

Reading

1 Read the blog post. What's it about?

- a where to go for summer holidays
- b where to go for winter holidays
- c cheap holidays

2 Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 The article says that winter holidays are not popular. ____
- 2 London in September is 5–10°C. ____
- 3 Gozo is a good place for swimming. ____
- 4 The world-famous Medina is a beach. ____
- 5 It isn't difficult to find cheap places to stay in Marrakech. ____
- 6 It takes a long time to travel to the countryside from Las Palmas. ____
- 7 Paphos is only good to visit in winter. ____
- 8 You can do sea sports in Paphos. ____

3 Read the blog post again. Complete the sentences about the writer's opinions. Write Gozo (G), Marrakech (M), Las Palmas (LP) or Paphos (P).

- 1 ____ has the best shopping opportunities.
- 2 ____ is colder than Paphos.
- 3 ____ has useful public transport.
- 4 ____ is the best place to really relax.
- 5 ____ is a great place to visit at other times of the year, too.
- 6 ____ is good value for money.
- 7 ____ is the hottest.
- 8 ____ has a famous place.

4 Look at the underlined words. Choose the option which has a similar meaning.

- 1 You can jump on a plane (paragraph 1)
 - a get on a plane quickly
 - b get on a plane slowly
- 2 You can enjoy a comfortable 20°C (paragraph 2)
 - a the weather is too hot
 - b the weather is relaxing
- 3 It's smaller than Malta and also greener. (paragraph 2)
 - a it has more nature
 - b it has less nature
- 4 jewellery made by local people (paragraph 3)
 - a people who live close to the area
 - b people who come from different parts of the country
- 5 It has become the go-to place for fans of warm-weather sports. (paragraph 5)
 - a popular
 - b unpopular

We work hard all year long, so when it's time for a holiday it's a big decision. We need to think about where to go, when to go and how much to spend. Most people go on holiday in the summer months, but these days many people are starting to take their holidays in the winter months. Why be cold and unhappy in the UK when you can jump on a plane and be in the sun in just a few hours? This is what many of us think. But where are the best places to visit at this time of year?

Gozo, Malta (3 hours)



London in November is a cold 5–10°C. But just three hours by plane and you can enjoy a comfortable 20°C on the beautiful island of Gozo, in Malta. This quiet and peaceful place has beautiful beaches and amazing views. Do you like swimming in the sea? Gozo has some of the best swimming in the Mediterranean and the water is not too cold. It's smaller than Malta and also greener. It's the perfect winter holiday.

Marrakech, Morocco (4 hours)



Marrakech is a city with a lot of history. The temperature is 23°C in November, which is the perfect weather to enjoy the world-famous Medina market. This is a 19-kilometre street market where you can buy any kind of food, furniture, art and jewellery made by local people. It's easy to find cheap accommodation in Marrakech. The local hotels are called *riad*s and are much cheaper than normal hotels. They're usually very quiet and comfortable, too!

Las Palmas, Gran Canaria (4 hours)



The city of Las Palmas has some beautiful streets and lots of interesting buildings, museums, cafés and theatres. It also has beautiful countryside outside of the city. Take a short bus ride and you can go for a good walk, and enjoy the sun and fresh air. You can also relax on one of its five amazing beaches and enjoy the 24°C temperature. Not bad for 'winter'!

Paphos, Cyprus (4.5 hours)



A trip to Paphos is good at any time of year, but it's a great winter destination, especially if you enjoy having fun. Have you ever been surfing? Do you like riding a bike or mountain climbing? You can do all of these things in November in Paphos. Because of its beautiful National Park, restaurants and warm weather (22°C), Paphos has become the go-to place for people who like warm-weather sports.