

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

SARAH DUPONT | Tue 10 Sep 2020



Every year, millions of British people pack their backpacks and leave their comfortable homes behind to go camping. Sleeping in a tent and cooking on a campfire isn't my idea of a fun holiday – I prefer expensive hotels and good restaurants in an interesting city – but camping is very popular in the UK and I want to know why.

So, this week, I spoke to travel writer and adventure-lover Kirsty Baxter to find out more.

Why do people like camping?

“There are lots of reasons people like camping. It's fun, it's cheap, it's relaxing and it's a great way to meet new people and spend lots of time outside. I go camping about five or six times a year. I love

leaving the noise and stress of the city and going somewhere without shops or train stations. There's no television or internet so you listen to the birds, look at the sky or talk to other people. For me, the best thing about camping is being outdoors in beautiful, natural places and sleeping under the stars.”

Is there anything you don't like about camping?

“Sometimes there aren't any showers or any hot water at a campsite. Also, you need to take lots of stuff with you – a tent, a sleeping bag, clothes, things for cooking – so your backpack is usually very heavy. And it's cold in the middle of the night – you definitely need warm clothes and lots of blankets, even in the summer.”

BEFORE YOU WATCH

1 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- 1 Where do you like going on holiday? Why?
- 2 Do you like camping? Why/Why not?
- 3 Is camping popular in your country?

2 Read the blog post and answer the questions.

- 1 Does the writer like camping holidays?
- 2 What does Kirsty Baxter like/not like about camping?

3 Read the blog post again. Answer the questions.

- 1 How many British people go camping every year?
- 2 What type of hotels does the writer like?
- 3 How often does travel writer Kirsty Baxter go camping?
- 4 What does Kirsty like best about camping?
- 5 According to Kirsty, what don't all campsites have?
- 6 What things does Kirsty say you need to take camping?

4 a In the video, the reporter goes to a shop to buy things for a camping trip. What do you think she needs to buy?

b Watch the video and check your ideas.

WHILE YOU WATCH

5 a Label photos A–F with the words in the box.

backpack camping stove jacket sleeping bag tent
water bottles

b Watch the video again and put photos A–F in the order that you see them.

6 a Choose the correct alternatives.

- More than *four million/five million* people in the UK go camping every year.
- Esme needs to buy a sleeping bag and a *mat/blanket*.
- Esme *needs/doesn't need* all the things she buys for her camping trip.
- Esme *knows/doesn't know* how to put up her tent.
- The tent is big enough for *two people/three people* to sleep in.
- The tent takes about *five/ten* minutes to put up.

b Watch the video from 00:13–03:10 to check your answers.

7 a Work in pairs. Complete the summaries of Cath's answers with the words in the box.

adventures beautiful calm festivals nature outdoors
park weekend

Why do people love camping at the moment?

Cath says people love camping because they like being ¹_____.
She says camping makes people feel ²_____ and close to
³_____. She also says there are lots of ⁴_____ places
to go camping in the UK.

Do most people come here to buy things for a big trip?

Cath says that not everybody buys things for a big trip. Some people go
to her shop to buy things for going to the ⁵_____ every day
or to ⁶_____. Some people buy things for ⁷_____
camping trips or for big ⁸_____ around the world.

b Watch the video from 03:10–04:04 and check your answers.

AFTER YOU WATCH

8 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- Cath says camping makes people feel calm. Do you agree? Why/Why not?
- Do you like being outdoors in natural places?

9 a Work in pairs. Think about what you need to take on the following types of holidays. Make notes.

- a weekend in London
- a holiday at the beach
- a weekend camping in the mountains
- a skiing holiday

b Work in groups. Discuss what you need to take on the holidays in Exercise 9a. Do you have the same ideas?

