

Unit 2: Choosing a place to visit

Tourist information A

You have been asked to talk to a travel journalist about the attractions of Glasgow and how tourism is developing.

Sightseeing:

The Burrell Collection: housed in a spectacular museum, an eccentric collection of everything from Chinese porcelain and medieval furniture to paintings by Renoir and Cézanne.

Glasgow cathedral: wonderful Gothic architecture, most of the building is over 600 years old.

The Tenement House: an extraordinary time-capsule experience – a small apartment which shows how the middle class lived 100 years ago.

Paisley: town near Glasgow famous for its fabric design – museum with examples and history of the design.

Entertainment:

Lively nightlife

Celtic music festival in January

Arts and dance festival in May

International jazz festival in July

Food and drink:

Many pubs, wine bars, restaurants, traditional tearooms and coffee houses offering a wide range of cuisine: traditional

Scottish (Scottish salmon, wood-smoked haddock, *haggis*), French, Indian, Mexican, Chinese, Italian and Thai.

Climate:

Cool temperate climate

Weather changes quickly – as some local people say 'If you don't like the weather, just wait five minutes.'

Driest months are May and June, but expect rain at any time.

Getting around:

Buses every 30 minutes from airport to city centre.

Roundabout ticket covers all underground and train transport in the city for a day (3-day version also available).

Tourist buses run every 20 minutes along main sightseeing routes.

How tourism is changing:

Always known for the friendliness of its inhabitants.

Previously associated with unemployment and economic depression.

Glasgow is reinventing itself, rediscovering its cultural roots – becoming more fashionable and attracting more tourists, opening new trendy bars and restaurants. The UK's City of Architecture and Design in 1999.

Tourist information B

You have been asked to talk to a travel journalist about the attractions of Luxor and how tourism is developing.

Sightseeing:

Karnak temple – spectacular temple dedicated to the Theban gods, takes at least three hours to visit it.

Valley of the Kings – tombs of the pharaohs.

Temple of Hatshepsut – impressive temple of Queen Hatshepsut – dressed as a man and declared herself pharaoh, she ruled Egypt for 20 years.

Entertainment:

Sound and light show at Karnak temple – extravaganza that tells the history of Thebes and the lives of many of the pharaohs who built the temple.

Watch sunset from felucca (sailing boat).

Hot air balloon over the Valley of the Kings.

Food and drink:

Abundant Egyptian cuisine such as *felafel* (fried chickpeas and spices) and *kushari* (noodles, rice, lentils and onions in tomato sauce). Cheap, though not much variety available.

Climate:

Best to go Nov–March when temperatures are comfortable

Hot (over 35°C) and dry April–Sept

Getting around:

No buses from the airport to the city, 7 km apart.

Easiest way to get round Luxor is by bicycle.

Hantour (horse and carriage) – need to agree price with driver.

Felucca for short trips around Luxor.

How tourism is changing:

Busy in cooler months.

Trying to attract more visitors in the summer by offering cheap package holidays with tours of the sights included.

Becoming very tourist-centred – difficult for tourists to walk around the city because of number of locals trying to sell products or encourage them to take a *hantour*.

Travel journalist

You have been asked to write an article about a tourist destination for young people. Ask the tourist information centre about Glasgow / Luxor and make a note of things that might interest young people.

Ask about:

- main attractions
- entertainment
- food and drink
- climate
- getting around
- how tourism is changing

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