

MY MOST MEMORABLE TRAIN JOURNEY



Match the questions 1-15 with the paragraphs A – G.

Which person

1. expected to have an unpleasant journey? ____
2. lost something at the beginning of their journey? ____
3. travelled with an animal? ____
4. was asked to help solve a problem by people they met? ____
5. travelled with people who seemed especially nervous? ____
6. saw wildlife from the train? ____
7. was entertained on the journey by another traveller? ____
8. was happy to arrive despite a problem on the journey? ____
9. travelled without all the correct documents? ____
10. travelled through an area where few people live? ____
11. didn't mind when their transport didn't arrive on time? ____
12. witnessed an illegal activity on the journey? ____
13. was on a very crowded train? ____
14. obtained food when the train stopped? ____

A Rose: I was 18 and I'd just left school when I went on holiday to Thailand. I stepped onto a train travelling to Chiang Mai from Bangkok, ready to endure many hours of discomfort. This, after all, was what travelling involved. I was really surprised when I saw how soft the seats were. Mine even converted into a bed and had a curtain in case I wanted privacy. The scenery was beautiful and delicious snacks were offered through my window at every station. I had a wonderful time and the curtain stayed open the whole way.

B Kate: My most memorable train journey took place quite recently. While we were sitting in our compartment, two women entered with screwdrivers and dismantled the wood panels on the wall. They then took fake designer watches out of a black bag and they hid them in the walls. When we got to the border a guard came to check our compartment, tickets and passports. One of the watches had an alarm which fortunately went off when the guard had left our compartment.

C Amy: 'Mon billet not tombe dans la mer!' (My ticket fell in the sea!) Careless, 17, and with very little money. I was leaning on the rails of the ship carrying me to France when a gust of wind snatched my ticket from the top of my open bag and dropped it in the sea. A wonderful ship's officer took pity on me and provided a handwritten letter explaining what had happened. With only the letter and the phrase 'Mon billet est tombe dans la mer!', I travelled the French railways for three weeks to the south and home again.



D Dave and Jess: Crossing Australia from Sydney to Perth on the 'Indian Pacific' is an adventure. You pass through time zones and areas where man and animals have adapted to the harsh environment over many centuries. You travel from mountains covered with eucalyptus trees to dry dusty plains and deserts. You see kangaroos, camels and eagles. As we headed west, towns and villages became fewer and fewer. Finally we reached Cook, a place on the Nullarbor Plain. It only had four residents left and they invited us to become ill in order to prevent the local hospital from being closed.

E Andy: An epic journey down India's east coast from Calcutta to Chennai took two nights and almost three days. The bare, sweaty, second class carriage was packed full of people. During the journey a wise old man told me numerous amusing stories which always ended with the proclamation 'that is the Indian way'. At the stations I had countless cups of sweet tea and omelettes delivered by boys from the platforms. And no one cared that the train had arrived four hours late.

F Anna: My most memorable train Journey was on an overnight steam train from Mombasa to Nairobi. I spent the journey trying to rescue my pet monkey who had got trapped under the seat. When I greeted my mother at the bustling station, I was covered in dirt and had bites all over my hands. But I'd rescued my pet, so I was smiling!

G William: My most memorable rail trip must be the Regionale train between Florence and Rome. The scenery was magnificent and it gave us a great opportunity to see the country and the people close up for the first time. In our compartment there was a man who got off at every station to make sure we hadn't arrived in Rome, and an older woman who, as we pulled out of every stop, took her bag down off the rack to check that nothing had been stolen.

