Reading

1 Read the text. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

Escape the crowds

Would you like to stay in the only hotel on a remote, tropical island? Well, you'd better take your mobile phone with you, because there's only one telephone too! Welcome to Wittmer Lodge Hotel on Floreana Island. It's a great place to stay because it has amazing views of the ocean. It's also located on a black, sandy beach, which is quite unusual, and if you want to see green sand, you can visit the beach at Cormorant Point. So where is this island?

Floreana Island is part of the Galapagos Islands, which lie in the Pacific Ocean 906 kilometres west of Ecuador. It was first called Charles Island, after King Charles II of England. It was later renamed Floreana Island after Juan José Flores, the first president of Ecuador, and the island is now ruled by Ecuador. Floreana Island has the most interesting human history of all of the Galapagos Islands. It was the home to the first Galapagos resident – a man from Ireland called Patrick Watkins. He lived there from 1807 to 1809.

Floreana is only 67 square kilometres, and its highest point is Cerro Pajas at 640 metres, which is the highest point of the island's only volcano. There are approximately a hundred people living on the island. Around seventy people live in Puerto Velasco Ibarra, which is the port town; everyone else lives in the higher parts of the island.

Two of these islanders are the daughter and granddaughter of Margret Wittmer. Wittmer was the second person ever to settle on the island. She arrived in 1932 when she was pregnant, with her husband Heinz and her stepson Harry. When her son Rolf was born, he was the first person to be born in Galapagos. Margret lived to the age of 95 and welcomed hundreds of tourists to her hotel, including presidents. Today her daughter runs the hotel.

What is daily life like on Floreana? It's quiet! There is not much transport to Floreana. There is only a boat that comes from Santa Cruz island approximately every two weeks. There is just one school with two teachers, and there aren't any restaurants or bars. But if you are interested in the animals, birds and sea life then Floreana is the perfect destination for you!

1 The hotel is on a green sandy beach. ___

2 Floreana Island was named after the King of Ecuador. ___

3 Most of the islanders live in Puerto Velasco Ibarra. ___

4 Margret Wittner's son Rolf is now the hotel manager. ___

5 The boat comes twice a month to the island. ___

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading

2 Read the text. Match paragraphs A–E of the text with questions 1–7. There are two extra questions.

The most dangerous journey

A How do you feel about car journeys? Do you get a bit bored, ask the driver how long it's going to take, and then fall asleep? Or do you get extremely anxious? This is exactly how I felt last month, when I took a trip down the most dangerous road in the world.

B The North Yungas road in Bolivia goes from La Paz, which is a very large city to the town of Coroico in the mountain region of the Amazon rainforest. The road is about
69 km long, but in that short distance it goes down from about 4,650 m high to 1,200 m. Although it is only about three metres wide and there are no guard rails, cars travel in both directions. The views are amazing, but between two and three hundred travellers are killed every year when they drive off the side of this road. In Spanish it is called *El Camino de los Muertos* – the Road of the Dead.

C When I went to visit my friend Jacqueline in La Paz, I had no idea how dangerous the North Yungas road was. I was very excited about the trip to the Amazon rainforest that she wanted to take me on. When we got on the bus, Jacqueline let me sit by the window to get the best view. I didn't feel suspicious at all.

D It was only when the journey started that I began to feel frightened. The bus drove right to the edge of the road many times, and when I looked over, I could see the forest about 600 m below us. We drove on quickly through thick cloud – how do you know where you're going when you can't see? I held on to Jacqueline's hand. Then we drove under a waterfall that was slowly washing the road away. I was shocked!

E When we met another car coming the other way, we drove so close to the edge of the road that a wheel seemed to go off the edge. This happened several times and I started thinking that we might not reach our final destination. When we finally got to Coroico, I felt so relieved. I let go of Jacqueline's hand and saw that it was red. I was a bit embarrassed, but so happy that we were not on that road any more.

In which paragraph does the writer tell us ...

1 how many people die on the road? ___

2 about feelings people have when they travel? ___

3 about an injury that she had? ___

4 about dangerous weather? ___

5 that someone wanted her to see the sights? ___

6 how expensive the trip was? ___

7 that she thought she might die? ___

LIVEWORKSHEETS