

'Is that it?'

Have you ever visited a famous tourist attraction and been distinctly **underwhelmed**? Here are some accounts by visitors to some of the world's most well-known tourist sights.

- A** 'The location is breathtaking, and the fact they got the stones up there without wheels is **jaw-dropping**. However, it is essentially a pile of rubble, just a load of big stones. The idea is far more amazing than the remnants. The hill behind was beautiful though.' **Derek, 43**
- B** 'You always have this image of **sheer perfection**, yet I will always remember the massive sense of disappointment. The place was barren, soulless, and empty. The sand wasn't white, the hotels were tacky, and there was nothing there that captured my imagination. If somebody hadn't told me it was the famous one, I'd probably never have known I'd been there. It was **so average**, not the Hawaiian dream you picture.' **Craig, 31**
- C** 'After joining a queue that stretched around the block, we thought we might be waiting to get in for 20 minutes or so. As we got closer and closer to the front, we got more and more excited...until we got inside and saw that the queue snaked back and forth and we were miles away from the front. We eventually got to the lift and went up – but not to the top. You have to join another queue that takes you up to the observation deck. Then, when you get to the top, it dawns on you that you don't actually get the classic view at all, the one with the iconic building in it, because you're on top of it.' **Matt, 33**
- D** 'We booked a tour, as some people had told us how beautiful and remote it was. It turns out you can see it from the shore of the lake. When you land, there are a few run-down restaurants, and some locals who charge you the entrance fee, and others who clearly don't want tourists hanging around. A big **let-down**.' **Silvia, 34**
- E** 'This is widely agreed to be the Mona Lisa of statues. But to see it requires a long detour out of the city centre. It is usually surrounded by tourists queuing for photos, and it is, by its own admission, 'unimposing'. It's a bit like when you order something on Amazon and forget to read the actual dimensions, and it arrives the same size as the thumbnail on your screen. I thought it was **vastly overrated**. Prepare to hear lots of confused people asking, 'Is that it?'" **Miranda, 23**
- F** 'Pictures and video do not convey the awe of the Grand Canyon at sunset, nor the serene calm of the sunrise over the Great Barrier Reef. However, pictures do convey the boringness of these carved faces. You look at it from one angle, then another, then you say, 'OK, cool. Gift shop, then car?' Or you can hike to the top and see the great expanse of...flatness covered by trees. I've never been so disappointed.' **31, 43**