Reading

A **Which of these statements about travelling do you agree with? Discuss with a partner.**

- It's an eye-opening experience.
- It's a thoroughly selfish pursuit.
- It makes you a more interesting person.
- It allows you to detox from social media.
- It brings prosperity to many communities.
- It is detrimental to the environment.
- It makes you appreciate family and home.
- It ruins traditional communities.

B **Read the text quickly. What is selfish about 'voluntourism' (volunteer tourism)?**

Where to next?

a unique perspective on all things travel

About me

I'm Josh and I've got one passion in life: travel. Whenever my teaching job allows, I'm on the next plane (or bus, or train …) to a new adventure. Here, I like to share my experiences and perhaps inspire you to take the plunge and go off the beaten path. So grab your camera, pack your sense of adventure and bring an open mind.



Are travellers selfish?

Travel, when you think about it, is a largely selfish pursuit. It's all about me, me, me. Places I can go to, people I can meet, things I can see, food I can try, my bucket list, my experiences. Are you a self-absorbed traveller? Let's look at some common scenarios, starting with the plight of the traveller seeking to discover something unique. 1 ☐

Your first reaction is to blame the guide book, regardless of the fact that it's probably the way you found out about it, too. And it's true, that book in your hand has a bit to answer for. But that's a simplistic notion. In an age of mass tourism, of backpacker grapevines, of internet and travel blogs, it's inevitable that what was once a pristine paradise will be seething with tourists before long. 2 ☐

You can direct a little blame at the locals, too. Without their efforts, that which seems to offend you would not exist. They like the money and they want more – although it's a bit hard to blame them for that. If tourist cash spent at beach bars and souvenir shops can ease poverty and raise living standards, it would be selfish to begrudge the locals their chance at a better life. 3 ☐

Honestly, either accept a place as it is, even if it doesn't live up to your expectations, or go elsewhere if the trappings of progress are too offensive for your sensibilities. Don't blame the guide books, the internet, or Trip Advisor. Don't blame your fellow tourists. And definitely don't blame the locals for trying to improve their lives – that would be the height of selfishness. 4 ☐

They say money makes the world go round. So how do you spend your hard-earned cash on holiday? Do you shop locally? If you stay, eat and shop in places owned by locals, your money will stay in the community and help generate jobs. Foreign-owned resorts or hotel chains may offer a higher level of comfort and extra facilities, but very little of what you pay actually trickles down into the local economy. If there's a beach nearby, do you really need a swimming pool? 5 ☐

And last but not least where money's concerned, bargain fairly. Saving an extra dollar on that T-shirt or souvenir will hardly make a dent in your budget, but it can make a huge difference to the seller. Once, I was disgusted to witness a shameful exchange in which a well-fed foreigner haggled hard to get a novelty toy for less than half price. The saving? Fifty measly cents. Adding insult to injury, he boasted about it to his companions. He felt great because he'd put one over on the locals. Don't be that person! 6 ☐

People say there's something about lending a hand that lifts voluntourism above the average travel experience. But I think there's still an element of selfishness even to the noble volunteers who help build homes or teach art to children. You do these things because it makes you feel good, not just because you're a kind, giving soul. The downside to all this goodwill, however, is that voluntourism is actually quite expensive. Most companies that organise volunteer trips will charge you plenty for the experience – often far more than it would cost you to just visit those countries on your own. 7 ☐

Well, that's it. Some of you will disagree with my views, but I'm up for a good debate. Send your comments and let me know your thoughts. Are you a selfish traveller?



A team of young activists planting a tree in a park

LIVEWORKSHEETS

C **Refer back to the *Exam Close-up* on page 37. Then look for cohesive devices in the missing paragraphs in the *Exam Task* below.**

D **Now complete the *Exam Task*.**

Exam Task

You are going to read a blog post. Seven paragraphs have been removed from the post. Choose from the paragraphs **A – H** the one which fits each gap (**1 – 7**). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use.

A Maybe you're not the kind of traveller who thinks hell is other people. Maybe you're happy to discover and share the world with others. That's commendable. But while you're roaming the planet, think about your personal impact on the people and the places around you. Are you contributing in positive ways that can be of benefit to others, or are you exacerbating problems? Are you causing harm to satisfy selfish needs?

B You get to an exotic destination expecting to find an untouched and unspoilt paradise, a secluded fantasyland just for you, far from the well-worn tourist path ... and the place is crawling with other travellers. There are loud and obnoxious backpackers, huge speakers thumping out the most awful dance music, and tour buses spewing their human cargo.

C One last thing before I get off my soapbox: voluntourism. It's a novel concept, and, to those whose idea of travel is a secluded resort and a day spa, a somewhat frightening one. The idea is simple: as a traveller from the first world, you're usually in a far more privileged position than those who live in the countries you're visiting. But, rather than just comfort yourself with the knowledge that your money is helping their economy, why not do something tangible to help out, even for just a few days?

D There is also something imperialistic about not allowing – or wanting – less developed countries to develop along the lines of our own cultures. After a recent trip to Nepal, a member of our group was complaining about locals in a village, and how the place was spoilt because there was an internet café. I couldn't believe my ears. Why can't these Nepalese people enjoy the web if they so choose?

E Stay calm and don't get angry if you think you've been charged a bit more for your transport, hotel or food. Perhaps it's just an honest mistake. Try to point out the discrepancy in a polite and respectful way, and don't accuse anyone of dishonesty. Yes, it's your hard-earned cash, but don't assume people want to rob you of it just because they have less.

F Be careful about what you're buying, too. In countries with lax environmental regulations, or where authorities turn a blind eye to illegal trade, it's not difficult to find products made from endangered species such as shell, coral and certain woods. It never fails to shock me when I hear of anyone buying ivory products, like carvings or jewellery. And then there's medicine made from parts of endangered animals. Don't even think about it! The tiger population in Asia has been drastically reduced, and for what? Some crackpot cure that doesn't work.

G Isn't this concept of an exclusive paradise selfish? Not only that, but the arrogance implicit in it is astonishing too. Without wishing to state the obvious, the second you decide to go to a place because it is paradise, you are part of the problem. The blaring speakers, international sport on big screen TVs, karaoke, fish and chips – it's all there because it's what the tourists want.

H Yes, that's right – you pay the organisation to go and work for free. The money is supposed to go into the community, but often, shady operators pocket the profits. As if that wasn't bad enough, volunteers could be taking jobs from locals. Think about it. If there's free labour, i.e. you, why would anyone employ a local? That's probably what I find most disturbing about the whole concept. It's not ethical or responsible, and in my humble opinion, best avoided.

E **Replace the words in bold in the sentences with these expressions from the text in the correct form.**

add insult to injury make a huge dent in off the beaten path put one over on take the plunge

1 The shopkeeper thought he'd **fooled** me, but I knew the bracelet wasn't real gold and told him so.
_____

2 Buying an expensive rug at the souk **greatly reduced** their budget, and they regretted it.
_____

3 The hotel room was tiny, and to **make a bad situation worse**, the air conditioning didn't work.
_____

4 I never thought I'd try bungee jumping, but I **did despite being very nervous about it**.
_____

5 The site may be **in an isolated spot**, but it's well worth a visit if you want a great day out.
_____

Ideas Focus

- Does tourism always have a positive effect on an area?
- Would you pay to do volunteer work in a disadvantaged community abroad? Why? / Why not?



LIVEWORKSHEETS

7 Distant Shores

Vocabulary

A **Complete the sentences with the words.**

marvel oddity phenomenon rarity spectacle wonder

1 The upside down house in Szymbark, Poland, is a real _____ ; in fact, it's the strangest thing I've ever seen – it stands on its roof and visitors walk on the ceilings!
2 Not far from the city of Cairo sits the Great Pyramid of Giza, which is the only surviving ancient _____ .
3 The Colosseum, which is huge and still standing, is a _____ of ancient Roman engineering and mathematics.
4 During the Holi festival in India, people throw brightly coloured powder at each other; it's quite a _____ to see.
5 The sight of snow is a _____ in Athens, but it has become more common in recent years.
6 The Aurora Borealis is a natural _____ of vivid colours that lights up the night sky in the Arctic region.

B **Circle the correct words.**

1 For the vast majority of people wishing to travel, the deciding / decisive factor in their choice of holiday destination is cost.
2 Increasing the number of ferry crossings to the island from the mainland had the desirable / desired effect of attracting more visitors.
3 Being very young when he visited Lisbon with his family, Kai has only a dim / dull memory of the city.
4 Experts are only able to make educated / educational guesses about the nature and extent of future climate change.
5 Farmers in the area had a narrow / tight escape when the winds fanning the bush fire changed direction.
6 Deforestation is a main / prime example of a human activity that leads to the loss of habitat for many different species.
7 The bitter / sharp contrast between the city's slums and the enclaves of the rich is unsettling for first-time visitors.
8 According to the forecast, there is a likely / strong chance of thunderstorms, which means flights could be cancelled.

C **Complete the text. You will only need to use half of the words.**

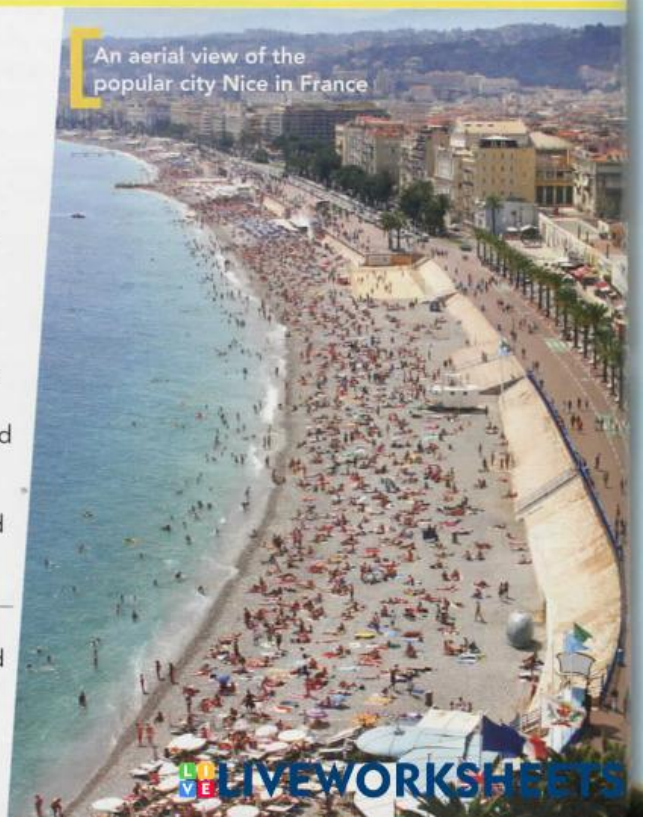
diversity difference drain graphic influx injection input invasion long-held long-lasting narrow-minded picturesque short-sighted spelt spoken waste

A cautionary tale

The Mediterranean is a favourite holiday spot for sun-seekers. Every year, the (1) _____ of visitors numbers in the millions. The (2) _____ of money this has given to many areas has undoubtedly brought prosperity. However, the commercial development of hotels, restaurants and entertainment venues has (3) _____ disaster for the environment. Sadly, the effects of unbridled development are (4) _____ and often irreversible.

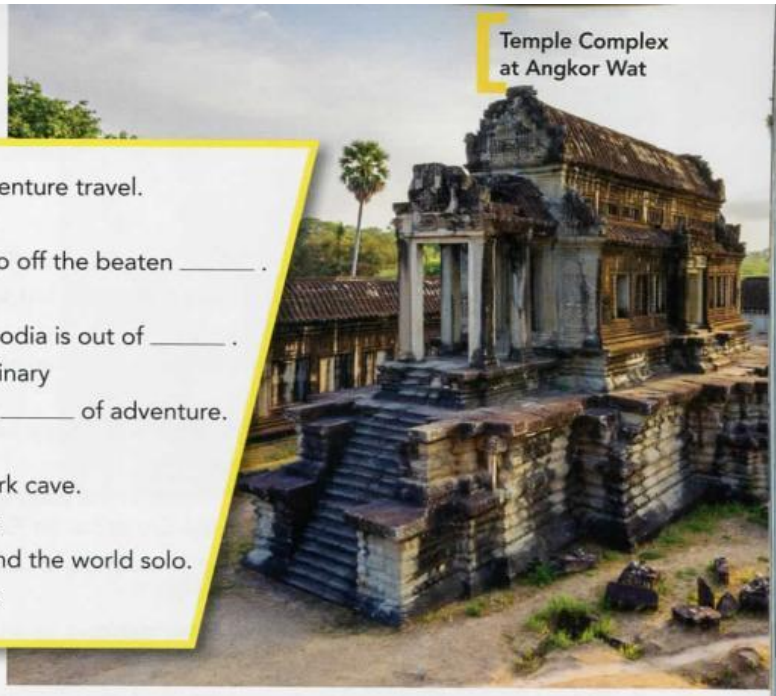
At some locations, the nesting grounds of birds and turtles have totally disappeared, thereby threatening the survival of these species and the (5) _____ of wildlife in these areas. Resort complexes catering to hundreds of guests are now to be found where (6) _____ fishing villages once stood. These huge complexes are a (7) _____ on local resources, particularly reserves of fresh water. A typical Olympic-sized swimming pool alone requires 2,500,000 litres of water to fill it.

Such problems highlight the dangers of (8) _____ development that does not take into account the future impact on the environment. Tourism should promote greater understanding and appreciation for nature; not destroy it.



An aerial view of the popular city Nice in France

LIVEWORKSHEETS



Temple Complex at Angkor Wat

D **Choose the incorrect words.**

1 Harry, who is into extreme sports, has _____ for adventure travel.
a an appetite b a buzz c a thirst

2 Travellers looking for unique experiences prefer to go off the beaten _____ .
a path b track c trail

3 The ancient temple complex at Angkor Wat in Cambodia is out of _____ .
a place b this world c the ordinary

4 Explorers tend to have a passion for discovery and a _____ of adventure.
a sense b spirit c taste

5 To _____ her curiosity, Lauren boldly entered the dark cave.
a satisfy b consume c indulge

6 Only the most _____ of adventurers would sail around the world solo.
a inquisitive b intrepid c fearless

Phrasal verbs

E **Match the underlined phrasal verbs with their meanings. Write the correct letter a–h in the box.**

1 When the area was cleared for mining, the animals that had lived there were <u>driven out</u>. ☐
2 Due to the heavy flooding, the river burst its banks and entire villages were <u>wiped out</u>. ☐
3 When will it <u>dawn on</u> us that climate change poses one of the greatest risks to the survival of our planet? ☐
4 They decided to <u>go through with</u> the expedition despite the adverse weather conditions. ☐
5 After consulting their map, the backpackers <u>headed off</u> in the direction of the nearest town. ☐
6 The travel itinerary we received was very detailed and <u>set out</u> exactly what we would be doing every day. ☐
7 Unless we tackle global warming now, our inaction will <u>catch up with</u> us in the not too distant future. ☐
8 We <u>stumbled upon</u> a beautiful mosaic while walking through the ruins of the ancient site. ☐

a begin to have a damaging effect
b do something that has already been agreed
c explain something
d compel to leave a place
e finally understand
f destroy completely
g discover by chance
h start a journey

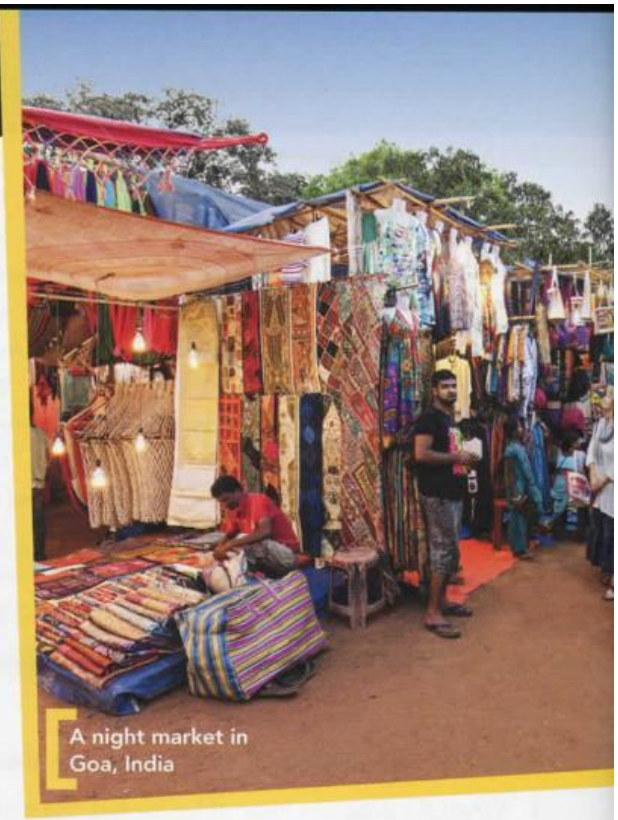
Word formation

F **Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word given.**

1 People come here because they are drawn to the _____ of the place. TRANQUIL
2 It seems there is less damage to the environment in _____ populated areas. SPARSE
3 Before you travel to that particular region, you should find out if you need any _____ . VACCINE
4 The proliferation of hotels and resorts has definitely had a _____ effect on the environment. DETRIMENT
5 You really should visit the Grand Canyon if you're ever in the United States; it's absolutely _____ . PHENOMENON
6 Overfishing is an _____ practice that has resulted in the depletion of fish stocks in many areas. SUSTAIN
7 The _____ wrought by the bush fires became apparent once the flames had been put out. DEVASTATE
8 We visited a number of _____ towns during our tour of France, and they were all quite charming. PROVINCE

LIVEWORKSHEETS

7 Distant Shores


A night market in Goa, India

Collocations & Expressions

G **Circle the correct words.**

1 We hadn't planned on visiting the Neolithic caves, but we went there on a wham / whim.
2 Let's not have a fixed itinerary on our holiday; we can just play it by ear / eye every day.
3 The environmental problems we are experiencing are just the tip / top of the iceberg; worse is to come.
4 The sum of $10 million is just a drip / drop in the ocean compared to what we need to save the Great Barrier Reef.
5 If I could travel anywhere in the world, I would go to Iceland – it's at the top of my baggage / bucket list.
6 On the impulse / spur of the moment we decided to drive to Scotland for the weekend.
7 The traditional clothes in pink, orange, gold and blue at the Indian market were a rage / riot of colour.
8 Our hotel in Barcelona was just a pebble's / stone's throw from the world famous Sagrada Familia Basilica.

H **Read the *Exam Close-up*. Then complete the *Exam Task* below.**

Exam Close-up

Understanding new words

- Look at the stems of unknown words. They may be of Greek or Latin origin, or of another language you may know, such as French.
- Underline the root and think of other words you know that are similar.
- Try all of the options in the sentence before you make your choice.

Exam Task

Choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

1 The city of Shanghai is a _____ of modern-day China.
  a microclimate
  b microcopy
  c microcosm
  d microscope

2 These rock formations are _____ to this part of the world.
  a strange
  b peculiar
  c unusual
  d particular

3 The work of Gaudi the architect _____ the spirit of Barcelona.
  a embeds
  b embarks
  c embraces
  d embodies

4 The idea of a nap in the middle of the day is quite _____ to British people.
  a foreign
  b distant
  c remote
  d unheard

5 The government's environmental policy has _____ criticism.
  a led up to
  b come in for
  c clung on to
  d gone on for

6 The island of Tahiti _____ sandy beaches and crystal clear water.
  a brags
  b gloats
  c boasts
  d swaggers

7 The three tours are run _____ so we can only choose one.
  a concurrently
  b recurrently
  c concurringly
  d cursively

8 The Greek islands are lovely, but Santorini is _____ beautiful.
  a exceptionally
  b explicitly
  c extensively
  d extravagantly

LIVEWORKSHEETS