

Reading

Places to visit

A

The Back Bay neighbourhood is home to what is surely Boston's most likeable street. Newbury Street is probably the most popular shopping strip in the city, but it never feels busy or crowded. It has a friendly, easy-going atmosphere and is full of unusual shops and cafés where you can meet interesting people and buy weird and wonderful things. The street is lined with attractive nineteenth-century brownstone buildings with large windows at the front, and many have small gardens which the shop owners look after more carefully than you would expect. Many shops have steps leading down to a lower level, and the lower-level stores are more interesting than those above ground. Locals go there to hang out in trendy smoothie bars and hip second-hand fashion boutiques. World-famous shoemaker John Fluevog works from one of these places. Elsewhere, there are outdoor gear stores, bookshops, local clothes designers and a shop selling fantasy and sci-fi comics.

B

Everyone knows that Sydney has golden sandy beaches and beautiful bays, but the less fashionable city of Melbourne, the first Australian city to host the Olympic Games, in 1956, is also an exciting outdoor destination. With less rainfall than Sydney and a generally flat layout, Melbourne is a great place to explore by bicycle.

I'm following a 25-mile trail that takes in meadows, public art and the Yarra River. Leaving behind the

central business district, out here there's just me, a few joggers and hundreds of red gums, a type of Australian eucalyptus tree that has grown here for thousands of years. On my rental bike I follow a path that soon brings me to a scene straight out of the Cotswolds region of England. There is an old church and lots of sheep in green fields – time seems to move more slowly here. In an old, nineteenth-century building, there are recently opened art galleries, coffee shops and restaurants.

In one of the galleries, I attend an 'indigenous language workshop', part of the Next Wave Art Festival, held each year. An artist leads an audience through a presentation about Melbourne's Aboriginal history – the history of the people who were in Australia before Europeans arrived – and she holds up a *walert-walert* she made. It's a traditional coat made from many possum skins, and the first one made in Melbourne in more than a hundred years.

C

There are few areas of London that show off the city's diversity as clearly as the neighbourhood of Dulwich and Peckham in south-east London.

Dulwich has expensive lawn tennis clubs, leafy parks and a seventeenth-century boarding school, called Dulwich College, which, incidentally, charges over £13,160 per term. It is also the proud home of some of London's most underrated museums, including the Dulwich Picture Gallery, the world's first purpose-built public art gallery, and the Horniman Museum, the brainchild of Victorian tea trader Frederick John Horniman, who opened his house to showcase his collection of unusual objects. For a taste of local life, however, I visited Lordship Lane in East Dulwich, a vibrant neighbourhood full of independent shops, fine restaurants and great pubs like the East Dulwich Tavern, a friendly, busy place, with an upstairs film club, The Bigger Picture, where you can sit on leather sofas with a beer and watch movies on the big screen.

Not long ago, Peckham used to have a reputation for being poor, uninteresting and a little dangerous, but the area is no longer what it was. Many young professionals have moved to the neighbourhood because they can live more cheaply than in other parts of London, and the vibrant nightlife and growing cultural scene attracts visitors. There are still traditional pubs, but there is also an arts venue housed in an old nineteenth-century warehouse.

5 You are going to read three descriptions of places by a travel writer. For questions 1–10, choose from the texts (A–C). The texts may be chosen more than once. There is an example at the beginning (0).

In which description does the writer describe

- 0** a place near a river? B
- 1** a neighbourhood which has changed recently? _____
- 2** an annual cultural event she went to? _____
- 3** specific shops in the area? _____
- 4** the geography of the place? _____
- 5** a person who must have once lived in the area? _____
- 6** a place that is surprisingly well-cared-for? _____
- 7** a place that reminds her of somewhere else? _____
- 8** a place that seems extremely expensive to go to? _____
- 9** a place which has few people? _____
- 10** why people have started living in a particular area? _____

(10 points)

Listening

6 [Track 110] You will hear an interview with Geert Wenders, who is talking about an alternative form of housing. For questions 1–10, choose the best answer (A, B or C). There is an example at the beginning (0).

0 When did authorities in Amsterdam decide to build a student village from shipping containers?

A when the accommodation crisis began

B approximately a decade ago

C when Geert Wenders became an expert in architectural design

1 Why did the authorities decide to build a student village from containers in the first place?

A because they weren't short of containers

B because they had a business deal with China

C because the containers were easy to redesign

2 Where is the student village located?

A quite close to the city centre

B close to one of the city's metro stops

C very close to the university colleges

3 How does Geert describe the student village's facilities?

A It contains a place to buy food and a place to wash clothes.

B It has a gym and sports centre.

C It has a small centre with cafés and restaurants.

4 How does Geert describe the apartments in the student village?

A More than one student lives in each apartment.

B No apartment is bigger than another.

C The apartments aren't all that comfortable.

5 Which of the following are in each apartment?

A two bedrooms

B a comfortable study

C a big bathroom

6 Which of the following facilities is only common to a few flats?

A a small garden

B a big kitchen

C a laundry room

7 Why did the Amsterdam authorities decide not to close down the flats?

A Because they built them as a long-term project.

B Because it was too expensive to build other accommodation.

C Because the students really liked being there.

8 Why does Geert say that container villages are useful for big cities?

A It doesn't take very long to build them.

B You can find new materials for them cheaply.

C They won't fall down easily.

9 Why did they first use shipping containers for accommodation in Berlin?

A to house people escaping from countries with problems

B to house students who needed somewhere to stay

C to house young people coming from broken homes

10 Why have they used shipping containers for accommodation in London?

A for students

B for refugees

C for the homeless

(10 points)