

# REACHING THE TOP



We asked people to send us their holiday experiences (good or bad) on the subject 'height'. Here are some of the best we received.

## A-Rocio Montoya (Aged 14)

### *Machu Picchu*

Machu Picchu, which in Quechua means 'old peak' is a city in the clouds close to the modern-day city of Cuzco. It is an ancient Inca city that stands 2,430 meters above the sea level, and its ruins are visited by tourists all over the world. I visited as part of a school project and we did 'The Inca Trail', a five-day trek along an ancient Inca path that passes through many famous Inca ruins and involves camping outdoors. It's not for everyone - your feet and legs will ache, but I found it very rewarding in particular when we finally arrived at the Sun Gate of Machu Picchu. If you are interested in doing the trail, book in advance as there are limited places, avoid the rainy season (October - April) and consider taking tablets to deal with the altitude.

## B-Gareth Williams (Aged 15)

### *Mount Snowdon*

I've climbed Mount Snowdon in Wales several times now, usually with friends. It's been described as the busiest mountain in Britain, and for a good reason. Every time I have been, there have been plenty of walkers no matter what time of the year it is. There are six main routes - some more difficult than others - and the climb can take five to six hours from start to finish. Apparently, Sir Edmund Hillary trained here for his amazing 1953 Everest climb. Presumably he chose some of the trickier routes, something we always do when we go up. You feel a real sense of achievement when you reach the top after a difficult ascent. And the hot soup they sell in the café there, is a great reward! But if you're feeling a bit lazy, take the railway, which was built in the late 1890s, to the top. Personally, I've never been up on the train.

### C-Stefi Kunstmann (Aged 14)

#### *Dinner in the sky*

My dad won tickets to the Dinner in the Sky restaurant in Vienna so he took the whole family, including my grandparents. Dinner in the Sky is an amazing concept. It's a gourmet restaurant that is lifted 50 meters into the air by a crane, giving amazing views of the city. However, I can't say that I would like to repeat the experience. Every time I looked down, I felt dizzy, and as a result, I lost my appetite. I tried to be happy for my family's sake but I only relaxed once we were back on the ground. Not surprising really - I feel the same way on the balcony of our flat on the fifth floor.

### D-Sam Freeman (Aged 13)

#### *Mount Ruapehu*

As my mum and I are huge fans of *The Hobbit*, we went on a dream holiday to New Zealand last year. We visited many of the locations from the movies and the one that sticks in my mind is Mount Ruapehu, the setting for the Lonely Mountain, home for Smaug the dragon. Part of me was disappointed when we got there. I had expected to see a huge film set but of course, they were dismantled once the filming had finished. However, the scenery there is breathtaking and we got to do a whole load of great activities, including skiing and snowboarding. The chair-lift ride to Knoll Ridge Chalet, New Zealand's highest café at 2,020 meters, is out of this world. I would definitely recommend a visit to Mount Ruapehu. Just don't go expecting to see film sets and pack your winter clothing!

1) Find these sentences in the article and read the sentences around them. For each one, decide what is implied. Choose the correct word.

a- *It's not for everyone- your feet and legs will ache.*

This trip is quite \_\_\_\_\_.

b- *It's been described as the busiest mountain in Britain, and for good reason.*

It's busy because lots of people \_\_\_\_\_.

c- *As my mum and I are huge fans of The Hobbit, we went on a dream holiday to New Zealand last year.*

They went to New Zealand to \_\_\_\_\_.

d- *The chair-lift ride to Knoll Ridge Chalet, New Zealand's highest café at 2,020 meters, is out of this world.*

The writer was \_\_\_\_\_.

2) For each question, choose from the people A-D. The people may be chosen more than once. Be ready to justify your answer in class.

Which person...

- 1- mentions a famous mountaineering expedition? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2- made an effort to enjoy the trip? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3- suggests the place they visited was cold? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4- suggests that they visited the place for educational purposes? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5- suffered from being so high up?
- 6- had a different experience from what they had imagined? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7- gives advice on how to organise a trip? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8- stresses how many routes there are? \_\_\_\_\_

3) Match the words with the definitions.

Peak	<i>a route that is followed for a particular purpose</i>
Rewarding	<i>the natural features of an area, such as mountains, valleys, rivers and forests, when you are thinking about them being attractive to look at</i>
Trail	<i>the pointed top of a mountain; a mountain with a pointed top</i>
Presumably	<i>that makes you happy because you think it is useful or important</i>
Tricky (ier)	<i>very exciting or impressive (usually in a pleasant way)</i>
Appetite	<i>used to say that you think that something is probably true</i>
Sake	<i>difficult to do or deal with</i>
Scenery	<i>physical desire for food</i>
Breathtaking	<i>because of the interest or value something has, not because of the advantages it may bring</i>