the early 1930s) the Indian, Chinese and white people in **Durban, South Africa**, suffered hunger like the rest of the world did. The white kids then discovered that the cheapest curry they could (1/4 penny) was made by an **Indian caste** known in Durban slang as the **Bania** and working the **sugar cane plantations** at **Kwa-Zulu-Nadal**. This curry was made from dried sugarbeans, originally contained no meat and was brought to the fields into **hollowed-out quarter breads**. Chinese food was called '**chow**' and somehow the two words came together: Bania Chow; in time, it would simply become known as Bunny Chow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDSV1qGPS6Q>

This Recipe Requires Many Spices: Match Each Spice with its Name from the Box



A. \_\_\_\_\_



B. \_\_\_\_\_



C. \_\_\_\_\_



D. \_\_\_\_\_



E. \_\_\_\_\_



F. \_\_\_\_\_



G. \_\_\_\_\_

Coriander

Pepper

Cayenne Pepper

Turmeric

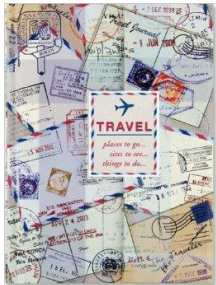
Paprika

Nutmeg

Cumin

Summer Travel Journal

Watch the Video One More Time, then Fill in the Template below



## Travel Journal Tip #6

Notes by a Foodie, a.k.a. a Culinary Connoisseur

Analyzing and Comparing Flavors

The beauty of travelling also lies in exploring new tastes. This usually helps us understand that what we regard as natural, almost God-given culinary rules, aren't but **conventions**, and that breaking these conventions may bear wonderful fruits. Most Italians take it for granted that **sweet and savory should NEVER be mixed up** – obviously, they are not aware that this distinction came into being only as recently as the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and that so did the **chronological menu** (first the savory dishes – starters, first course, and main plus side dish – and, finally, the sweets, that is, fruits, desserts or cheese selections accompanied by sweet jams). Most Italians also abhor **mixing 'fruits' and 'vegetables'** – probably because they misname some fruits as the tomato, the eggplant, the bell pepper or the pumpkin and mistake them for 'vegetables'. **Open up to new flavors and explore them** – if you are in China, plunge into a tea-tasting experience and compare the different tea blends; in France, do the same with wines, crêpes or pies (*quiches*); in Switzerland, with different types of cheese – and so on and so forth.

On page 29 you'll find further tips to do so in your own travel journal.

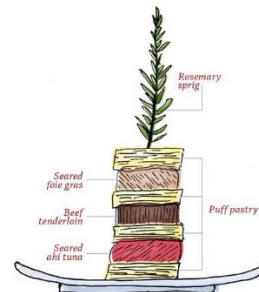
Summer Travel Journal

How to Become a Food Connoisseur



1. Pay attention to what you are eating and try to distinguish all of the **flavors** that compose the **symphony** of any drink or preparation.

2. The **combination of flavors** needs to be **varied** as well as **balanced**: a dessert that is too sweet or a lemonade that is too sour have failed to come out as complex.



3. Any beverage or other preparation is comparable to a musical piece because its **combination of flavors** is released in time, that is, **chronologically**: take the time to savor every bite and perceive its **aftertaste**.

4. The **presentation matters** insofar as it affects the **texture** of the dish – something **velvety** is best enjoyed when counterpointed by something **crunchy**, and needs to do so in a **carefully arranged order** so as to create a perfect, symphonic combination.



5. Finally, and most importantly: teach yourself to **compare** and **discern** the complexity of the blends of tastes you are presented with.

**ACTIVITY #7**

**CONTINENT:** Africa

**DESTINATION:**  
Madagascar

**TOPIC:** Fauna



**SKILLS:** Grammar



Weirdest Animals in the World:

The Aye-Aye



VERB PATTERNS – Insert the Verbs in Brackets in the Infinitive or the Gerund

Aye-eyes are tiny lemurs inhabiting Madagascar. Since they are nocturnal and arboreal animals, they can't stand \_\_\_\_\_ (**get**) onto the ground – they prefer \_\_\_\_\_ (**haunt**) trees, where they feel safe and comfortable and which provide them with all the food they need. Their hunting strategy consists in \_\_\_\_\_ (**tap**) their giant middle finger on the trunks and branches of trees while \_\_\_\_\_ (**listen**) to the echo produced, so that they finally manage \_\_\_\_\_ (**find**) the hollow chambers inhabited by the larvae they feed on. Once a chamber is found, they start \_\_\_\_\_ (**dig**) a hole into which they grub for their prey and feed on it. However, they don't mind \_\_\_\_\_ (**eat**) seeds, fruits, nectar and fungi when they are short on **grubs**<sup>1</sup>. They only hunt during the night, as in the daytime they enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ (**sleep**) in spherical **nests**<sup>2</sup> they build in the forks of tree branches out of leaves, **vines**<sup>3</sup> and stalks. Wherever they choose \_\_\_\_\_ (**mark**) their home, they release **scent**<sup>4</sup> – just like most animals do. Once in a while, they dare \_\_\_\_\_ (**land**) onto the ground, and when they need \_\_\_\_\_ (**come back**) home, they climb trees by \_\_\_\_\_ (**take**) vertical leaps, much like squirrels.



1. Grub



2. Nest



3. Vine



4. Scent