

Writing

Describing a place

Reading

1 Read the two texts below about Barcelona. Which one is from a guidebook and which one was written by a visitor?

24-hours in Barcelona

1

Last year, I visited Barcelona for a conference. I stayed at a hotel in the north of the city, near the conference centre and I didn't have much time for sightseeing. I just had one day after the conference to explore the city. I started on the waterfront with a cup of coffee in the sunshine. Then I walked slowly up the famous *Rambles*, a wide avenue with shops and cafés. It had a great atmosphere, buzzing with people. At the end of the afternoon, I got to the *Passeig de Gracia* to see some of the fantastic buildings which were designed by Antoni Gaudi. It's an amazing city and there's so much to see. If I go back again, I'll definitely visit the *Sagrada Família* and some of the museums.

2

Start your day at one of Barcelona's most famous landmarks, the *Sagrada Família*. This amazing cathedral was designed by Antoni Gaudi. Building work started in 1882 and it hasn't been finished yet! It's now a popular tourist attraction, so arrive early to avoid the crowds. If the queues aren't too long, you could climb one of the towers to see the mixture of architectural styles close up. For lunch, stroll down the *Rambles* and stop at one of the many cafés. Most cafés serve delicious tapas; small plates of Spanish food. Then, in the afternoon, head for the beach. At *Platja Barceloneta* you'll find the *Club de Natació Atlètic Barceloneta*. It opened in 1913 and it has an open-air pool, sauna and gym. At the end of a hard day's sightseeing, it's a great place to relax.

Language focus

2 Match sentences 1–7 with the grammatical features a–g.

- | | | |
|---|---|-------|
| 1 | I stayed at a hotel in the north of the city. | _____ |
| 2 | There's so much to see. | _____ |
| 3 | If I go back again, I'll definitely visit | _____ |
| 4 | Building work was started in 1882. | _____ |
| 5 | It hasn't been finished yet. | _____ |
| 6 | Most cafés serve delicious tapas. | _____ |
| 7 | It has an open-air swimming pool. | _____ |

- | | |
|---|---|
| a | <i>there</i> – something mentioned for the first time |
| b | passive voice to focus on the action |
| c | past simple for a past experience |
| d | present simple for general facts |
| e | <i>it</i> – something already mentioned |
| f | present perfect – something hasn't happened yet |
| g | first conditional |

Vocabulary

3 Find words in the texts to match these definitions.

- | | | |
|---|---|-------|
| 1 | the activity of travelling around a place to see the interesting things | _____ |
| 2 | to travel around a place to learn more about it | _____ |
| 3 | the mood or feeling that exists in a place | _____ |
| 4 | with a lot of noise or activity | _____ |
| 5 | a famous building that you can see and recognize easily | _____ |
| 6 | a place to visit that is very popular with tourists | _____ |
| 7 | to walk without hurrying | _____ |

Preparing to write

4 Think about a place you have visited as a tourist. Write some notes to answer the questions below.

- When did you go there?
- Where did you stay?
- Did you go sightseeing?
- What are the main landmarks and tourist attractions?
- Why did you like the place? (architecture, food, atmosphere, landscape, activities, etc.)

Writing

5 One of your friends is planning to go to a place that you have already visited. Write an email describing your visit and the main attractions.