

Travel with Tom

A Vacation with a Difference

Last week I received a letter from one of my readers. She had just returned from a 10-day vacation touring London's theatres, and was eager to share her experiences. "We saw five plays, met with the actors, and heard wonderful lectures," she wrote. "People who spend their holidays just lying on the beach don't know what they're missing". I've gotten a great number of letters like this recently. A growing number of vacationers , it seems, are no longer interested in rest and relaxation. Instead, they are looking for ways to expand their horizons. According to the World Tourism Organization (WTO) , every year more people go on the educational vacations that are offered by museums , universities and wildlife organizations .

Not surprisingly, the best place to find the right educational vacation for you is the Internet. If you're interested in a cultural experience, you can try one of the dozens of websites that specialize in art or music tours. If you prefer adventure, you can find plenty of nature and science tours on the Internet. You might decide on a week-long tour of the volcanoes in Hawaii, for example, or a safari where you can watch African mountain gorillas in their natural surroundings. Finally, if you also want some relaxation on your educational vacation, have a look at the deals offered by hotels. At Crater Hotel in Phoenix, for instance, guests can take courses in desert photography in the morning , and swim in the hotel pool in the afternoon.

Whatever you choose, the key to a successful educational vacation is an experienced guide. Most companies say they only employ experts, such as well-known historians, art critics, or zoologists. Still, it's a good idea to find out as much as you can about the guide before making your decision.

Educational vacations also have an added bonus that is worth considering: You get to meet a lot of people who share your interests. So why not try an educational vacation for a change — and then write me a letter and tell me all about it.

1. **What is the writer's purpose in this text?**

- (i) To present the advantages and disadvantages of educational vacations.
- (ii) To give information about educational vacations .
- (iii) To tell readers about his own educational vacation.
- (iv) To answer a letter about educational vacations.

2. **Which TWO types of vacationers are mentioned in lines 1-9 ? COMPLETE THE ANSWERS.**

- (1) People who want
- (2) People who want

3. **How did the writer learn about the growing popularity of educational vacations? Give ONE way. (lines 5-9) COMPLETE THE ANSWER.**

From the

4. **Three MAIN types of educational vacations are described in lines 10-18. What are they? COMPLETE THE ANSWERS.**

- (1) Vacations that offer
- (2) Vacations that offer
- (3) Vacations that offer

5. **In lines 10-18, the writer explains.....**

- (i) which tours are the most expensive
- (ii) why educational vacations are usually short
- (iii) how to find a suitable educational vacation
- (iv) which tours are the most successful

6. **COMPLETE THE SENTENCE ACCORDING TO LINES 19-22.**

Before deciding on an educational vacation you should get information about
.....

7. **In the last paragraph, the writer presents.....**

- (i) a problem with educational vacations
- (ii) a description of an educational vacation
- (iii) a different kind of educational vacation
- (iv) another advantage of educational vacations.