

UNIT 2

Travel and Adventure

WARM UP

Discuss these questions with a partner.

1. When you travel, what kinds of activities do you like to do?
2. What places in the world would you most like to visit? Why?
3. What is the most adventurous thing that you've ever done?

▲ A scientist lowers himself into one of the world's largest caves, Majlis al Jinn, in Oman.

2A

Adventure Destinations

Before You Read

A. Completion. Look at the photos and read about each place. Then complete each description with a word from the box.

camp	cruise	hike	swim
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Top Adventure Travel Destinations



MOUNTAIN Colombia

Travel along Colombia's "coffee highway" and _____ through beautiful mountain villages in the Andes.



DESERT Mongolia

Travel through its wide-open desert. Bring a tent and _____ outdoors under the sky at night. It's an amazing experience!



FOREST Senegal

Take a riverboat _____ and see this country's natural wonders, like mangrove forests full of animal life.



BEACH Albania

Visit the country's beautiful coastal towns, walk along white-sand beaches, and _____ in the blue waters of the Ionian Sea.

B. Scan. You are going to read about two friends' travel adventure. Quickly scan the reading to answer the questions below. Then read again to check your answers.

1. Where did they start and end their trip? How did they travel?
2. How many kilometers (or miles) did they travel?

Travel Adventure: Alaska to Argentina

1 Many people dream of going on a great travel adventure.
Most of us keep dreaming; others make it happen . . .

Gregg Bleakney's dream was to travel the Americas from top to bottom. He got the idea after he finished a 1,600 kilometer (1,000 mile) bike ride. Gregg's friend, Brooks Allen, was also a cyclist.¹ The two friends talked and slowly **formed** a plan: they would travel from Alaska to Argentina—by bike.

To pay for the **trip**, Gregg and Brooks worked and saved their money for years. Once they were on the road, they often camped outdoors or stayed in hostels.² In many places, local people opened their homes to the two friends and gave them food.

During their trip, Gregg and Brooks cycled through deserts, rainforests, and mountains. They visited modern cities and **ancient** ruins³ such as Machu Picchu in Peru. And everywhere they went, they met other cyclists from all over the world.

In May 2007—two years, twelve countries, and over 30,500 km (19,000 miles) later—Gregg **eventually** reached Ushuaia, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world. (Near Guatemala, Brooks had to return to the U.S., and Gregg continued without him.)

The trip taught both men a lot about traveling, **especially** if you travel **abroad**. What did they learn? Here is some of Gregg's **advice**:

25 **Travel light.** The less **baggage** you have, the less you'll worry about.

Be flexible. Don't plan everything. Then you'll be more **relaxed** and happy, especially if there are problems.

30 **Be polite.** As one traveller told Gregg, "Always remember that nobody wants to fight, cheat, or rob⁴ a nice guy."

¹ A **cyclist** is someone who rides a bicycle.

² A **hostel** is a cheap place to stay and sleep when traveling.

³ The **ruins** of something are the parts of it that remain after it has been broken.

⁴ If someone is **robbed**, they have money or property stolen from them.



▲ Gregg and Brooks (right) cycle past ruins in Tikal National Park, Guatemala.

Reading Comprehension

A. Multiple Choice. Choose the best answer for each question.

Gist 1. Another title for this reading could be _____.

- a. Cycling the Americas from Top to Bottom
- b. The Southernmost City in the World
- c. Things to See and Do in Alaska and Argentina
- d. Argentina: The Land of Adventure

Detail 2. Which sentence about Gregg and Brooks' trip is NOT true?
a. To pay for the trip, they saved their money and traveled cheaply on the road.
b. Only Gregg made the complete trip from Alaska to Argentina.
c. During their trip, they met people from all over the world.
d. In Guatemala, Gregg got sick and went back to the U.S.A.

Reference 3. In line 12, *them* means _____.
a. the local people c. other cyclists
b. Gregg and Brooks d. their friends

Vocabulary 4. Which of these words or phrases is most similar in meaning to *flexible* in line 27?
a. able to change easily c. well-planned
b. careful d. difficult

Inference 5. Which statement would Gregg most likely agree with?
a. In other countries, only stay in hotels or with people you know.
b. Plan every part of your trip so you can relax.
c. When abroad, learn how to say "thank you" in the local language.
d. Bring a lot with you on your trip so you don't have to buy anything.

B. Sequencing. Put the events below in order from 1–6.
Then retell this story to a partner.

- _____ Gregg and Brooks start their trip in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.
- _____ Gregg reaches Ushuaia, Argentina.
- _____ Gregg goes on a 1,000-mile bike ride.
- _____ Gregg and his friend Brooks talk about biking from Alaska to Argentina.
- _____ Brooks returns to the U.S.A. Gregg continues without him.
- _____ Gregg and Brooks work to save money.

Vocabulary Practice

A. Definitions. Read the information below. Then match each word in red with its definition.

Are you planning to travel **abroad**? If you're looking for both beauty and adventure, think about visiting Patagonia. It is an area that is shared by both Chile and Argentina. Here are two places you shouldn't miss:

- Cave of the Hands: These **ancient** cave paintings were done 9,500–13,000 years ago by some of Patagonia's earliest people.
- Glaciers National Park is a great place for hiking and mountain climbing. See blue lakes and white glaciers—huge rivers of ice—that were **formed** millions of years ago.

1. very old _____
2. made, created _____
3. overseas, in another country _____

B. Completion. Complete the information with words from the box. One word is extra.

advice	especially	polite	trip
baggage	eventually	relax	

A lot of smart people make mistakes when they go hiking. Here's some 1. _____ that can help you stay safe:

Before you start, tell someone where you are going and for how long, 2. _____ if you are going alone.

No one likes to carry a lot of 3. _____.

But it's important to take certain things on your 4. _____: water, extra clothing, and a cell phone.

If you get lost or hurt, you should "S.T.O.P." This means:

Stop: try to 5. _____ and stay calm.

Think about your situation.

Observe: look around and notice where you are.

Plan what to do next.

Also, it's important to stay in one place. Someone will

6. _____ look for you.

Usage

Advice is a noun, and the c is pronounced like the ss in *less*; **advise** is a verb, and the s is pronounced like the z in *size*: Jenny *advised* Alan not to give people *advice*!

2B

Extreme Activities

Before You Read

The South Pacific

Home to some of the best water and adventure sports in the world



- Tonga has great waves, and (a) **surfing** is popular here.
- Vanuatu has some of the best sea (b) **kayaking** in the world.
- In New Zealand—"The Adventure Capital of the World"—you can do everything from (c) **bungee jumping** to (d) **snorkeling** with the fish.



A. Matching. Look at the map and read the information.

1. Which countries are described? Find and circle them on the map.
2. Match the words in blue (a–d) with the sport pictured.

B. Skim for the Main Idea. On the next page, look quickly at the title, headings, photos, and captions. Which word best describes the activities on Vanuatu? Circle **a**, **b**, or **c**. Then read the passage to check your answer.

- a. expensive b. dangerous c. relaxing

Extreme Destination:

VANUATU

- 1 Vanuatu is an island nation in the South Pacific. It is also one of the smallest countries in the world. But for those interested in adventure and sport, there is a lot to do. Some of the best snorkeling and sea kayaking can be found here. Vanuatu's islands also offer visitors
- 5 two of the most exciting—and dangerous—activities in the world: volcano surfing and land diving.

Volcano Surfing

- On Tanna Island, Mount Yasur rises 300 meters (1,000 feet) into the sky. Yasur is an active volcano, and it erupts¹ almost every day, sometimes several times a day. For **centuries**, both island locals and visitors have climbed this mountain to visit the top. Recently, people have also started climbing Yasur to surf the volcano. In some ways, volcano surfing is like surfing in the sea, but in other ways it's very different. A volcano surfer's **goal** is to **escape** the erupting volcano—without getting **hit** by flying rocks! It's fast,
- 15 fun, and dangerous—the perfect **extreme** sport.

Land Diving

- Most people are **familiar** with bungee jumping, but did you know bungee jumping started on Pentecost Island in Vanuatu and is
- 20 almost fifteen centuries old? The original activity, called land diving, is part of a **religious** ceremony.² A man **ties** tree vines³ to his legs. He then jumps head-first from a high tower. The goal: to touch the earth with the top of his head—without breaking the vine and hitting the ground hard. Every spring, island **natives** (men only)
- 25 still perform this amazing test of **strength**.

▲ Yasur Volcano, Tanna Island, Vanuatu



▲ A man jumps from a tower on Pentecost Island.

¹ When a volcano **erupts**, it throws out hot rock called *lava*.

² A **ceremony** is a formal event such as a wedding.

³ A **vine** is a plant that grows up or over things.



Tanna women paint ▲
their faces and dress
in special clothes for
a ceremony.

Reading Comprehension

A. Multiple Choice. Choose the best answer for each question.

Purpose

1. What is the purpose of this reading?
- a. to encourage people not to do dangerous sports
 - ☒ b. to explain what volcano surfing and land diving are
 - c. to talk about the world's best volcano surfer and land diver
 - d. to compare activities in Vanuatu with sports in New Zealand

Detail

2. Which sentence about Mount Yasur is true?
- a. It is no longer active.
 - ☒ b. People have been climbing it for a long time.
 - c. It gets a lot of snow.
 - d. It's on Pentecost Island.

Detail

3. Land diving _____.
- a. was first called "bungee jumping"
 - b. came to Vanuatu from another country
 - c. is less popular today than in the past
 - ☒ d. is a traditional activity in Vanuatu

Reference

4. In line 2, what does *those* refer to?
- ☒ a. people
 - b. countries
 - c. activities
 - d. islands

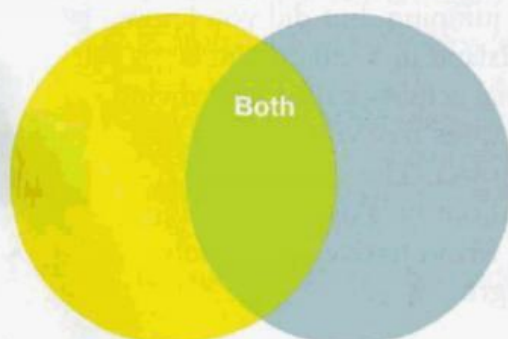
Vocabulary

5. In line 23, what does *the earth* mean?
- a. the people
 - ☒ b. the ground
 - c. the tower
 - d. the world

B. Classification. Match each answer (a–g) with the activity it describes.

Volcano surfing

Land diving



- a. is only done by men
- b. is a new sport
- c. is dangerous because of flying rocks
- d. is a very old activity
- e. was first done on Pentecost Island
- f. is similar to a popular water sport
- g. is a very fast activity

Vocabulary Practice

A. Completion. Complete the information with the correct form of words from the box. One word is extra.

century
escape

extreme
familiar

goal
hit

native
religious

strength
tie

The Festival of San Fermín

Where: the city of Pamplona in northern Spain

When: early July, for nine days

What happens: Every day, there are special events: music, dances, and 1. _____ ceremonies. But the part of the festival that most people are 2. _____ with is "the running of the bulls." Every morning, a group of bulls runs down a city street. Hundreds of people run in front of the animals. Runners wear white; they also 3. _____ a red scarf around their bodies. The run lasts three minutes.

A runner's 4. _____ is to

5. _____ from the bulls without falling or getting 6. _____ by them.

Running with the bulls started in Spain in the 13th 7. _____, and is still very popular today.

Pamplona 8. _____ and visitors from all over the world join in. The run is very dangerous. So why do people do it?

For some runners, it is a test of 9. _____. For others, the run makes them feel alive.



▲ People wearing red and white run from the bulls in Pamplona, Spain.

B. Definitions. Use the words in the box in **A** to complete the definitions.

1. A(n) _____ is 100 years.
2. If you _____ from something, you run away from it.
3. A(n) _____ is an aim or something you are trying to do.
4. A(n) _____ of somewhere is from that place.
5. If you touch someone or something very hard, you _____ them.
6. If you are _____ with something, you know or understand it well.
7. If you _____ two things together, you bring them together with a knot.

Word Partnership

Use **native** with: native country, native land, native language, native tongue.



Land Divers



A. Preview. Read the sentences below and answer the questions.

The natives of Vanuatu are led by a **chief**.

Land diving is very dangerous, so you need to be very **brave** to do it.

1. A *chief* is _____.
a. an important person b. an important place
2. Someone who is *brave* is _____ to do dangerous things.
a. afraid b. not afraid



B. Summarize. Watch the video, *Land Divers*. Then complete the summary below with the correct form of words from the box. Two words are extra.

advice	eventually	goal	relax
century	extreme	hit	religious
especially	form	native	tie

Modern bungee jumping started in New Zealand. But this

1. _____ sport actually started about a(n) _____
2. _____ ago as a(n) 3. _____ ceremony on Pentecost Island. In the local language, it is called Nagol. This means "land diving." One islander has some
4. _____ for divers: It's important to
5. _____ when you are on the tower. Land diving can be very dangerous, 6. _____ if you are nervous. The last time a diver died was in 1974. But every year, people 7. _____ the ground hard and they get hurt. People from other countries can watch, but only Vanuatu
8. _____ can join in Nagol. For a National Geographic video, the chief allowed one brave diver to
9. _____ a camera to his leg. His
10. _____ was to use the camera to film his jump. On his second jump the diver's vine broke, but he was not hurt. "I'm a lucky man!" he later said.

C. Think About It.

1. Why do you think the native people of Pentecost Island do land diving?
2. In your opinion, which activity in this unit is the most dangerous? Which would you like to try?



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