

## UNIT 2 : Travel Tales

'I wish I had never gone travelling. Said no one ever!' Travelling for leisure allows us to take a step back from our routines and de-stress. It is an activity that not only has numerous advantages but also its own challenges. Different people share opinions about their preferred mode of travel, places to visit, kind of activities to indulge in and mistakes they learn from. In this unit, we shall read a little about all of these aspects.

You know,  
my uncle  
visited us after  
three long months  
of touring  
the country.



Three months?  
That's a long time  
indeed. I wish I could  
travel and see the  
enchanting sights  
my country has to  
offer and experience  
that sense of  
adventure too!



Vani,  
I know what  
you mean.  
This reminds  
me of a beautiful  
quote by  
Gustave Flaubert.  
Have a look.



### Section 2.1. Words of Wisdom

Based on your reading of the given quote by Gustave Flaubert, complete its summary using the words in the given clue-box.

(There are a few words you wouldn't need.)

Travel makes  
one modest.

YOU SEE WHAT  
A TINY SPACE  
YOU OCCUPY IN  
THE WORLD

- Gustave Flaubert

TALE OF 2 BACKPACKERS

humility    self-centered    unexplored    reality-check  
 self-dependence    realisation    expansive    information

Gustave Flaubert feels that human beings, by nature, tend to get **(i)** .....  
 The best way to get a **(ii)** ..... about one's importance, is to travel.  
 Travelling leads a person to the **(iii)** ..... that s/he is  
 miniscule in comparison to this **(iv)**..... world. Travelling, thus, inculcates  
**(v)**.....

Do you agree  
 that we are tiny  
 in comparison  
 to the world?



Of course we are,  
 Vijay! Yet, I'd like  
 to experience  
 this vast country  
 and maybe even the  
 world. However,  
 I'd like to do it  
 by travelling  
 in a train



Aah! Yes!  
 A train.  
 How lovely.  
 I've read that  
 several people  
 feel this way.



They would.  
 It's like a dream  
 world chugging past  
 towns, cities and fields.  
 So many poets  
 have written about  
 this. Let's read  
 one such poem.



## Section 2.2. From a Railway Carriage

Read the given poem and answer the questions that follow :

Faster than fairies, faster than witches,  
 Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches;  
 And charging along like troops in a battle,  
 All through the meadows the horses and cattle:

All of the sights of the hill and the plain  
 Fly as thick as driving rain;  
 And ever again, in the wink of an eye,  
 Painted stations whistle by ...  
 Here is a child who clammers and scrambles,  
 All by himself and gathering brambles;  
 Here is a tramp who stands and gazes;  
 And there is the green for stringing the daisies!  
 Here is a cart run away in the road  
 Lumping along with man and load;  
 And here is a mill and there is a river:  
 Each a glimpse and gone for ever!

by Robert Louis Stevenson

- (1) **The title of the poem suggests that the speaker is**  
 A. observing the train.  
 B. thinking about boarding a train.  
 C. travelling in the train.  
 D. narrating travel talk to someone.
- (2) **The reference to fairies and witches is made to**  
 A. share the enjoyable feeling that train travel provides.  
 B. indicate use of a special train for them.  
 C. draw attention towards the high speed of the train.  
 D. announce a fairy tale theme on the train.
- (3) **According to the poem, the view of the hills and plains is**  
 A. rare.  
 B. fleeting.  
 C. appreciated.  
 D. memorable.
- (4) **Select what the speaker does not cite ...**



(i)



(ii)



(iii)



(iv)

(5) Select the option that lists the correct match of word to its meaning :

i	scrambles	1	Rushing forward to attack
ii	tramp	2	A brief view
iii	glimpse	3	Make one's way up clumsily
iv	charging	4	A wandering homeless or an outcast

- A. i-2, ii-1, iii-3, iv-4
- B. i-3, ii-4, iii-2, iv-1
- C. i-4, ii-2, iii-1, iv-3
- D. i-1, ii-3, iii-4, iv-2

Okay Okay fine!  
Travel by train.  
Have you planned  
a holiday? Or are  
you simply  
building castles  
in the air?



Haven't  
planned yet.  
Dad says that we  
might travel down  
South. He has a  
work assignment  
in Kerala,  
in November .



How is your  
family going to plan  
this trip? Some  
people employ  
travel agents  
to do this,  
Vani.



I know, but  
we'll be doing it  
on our own  
with reference to  
travel brochures.  
I have one about  
Kerala. Let me  
show you.



## Section 2.3. Travelling to Kerala

Study the travel brochure given below and answer the questions that follow :



**ENJOY KERALA**  
*Holiday Special*

### God's Own Country Kerala

5 Nights/6 Days  
**Starting \$295 PP/ INR 15,000 PP**  
Cochin-Munnar-Alleppey-Cochin

- *Accommodation on twin sharing*
- *Private Transport*
- *04 Nights Hotel with Breakfast*
- *01 Nights in Kerala Houseboat with All Meals*
- *All Taxes*

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 [info@memorableindia.com](mailto:info@memorableindia.com)



- (1) 'God's Own Country' is an epithet for Kerala. Pick the option that **DOES NOT** list an epithet for a city.
- A. The Pink City  
B. City of Lakes  
C. Green World  
D. Scotland of India
- (2) The travel agency **CANNOT** be contacted through
- A. a phone call.  
B. an email.  
C. a visit.  
D. their website.
- (3) Pick the statement that is **NOT** true about the information given in the brochure.
- A. Offers personal transport facilities.  
B. Charges separately for breakfast and dinner.  
C. Has advertised the package for 3 cities.  
D. Makes arrangements on a 2 guests per room basis.
- (4) The name of the travel agency suggests that it
- A. manages tours across India.  
B. specialises in tours of cities in Kerala.  
C. only accepts bookings from people of Kerala.  
D. deals specifically with Indian customers wanting to travel out via Kerala.

You know,  
you'll have to  
be careful not to  
make common  
travel mistakes.



Common travel  
mistakes?  
What are those?



I read a blog  
about these.  
Here it is.  
Let's read.



## Section 2.4. Travel Tips

Read the blog written by Christy Woodrow and answer the questions that follow.

### 10 Biggest Travel Mistakes & How to Avoid Them

Whether it's your first trip abroad or you travel several times a year, we all make mistakes that can cause headaches or possibly even ruin your trip. The good news is that with a little planning, it's easy enough to avoid some of the most common travel mistakes, so you can spend your time enjoying your vacation.

#### 1. Overpacking

It's tempting to bring outfits for every possible occasion, but it makes it difficult to haul your luggage around, and you may get stuck with high baggage fees for accidentally exceeding the weight limit. Instead, pack your bag as usual, then take out half the clothes you originally planned. You won't wear all of them, you don't have to sacrifice style, and you can always do some washing on the road.

#### 2. Not Checking Your Cell Phone Plan

It's important to know what your plan covers to avoid data roaming fees. Not covered? Turn off your data before you get on the plane and leave your phone in airplane mode (you'll still be able to connect to wi-fi). If data is important to you, look into buying an international plan or buying a local SIM card once you arrive.

#### 3. Not Booking Enough Time in Between Flights

Flight conditions can be unpredictable. If one gets delayed, you might be forced to rush through an unfamiliar airport to make your connecting flight, and you might not make it in time. It's best to book them with a safe buffer in between. If you are traveling through Heathrow in London, plan for at least a two-hour layover here since you have to go through security just to get from one flight to another.

#### 4. Not Grabbing Some Local Currency at the Airport

As soon as you leave the airport, you'll need local currency to take public transportation or cab rides in many countries. Taking out money from the airport's ATMs gives you better exchange rates, so get what you need there, and maybe a little extra for emergencies. We use our credit card whenever possible, but we always keep cash on hand. Visiting local markets is a must when we travel — and many of these places don't accept credit cards.

#### 5. Not Informing Your Credit Card Company of Your Travel Plans

Credit card companies flag foreign transactions in case of credit card fraud and may freeze your account, so be sure you inform your company ahead of time. While you're at it, find out if they charge a foreign transaction fee, so there are no surprises.

#### 6. Not Buying Travel Insurance

Travel insurance covers cancellation fees, so if you unexpectedly can't make your vacation or business trip, you won't be out hundreds of dollars. Some plans also cover emergency

medical expenses if your own health insurance plan doesn't cover you outside your country.

**7. Not Checking Visa Requirements**

Being turned away at a foreign checkpoint will be expensive, time-consuming, and possibly put an end to your trip. There are several websites that list visa requirements for different countries, so find out ahead of time.

**8. Packing Too Many Activities or Countries into One Trip**

This limits your opportunities. You'll be too busy to find hidden gems or follow up on tips from locals, and the hassle of so much travel can be stressful. Make sure you give yourself some time to relax and soak up the best of what each destination has to offer.

**9. Not Keeping Track of Your Reservation Details**

It's an unnecessary hassle to have to rummage through your bags for your itinerary, and you might not have access to a printer for another copy if you lose it. Keep your itinerary in your pocket, a bag or keep an electronic copy on your phone.

**10. Not Keeping Your Valuables Safe**

Theft is the last thing you want to deal with, so avoid having your cash, electronics, or other valuables stolen by purchasing anti-theft bags and by keeping them with you whenever possible.

(1) When attempting to understand the word *packing*, 'overpacking' in point 1 and 'packing' in point 8 are different. This is because in point 1 'Overpacking' means \_\_\_\_\_ whereas in point 8 packing refers to \_\_\_\_\_

Sl. No.	Overpacking	Packing
A.	designing a large packing case	re-adjusting a fixed schedule
B.	going, beyond one's budget to purchase luggage	putting mismatched items together
C.	filling beyond capacity	cramming a large numbers of things into the schedule
D.	systematically arranging items in a bag	tying up with too many hotels for the trip

(2) Select the solution that DOES NOT address mistake number 9?

- A. Purchasing the discount plan of the hotels.
- B. Keeping an e-version of the stay and travel details.
- C. Having a copy of the required details in an accessible handbag.
- D. Attaching a copy of the itinerary to the travel ticket for ready reference.

(3) Match the paragraphs in column A to the advice in column B by drawing lines :

(A) Paragraphs	(B) Advice
2	a) Prepare a safety net
4	b) Just chill!
6	c) Bright and Bold
8	d) Plan the roaming
	e) Local money

(4) Encircle the odd one out in each option.

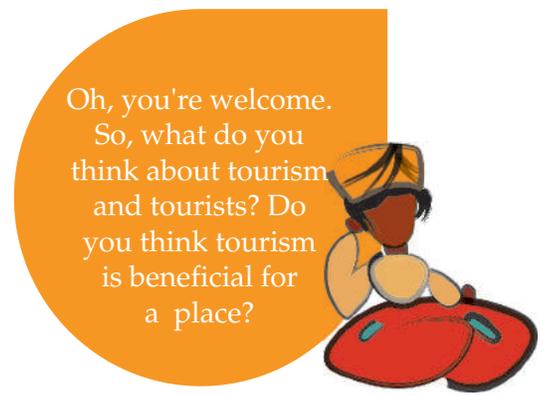
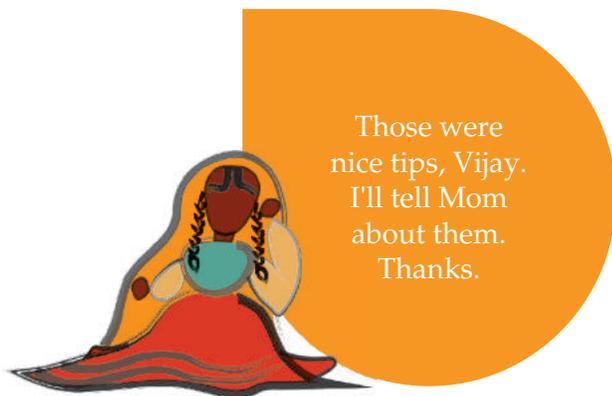
- |             |          |              |            |
|-------------|----------|--------------|------------|
| A. baggage  | suitcase | luggage      | packing    |
| B. currency | cash     | credit cards | bank-notes |
| C. overseas | abroad   | national     | foreign    |

(5) Select the statement that is NOT TRUE according to the text.

- A. This blogpost addresses people who travel abroad.
- B. This blogpost advises against connecting flights.
- C. This blogpost recommends looking into country specific details for the visa.
- D. This blogpost cautions against being careless with one's money or precious goods.

(6) Read the problems listed and provide solutions, based on your reading of the text.

Problem 1	Solution 1
I usually feel so exhausted on a holiday abroad, instead of feeling rested.	
Problem 2	Solution 2
My credit card isn't functioning here. I can't access my account	





## Section 2.5. Counterview

Read the online debate given below and answer the questions that follow.



Most of us believe that tourism is highly advantageous to any region. However, many fail to realise that tourism isn't just a bed of roses. It can be harmful too.

If a region has a popular tourist spot, people are bound to flock there in large numbers. This would lead to pollution of these places due to several factors. You see, tourist spots cater to the needs and whims of the tourists by building malls, markets, restaurants etc. Trees are cut to create these spaces for the construction of structures. This also impacts rainfall, resulting in loss of vegetation and crops. The tourists often litter by irresponsibly throwing waste like packets, wrappers, plastic anywhere. The burning of these substances, in an attempt to clean the area, causes pollution which harms the environment. Traffic congestion, crowds, burden on the resources of the region with tourist spots are serious issues too.

The local businesses might experience a temporary boom during tourist season but the economy struggles for the larger part of the year if the dependence on revenue via tourism is high. Moreover, large companies have high stakes in these profits and sustainable tourism is rare. It has also been observed that when tourists frequent a region, it quite often brings changes to their traditional lifestyle and culture. As a consequence, charming unique towns become just another tourist hub, which all look exactly the same.

I'm sure we have no doubts that the quality of the environment, both natural and man-made, is essential to tourism. However, we cannot afford to lose sight of the fact that the relationship of tourism with the environment is complex. It can have adverse environmental effects if we aren't careful and responsible.

- (1) **Circle the correct option according to the text.**
  - A. The motion states that travel and tourism IS/IS NOT advantageous for a region.
  - B. Tourism COMPROMISES/ SURPRISES/ ADVERTISES the natural beauty of a place.
- (2) **The purpose of the given debate is to make a case against tourism due to the**
  - A. slow pace of garbage burning.
  - B. struggling economy of traditional towns.
  - C. negligent practices damaging the environment.
  - D. lack of infrastructure like malls, in tourist places.
- (3) **Select the option that is the opposing point for the given argument in the text.**
  - A. Results in commercialization of culture.
  - B. Builds bridges of understanding between cultures.

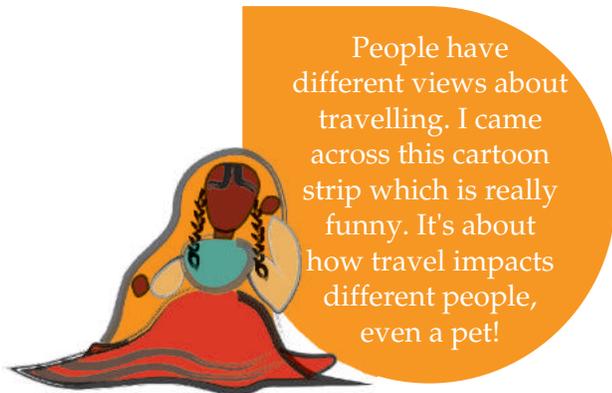
- C. Helps preserve a region's culture.
- D. Forces people to follow specific cultures.

**(4) Deforestation in tourist spots is due to the**

- A. demand for urban structures.
- B. need for new vegetation.
- C. availability of land.
- D. cultural traditions of the region.

**(5) Read the facts and opinions given below. Select the option that identifies them correctly.**

- (i) Cutting down trees impact rainfall.
  - (ii) Tourists often litter tourist spots.
  - (iii) Travel and tourism are harmful for a region.
  - (iv) Tourists prefer visiting regions that boast of rich culture.
- A. Facts – (i), (iv); Opinions – (ii), (iii)
  - B. Fact – (ii); Opinions – (i), (iii), (iv)
  - C. Facts – (i), (ii); Opinion – (iii), (iv);
  - D. Facts – (iii), (iv); Opinions – (i), (ii), (iii)



## Section 2.6. It Happens!

Read the cartoon strip given below and answer the questions that follow:



Source: <http://www.seppo.net/cartoons/displayimage.php?pid=633>

- (1) **The giraffe says, 'I assume'. This indicates that he is:**
  - A. passing judgement.
  - B. deducing.
  - C. deciding.
  - D. lending support.
  
- (2) **Select the rhino's most likely response to the giraffe.**
  - A. Eco-tourism supports conservation of wildlife.
  - B. I like wild animals and plants that grow in the wild.
  - C. I like eco-tourists—there's no pollution of any kind.
  - D. Eco-tourism is a top tourism trend in the world.
  
- (3) **If these people had been eco-tourists, they would have**
  - A. travelled in a bigger vehicle.
  - B. checked the petrol level in their vehicle.
  - C. used an electric vehicle.
  - D. stopped to click photos of the wild animals.

(4) Sort the given instructions as 'Dos and Don'ts' for eco-tourists and write the relevant numbers in the space provided.

(i) collect any form of fauna or flora from any location	⇒	DOs –
(ii) cover your defecation area with mud		
(iii) build a camp fire and start open fires	⇒	DON'Ts –
(iv) discard any foodstuff left		
(v) avoid loud electronic entertainment		

(5) Select the option that best describes the emotion the man pushing the vehicle.

- A. Excitement
- B. Frustration
- C. Boredom
- D. Fear

That was quite funny. I loved the idea of animals commenting on tourists.



I agree. The internet has a lot of funny posts. Let me show you one.



### Section 2.7. Mom! I'm Fine!

Read the given instagram post and answer the questions that follow:



Source: <https://www.instagram.com/momimfine/?hl=en>

## MAN POSTS “Mom, I’m fine” PHOTOS TO INSTAGRAM

@momimfine/Instagram

Parents worry; it’s kind of their thing. And a lot of parents worry in particular about their kids traveling abroad.

To appease his typically fretful mother, Jonathan Quiñonez, a model from Brussels, took to posting photos to Instagram with a sign reading, “Mom, I’m Fine.” The pictures feature him riding ATVs in Saudi Arabia, hot-air ballooning in Turkey, participating in Dia de los Muertos in Mexico, and more. He even partnered with Volaris to have the words emblazoned on a plane.

“She is still worried, like every mother,” said Quiñonez. “But in the end, she is happy because she knows I’m having the time of my life,” he concluded.

- (1) **The sentence- ‘But in the end she is happy because ... ’ brings out the \_\_\_\_\_ nature of the mother.**
  - A. anxious
  - B. understanding
  - C. sacrificing
  - D. submissive
- (2) **The text reveals that the man who posted on Instagram could not have been a national of**
  - A. Russia, Mexico, South Africa
  - B. Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Turkey
  - C. Greece, Russia, Turkey
  - D. South Africa, Australia, Greece
- (3) **Select the option that DOES NOT suggest the meaning of the word ‘emblazoned’.**
  - A. adorned
  - B. depicted
  - C. presented
  - D. carved
- (4) **Select the option that lists the situation that correctly reflects appeasing someone.**
  - A. Mom was quite irritated with my choice of clothes, so I changed them to appease her.
  - B. Mom was complaining about not getting time off from work, so she appeased her job.
  - C. Mom gave away her surplus woollens to an NGO to appease the needy.
  - D. Mom travelled all the way to visit her old school to appease her fond memories.
- (5) **Which of the following adequately replaces ‘Mom I’m fine’?**
  - A. Mom I’m happy.
  - B. Mom I’m resting.
  - C. Mom I’m alright.
  - D. Mom I’m late.

Have fun visiting each phrasal verb and use any 5 to create meaningful sentences in the space given below.



- (i) .....
- .....
- (ii) .....
- .....
- (iii) .....
- .....
- (iv) .....
- .....
- (v) .....
- .....

**Did you know?**

There's a special word describing an experience that makes you fearful yet fascinated, awed yet attracted. It refers to the powerful, personal feeling of being overwhelmed and inspired.

The word—**Numinous (adj.)**

Sentence—Staring at the vast expanse of the Great Indian Ocean, was a numinous experience.

The idea of space-tourism in the near future is exhilarating. However, exploring new destinations in and around the country and even local areas is equally exciting. These trips can be immense fun and are great learning experiences. If you plan well, these can be pocket friendly and eco-friendly too.

*Do not forget to keep your environment clean and your travel more sustainable.*