

PRACTICE

1. Listen to the interview and order the places as you hear them.

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5

6



2. Listen again and complete the sentences, they can be numbers or words.

1. Uluru is the _____ rock in the world.
2. The world's _____ waterfall is in Venezuela.
3. The tallest building in the world is _____ metres high.
4. The world's oldest city began in _____ BC.
5. The world's _____ railway goes from Moscow to Vladivostock.
6. The shortest runway in the world is _____ metres long.

In case you need the script, here it is:

P = Presenter, **H** = Harry

P Hello and welcome to the travel section of the programme. Our guest today is travel writer Harry Miller, whose book *Superlative Sights* came out yesterday. Harry, welcome to the programme.

H Thank you, Gloria.

P So what exactly is your book about?

H Well, it's basically about the biggest, the best and the most beautiful places in the world.

P Can you give us some examples?

H Yes, of course. Let's start with Ayers Rock in Australia. Its other name is Uluru and it's the world's largest rock. It's 3.6 kilometres long, 2 kilometres wide and 348 metres high – enormous!

P Yes, I see what you mean. What else?

H How about the world's highest waterfall? The Angel Falls in Venezuela are 979 metres high. A lot of the water evaporates before it hits the ground.

P Wow! Are there only natural places in your book, or do you have any man-made structures?

H Yes, we include man-made structures too. For example, do you know what the tallest building is right now?

P No...tell us more.

H Well, it's Burj Khalifa in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. It stands 828 metres high.

P Incredible!

H What about the oldest city in the world?

P I'm not sure. Um...somewhere in Egypt?

H Nearly, but not quite. It's Aleppo, in Syria. The city dates back to 600 BC and it's the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world.

P Really? I didn't know that.

H There are also some interesting facts about transport. For instance, do you know anything about the longest railway journey?

P Well, I suppose it's in Russia.

H That's right. The Trans-Siberian Railway from Moscow to Vladivostok is 9,297 kilometres long and crosses seven different time zones.

P That's one long train ride!

H That's right. And how about plane journeys? What's the shortest runway in the world?

P Runway? You mean where the planes land at the airport?

H That's right.

P I have no idea.

H Well, it's on the beautiful island of Saba in the Dutch Caribbean. The runway is only 400 metres long and it ends in a 60-metre drop into the sea.

P This is fascinating stuff Harry. I can't wait to read your book!