

READING

1 Read the text quickly. What do these numbers refer to?

- 1 13-17 _____ 3 750,000 _____ 5 5 _____
2 200 _____ 4 4 _____ 6 36 _____

2 Look at the extracts from the text and then read the sentences below. Explain why the sentences are correct or incorrect.

Trying new things like these is a great way to become more independent, explore your own interests and learn about other places and cultures.

1 Carla has tried all the activities she describes in the text.

If you're looking for a great option for independent travelling, then try InterRailing.

2 The writer is suggesting InterRailing as a good way of travelling.

My older sister has been travelling around Europe for three months now ...

3 Carla's sister has already come home from her trip.

3 Read the text again. Decide if each statement is correct (A) or incorrect (B).

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|--|---|
| 1 At Camp Bestival, 18 year olds are allowed into <i>The Den</i> . ____ | 6 If you join the YHA, you can also travel more cheaply by coach. ____ |
| 2 People of all ages can go to the Larmer Tree Festival. ____ | 7 Staying for one night in any YHA hostel costs just 13 pounds. ____ |
| 3 The writer advises teenagers not to go to the Citadel Festival. ____ | 8 If you go on a tour for teens, you have to take part in a volunteer programme. ____ |
| 4 You can stay in YHA accommodation in only two countries in Britain. ____ | 9 There is an InterRail pass which allows you to visit as many as 30 countries. ____ |
| 5 When the writer went youth hostelling, she and her friends ate out. ____ | 10 The writer thinks that the One Country Pass is expensive. ____ |

4 Find words and phrases 1-8 in the text and then match them to the definitions a-h.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 independent (<i>adj</i>) _____ | a) to spend time relaxing |
| 2 chill out (<i>phr v</i>) _____ | b) a place for someone to stay |
| 3 facilities (<i>n</i>) _____ | c) a good price for what you get |
| 4 accommodation (<i>n</i>) _____ | d) particular subjects |
| 5 bargain (<i>n</i>) _____ | e) not relying on other people for anything |
| 6 specialities (<i>n</i>) _____ | f) in countries over the sea from where you live, abroad |
| 7 overseas (<i>adj</i>) _____ | g) something you buy that costs less than usual |
| 8 value for money (<i>n phrase</i>) _____ | h) things such as a room or equipment provided for people to use |



The blog for teens by teens

21st March 20:46 pm

By Carla Hodge, age 17

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There's lots for teenagers to do at home and abroad! Trying new things like these is a great way to become more independent, explore your own interests and learn about other places and cultures. Here are just a few ideas.

What about going to a festival? Camp Bestival and Larmer Tree are really teen-friendly. Camp Bestival has *The Den*, a dedicated area for 13–17 year olds, with music, DJs, workshops and activities – no adults allowed! The three-day Larmer Tree Festival has an excellent Youth Zone where you can chill out. I'd also recommend the Citadel Festival in London, which is a one-day event, so it's an ideal first-time festival.

What could be better than hiking in beautiful places? The Youth Hostels Association (YHA) has over 200 places to stay in England and Wales, usually in shared rooms – over 750,000 under 18s stayed overnight last year. Last summer, I went youth hostelling for four days with a group of friends in the Peak District. We stayed each night at a different youth hostel, cooked all our own meals in the kitchen facilities and hiked during the day. Annual membership for under 26s is only £5

and you get discounts on coach travel as well as accommodation. A one-night stay costs less than £20, so it's a bargain.

If you fancy travelling, there are plenty of group tours for teens! You don't have to organise anything – apart from booking it! There are adults to help you, but you get a lot of freedom to do what you want. Some tours even include volunteer programmes, language programmes or specialities such as photography, so there's something for everyone. One thing's sure – they're a great way of travelling overseas and meeting lots of other young people.

If you're looking for a great option for independent travelling, then try InterRail. My older sister has been travelling around Europe for three months now and she loves it! You can get a Global InterRail Pass which gives you discounts on train travel in up to 30 European countries. If you just want to explore a single country in more depth, then get the One Country Pass – at around 36 euros it's great value for money. There are lots of websites where you can find cheap accommodation to make this another reasonably-priced holiday.

