

PLACES TO VISIT AROUND THE WORLD



You are going to read some extracts from a travel magazine about places to visit. For questions 1-10, choose from the extracts A-F. The extracts may be chosen more than once.

In which extract is the following mentioned?

People of different social classes are working together to improve the community.

1.

There are no buildings to spoil this area.

2.

There are specific things that you must take with you on this trip.

3.

There is a slight risk of serious injury or even death on this trip.

4.

Different eras can be compared in this place.

5.

A political change had an unexpectedly good outcome.

6.

A place used by several monarchs.

7.

A remarkable form of transport.

8.

The near popular destruction of a population in one area.

9.

A trip for artistic people.

10.

A. Preah Vihear, Cambodia

This enigmatic temple/fortress near the Thai border welcomed tourists until, in 1993, the Khmer Rouge settled here. Though they soon left, it was ten years before Preah Vihear was completely reopened — Cambodia finally finished the access road in 2003. The original temple was started in the 9th century, although it was subsequently maintained and enlarged by many different kings. For the makers, the cracking views were incidental: building the temple on a mountain was designed to encourage religious meditation.

The best way to reach Preah Vihear is to hire a driver or join a coach party from Siem Reap. If you go under your own steam, you might want to stay overnight in the basic accommodation at the foot of the mountain or the even more primitive accommodation atop the 550m peak. The area has been largely cleared of land mines but it's probably best to stick to main paths.

B. Gorgongosa National Park

Ten years ago, this magnificent wildlife park in central Mozambique was an environmental disaster area. In 1971, 12,000 visitors came here, attracted by the greatest lion population in Africa. From 1983 to 1992, the park was the stage for many battles in Mozambique's civil war. By 1992, when peace arrived, the park's stock of large mammals had fallen by 95%.

The park, a day's drive from the capital Maputo, was partially reopened in 1998. Gorgongosa's recovery has gathered momentum this year. Buffalo have been reintroduced and the park has received donations from internet mogul Greg Carr and rock star Ronnie Wood. It may be a while before the cheetah and rhino return but 1,862m-high Mount Gorgongosa is still an unforgettable hike.

C. Johannesburg

Johannesburg is a bustling modern city set against the grandeur of African horizons. It was here Nelson Mandela began the revolution that destroyed apartheid, and today the same spirit lives on in the diverse population they are now living the new South African dream.

After the end of Apartheid in 1994, many felt the change to democratic government would spell decline. That simply hasn't happened — instead, the negative image of the city has taken a turn for the better. Johannesburg has an edge, no-one can deny that, but recently it has shaken off its reputation for grime and crime. The centre of town is beginning a hesitant renaissance — restaurants are multiplying, the theatre is booming — while its outer suburbs are flourishing. This is a city where, against all odds, people from all walks of life are coming together and forging something new.

D. Northern India

Palanquin Traveller has a new programme of cultural studies on location, designed to satisfy the seriously inquisitive traveller. *Origins of the Buddha* is a journey across northern India travelling in the Buddha's footsteps. Visiting important sites in Buddha's life is not just for pilgrims — this expedition stays in rural villages and homes to get a better understanding of how modern and traditional India strive to co-exist. The tour is led by scholar Shantum Seth, who is not only a charismatic companion and fascinating guide, but also an adviser to the UN and UNESCO.

This thirteen-day trip involves some challenging trekking and basic mountain climbing, so appropriate clothing and footwear is essential. Accommodation and all food included in holiday price.

E. Estonia

Would you like to spend your next holiday in an Eastern European bog? This may seem like a daft idea, until you realise 50% of Estonia is made up of virgin forest, including some of the most glorious and pristine bogs in Europe. The landscape is unmarred by human construction, save the boardwalks that penetrate this soggy countryside as shown on "Light and Land's" new photography trip to Estonia. Mineral islands amongst the murky pools provide a haven for wildlife — bears, lynx, flying squirrels and elk — and denning sites for Estonia's thriving wolf population.

Point your lens upwards to the peaks of the ancient pines and you'll find an array of birdlife from golden eagles to white-backed woodpeckers. On the ground, there's a host of curious flora and wild flowers including orchids, bittercress and lady's slipper. Led by wildlife enthusiast and photographer Niall Benvie, this is an unusual and rewarding trip to a wilderness in Europe.

F. Sail the Galapagos

This really is the trip of a lifetime. This seven-day expedition is in association with the Galapagos Conservation Trust. Sailing on the *Sagitta* is an experience in itself — three masts tower above this handsome tall ship and sails ripple into action as she sets off around the archipelago to mingle with the world's friendliest wildlife. This trip is led by Galapagos naturalist, author and photographer David Horwell. Pick his brains on the local fauna and flora over the scrumptious Ecuadorian food on board.

Help collect data for the Trust and be part of a team of select scientists for a fortnight. Contribute to the effort to conserve this magical part of the world. This truly is a "green holiday" where tourist becomes conservationist rather than destroyer of the planet.