

All capital cities are unfriendly – or are they?

Big cities often have a reputation for being rude, unfriendly places for tourists.

Sunday Times journalist Tim Moore went to four cities London, Rome, Paris, and New York to find out if this is true. He went dressed as a foreign tourist and did three (not very scientific!) tests to see which city had the friendliest and most polite inhabitants.

The three test were:

1. The photo test

Tim asked people in the street to take his photo (not just one photo, but several – with his hat, without his hat, etc.) Did he find someone to do it?

2. The shopping test

Tim bought something in a shop and gave the shop assistant too much money. Did the shop assistant give back the extra money?

3. The accident test

Tim pretended to fall over in the street. Did anybody come and help him?