Skimming and Scanning

Skimming and scanning are two useful reading techniques. They can help you to find information really quickly in a text.

Skimming is when you look over a text quickly to get the general idea of it. You don't need to read every word - just pick out key words and sentences.

Scanning is when you look over a text quickly, line by line, hunting for key words, dates, names and numbers. It's a useful skill to use when you need answers to specific questions.

Instructions: Work in groups. The following articles were written by TicoTimes to report about inclusive tourism in Costa Rica. Quickly scan the texts and choose the tittle that best matches the content in each of the reading passages by selecting it.

Article 1

A. ***Costa Rica the Best Destination for Inclusive Tourism says Lonely Planet***
B. **Costa Rica Takes a Step toward Inclusive Tourism**
C. **Costa Rica Becoming a more Accessible and Inclusive Tourist Destination**

By Magdalena López / Semanario Universidad
June 20, 2019

Last weekend, Costa Rica presented its new model of inclusive and accessible social tourism, with activities aimed at older adults, youth, children, adolescents and people with disabilities.

The Tourism Board's first Social Integrity Program was carried out in La Fortuna, San Carlos, where about 120 tourists were the first to participate in the experience. Among them were Yurusti High School students, guides and scouts, seniors, and a group of guests with disabilities, who all enjoyed a series of adventure activities.
All were transported by a *chapulín* (tractor) — which had a special cart with seats — to a village near the indigenous Maleku community.

Most of the participants enjoyed this type of recreation for the first time, said Alberto López, general manager of the Costa Rican Tourism Board (ICT).

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Ricardo Ureña, coordinator of the ICT Social Tourism program, said Costa Rica is the first Central American country to implement more inclusive tourism.

"There are other countries like Honduras that intend to implement this type of tourism but still do not do it solidly," he said. "That is why one of the most important elements is to attract them to the agreement of the International Social Tourism Organization (ILOS) and the Secretariat of Central American Tourism Integration (SITCA)."
The objective of the program is to urge that Costa Rican companies and organizations, whether tourist-focused or not, manage spaces within their operations that facilitate recreational activities aimed at these populations.
Ureña highlighted that the country was for the first time the headquarters of the Meeting of the Americas of Social Tourism — held from June 12 to 15 — which brought together more than 14 countries of the American continents focused on publicizing good practices of solidarity and sustainable tourism.

During this activity, 23 Costa Rican companies obtained their "seal of social tourism."

Tourism for all people

The activities carried out in La Fortuna were managed by the Arenal Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, Anywhere Costa Rica and Arenal Mundo Aventura, companies that are part of the accreditation process carried out by the Social Tourism Program through the ICT.

Tadeo Morales, vice president of the Arenal Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, expressed his satisfaction that the destination has been selected to start the social tourism plan.

"We are a tourist center visited by more than one million tourists per year and endowed with excellent connectivity," he said. "We have more than 60 parks and attractions, as well as 21 natural attractions, and we represent 10 communities that live directly from tourism. For these reasons, we have to include social tourism in our ecosystem of experiences in order to reach all populations."

The Minister of Tourism, María Amalia Revelo, said that the Social Tourism Program is possible thanks to private initiatives that seek to improve the quality of life of the Costa Rican population.
Both the minister and the Second Vice President of Costa Rica, Marvin Rodríguez Cordero, stressed that promoting this model of tourism management makes it possible to fulfill the objectives of sustainable development and to "leave no one behind," according to the vice president.

A more human Costa Rica

Several representatives of other countries that already implement social tourism, such as Chile, Brazil and Mexico, applauded Costa Rica's commitment.

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Francisca Retamal, from the National Tourism Service of Chile, said Costa Rica has enormous potential.
"The work they are doing, for example in Arenal Mundo Aventura, shows that they have made an integration with the people who live in the area, who have built their own hotels, their lodgings, and this is an opportunity for Costa Rica and for those of us who come here from abroad," she said.

María Paz Lagos, adviser of Sernatur, projected successes for Costa Rica in this model for "the will of the entrepreneurs, the citizens and the public policy sector." "What I liked the most about the country are the people," Lagos said. "I think Costa Ricans are good people, generous, kind, with a quality customer service system, concerned about tourists. "The landscapes are wonderful, but the important thing is the human warmth that Costa Rica has."

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Retrieved from: https://ticotimes.net/2019/06/20/costa-rica-becoming-a-more-accessible-and-inclusive-tourist-destination

Article 2

A. Costa Rica the Best Destination for Inclusive Tourism says Lonely Planet
B. Costa Rica Takes a Step toward Inclusive Tourism
C. Costa Rica Becoming a more Accessible and Inclusive Tourist Destination

September 5, 2013

Costa Rica has long been known as a destination for adventure, with thoughts of surfing, hiking through rain forests and tranquil beaches coming to mind, but this iconic image of the country has long been out of reach for Ticos and tourists in wheelchairs or with other disabilities.
Innovative design in all-terrain wheelchairs and a growing social awareness of accessibility issues in Costa Rica, however, are poised to make the country's national wonders available to people of all abilities and ages.
Fernán González of Sistemas de Accesibilidad Total, an architecture and consulting company specializing in accessible design, unveiled two unique wheelchairs, perhaps the only of their kind in Costa Rica, during the Expo Travel trade show in San José last week.
At first glance, the so-called "amphibious chairs" look like something left over from NASA's Mars rover mission. Large, balloon-like yellow tires help stabilize the chairs over uneven surfaces and keep it from sinking into the sand. Another larger version equipped with life preservers can go into the ocean, allowing others to float alongside the person sitting down.

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"The topic of accessible tourism isn't really addressed here in Costa Rica because everyone focuses on buildings, not in the enjoyment of tourism," said González.

But that may be changing. With several laws in effect requiring handicap accessibility in hotels and other public places, and pending legislation that would punish those who fail to comply with accessibility requirements, there is more pressure on the tourist industry to address accessibility issues for foreign and domestic visitors.

The National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) met this week with González to see how they could make Manuel Antonio, a national park on the Pacific coast, more accessible to people of all abilities.

Cecilia Montero of SINAC told The Tico Times that there are two national parks that are up to code for complete accessibility: Poás Volcano National Park and Carara National Park. Both parks have ramps, paved pathways, wayfinding and information aids.

Montero said that SINAC hopes to make similar additions to six national parks total, including Izarú Volcano, Guayabo, Guanacaste, and Manuel Antonio.

The SINAC representative said that they are exploring options to develop a wheel-chair accessible walkway to Manuel Antonio's mangroves and beach, including a gangway that would allow wheelchair access to the ocean.

But redesigning national parks does not come cheap: "The most difficult thing is to find funding for these projects," observed Montero.

Rita Chaves Casanova, leader of the Accessibility without Exclusion Party, PASE, agreed. The lawmaker told The Tico Times that there has been progress making the country's iconic national parks more accessible to people of all abilities but funding remains a problem.

"Often there are no resources to maintain a certain standard [of accessibility], much less adapt the parks," Chaves said.

The lawmaker pointed out that because the protected areas are public, they too fall under the law's accessibility requirements. Chaves added that PASE has proposed bill 18,238 that would give "teeth" to the country's principal disability legislation, Law 7600, empowering authorities to sanction businesses or public places that do not comply with the law's accessibility requirements.

González hopes that these considerations will make Costa Rica more accessible to Ticos and create a new tourism niche for visitors who thought the country's rugged image was out of reach.

"You can put [a handicapped person] under a palm tree but they're not really getting a chance to fully enjoy the experience," González said, "People need to understand that the true value of a tourist destination is that everyone can enjoy it."

Retrieved from: https://ticotimes.net/2013/09/05/costa-rica-takes-a-step-toward-inclusive-tourism

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Article 3

A. ***Costa Rica the Best Destination for Inclusive Tourism says Lonely Planet***
B. **Costa Rica Takes a Step toward Inclusive Tourism**
C. **Costa Rica Becoming a more Accessible and Inclusive Tourist Destination**

By Gerardo Venegas November 19, 2020

A canopy tour adapted for wheelchair users, a rain forest suitable for people with disabilities or surfing and catching waves without reduced mobility being an impediment. Costa Rica has it and Lonely Planet recognizes it by awarding the country the award as the best accessible destination 2021.

The prestigious publisher of travel guides around the world founded in 1972, included the distinction in its recommendations "The best in travel 2021" (Best In Travel 2021). The list was revealed as a reflection of an update to Lonely Planet's editorial practices to highlight more local voices and "recognizing the places and people that demonstrate a genuine commitment to sustainability, community and diversity," in the words of Luis Cabrera, its President & CEO.

"With little or no hassle, travelers with disabilities can enjoy much of what the country has to offer. Accessible paved roads cut through many of the local rainforests. Both the Carara National Park and the Poás Volcano National Park have universal trails, giving wheelchair users the opportunity to see sloths, toucans, and poison dart frogs up close,"Lonely Planet argued about Costa Rica.

"Accessible excitement is also at stake here. Various companies offer adaptable zippers, such as in La Fortuna, where special harnesses safely transport wheelchair users above the canopy of tropical trees and above the area's waterfall. Adaptive surfing is also available in cities like Puntarenas, where beach wheelchairs and attendants can help everyone catch a wave," notes the respected editorial.

Gustavo J. Segura, Rector Minister of Tourism, said that Costa Rica should feel honored to receive this recognition from one of the most renowned tourism and travel publishers on the planet. "Sustainability is a transversal axis of our tourism model and a sustainable destination must be accessible; I applaud that the Costa Rican tourist value chain – call it transportation, hotels, restaurants, tourist attractions, excursions – have options so that all people, regardless of their condition, can enjoy our country," Segura said.

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Handout #3
Created by Montero, E.

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