

IELTS Vocabulary Topics

Travel & Tourism Word List

Word/phrase	Meaning	Example
Trip	Going to a place for enjoyment and returning after a short time.	Every sunny day we used to take a trip to the seaside for a few hours.
Journey	Travelling from one place to another.	It was a long journey to get here. I had to change planes three times.
Voyage	Travelling by sea or in space.	Taking a voyage around the islands is a popular tourist activity.
Eco-tourism	Visiting natural environments which are often protected and supporting conservation efforts.	Eco-tourism has become increasingly popular recently with tourists becoming aware of the need to protect the environment.
Remote	A place located far from population centers.	We stayed in a remote village far from the capital city. It took us 2 hours to get there.
Coastal	A location by the sea.	The majority of tourists prefer to stay in coastal areas because of the beautiful beaches.
Mountainous	An area or place located in the mountains.	Next year, let's rent a villa in the mountainous area. It will make a nice change.
Lang-haul flight	A flight that takes a long time.	You can take a 13-hour long-haul flight from London to Hong Kong.
Peak season	The time of year when most people take holidays.	It's almost impossible to find accommodation during the peak season. Everything is booked.
Off season	A time of year when most people do not take a holiday.	All the seafront cafes close during the off season. There are not enough customers to stay open.
Tourist trap	A very popular holiday destination which is crowded and expensive.	The city became known as a tourist trap because of the huge number of visitors and the high prices.
Package tour	A holiday where the costs of flights, transfers and accommodation is included in the price.	Package tours are very popular mostly because everything is arranged for you before you travel.
Culture shock	Feeling uncomfortable or confused when spending time in a different culture.	We had culture shock for several days, getting used to the way things are done here.
Emigration	Leaving one's country to live and work, usually permanently, in another country.	Emigration from our country became quite popular during the economic crisis.

Self-catering accommodation	Holiday accommodation where you cook meals for yourself.	We always prefer to book self-catering accommodation so we can choose when and what to eat for ourselves.
Return ticket	A ticket to a destination that includes a date for return.	Some countries will not grant you a visitor visa unless you have a return ticket.
Single ticket	A ticket to a destination that does not include a date for return.	When I visit my parents, I always book a single ticket because I never know how long I'll stay.
Attractions	Popular, interesting places to visit.	It's advisable to visit the main attractions early in the morning to avoid the crowds.
Travel agency	A company that arranges and books your holiday – flights, accommodation etc.	We always use a travel agent to book our holiday. It's so convenient and saves a lot of time.
Independent traveler	Someone who arranges their own travel by booking their flights and arranging accommodation.	Many people nowadays are independent travelers because it's quite easy to find suitable flights and accommodation through the internet.
Quaint	Attractive and traditional (old fashioned) places.	The town is famous for its quaint buildings in the old quarter, dating back to the 19 th century.
Sightseeing	The activity of visiting interesting places in a location.	The most popular activity for tourists is sightseeing. Visiting the famous and attractive locations.
Itinerary	A document that includes the details of a holiday – flight schedules, day trips dates and times etc.	The travel agent sent the holiday itinerary by email. We need to check it before we pay.
Backpack	A bag with straps and is carried on one's back.	She bought a new red backpack for her trip to the countryside.
Backpacking	Travelling on a budget, carrying all one's belongings in a backpack.	A lot of students prefer backpacking holidays, mostly because they can afford it.
Cruise	A holiday on a ship or boat with a schedule of places to visit.	Every year my parents take a cruise around the Mediterranean Sea. They stop off at all the major tourist attractions.
Expatriate	A person who lives outside their own country.	Our country has become a popular retirement destination for expatriates because of the warm climate and low cost of living.
Deport	To expel a foreigner from a country where they do not have legal documents to live there.	He was deported from the country because he had false travel documents.

IELTS Vocabulary Topics

Travel Idioms

Off the beaten track

Meaning: To travel to places that are not visited by others or are not well known.

Example: When we visit a country, we prefer to go *off the beaten track* because the tourist attractions are always overcrowded.

Have itchy feet

Meaning: Describes someone who has a great desire to travel.

Example: After working non-stop for 6 months, she *had itchy feet* to go on a holiday to a new place.

Live out of a suitcase

Meaning: Moving very often from place to place and feeling you do not stay long enough to unpack the suitcase

Example: My uncle is a travelling salesman and has to visit clients in different cities. He says he *lives out of a suitcase*.

Bad news travels fast

Meaning: When bad news becomes known very quickly.

Example: Everyone knew in no time that she had lost her job. I guess *bad news travels fast*.

Be in the driver's seat

Meaning: To be in control of a situation.

Example: Ever since Mary has *been in the driver's seat*, the department's productivity has almost doubled.

The jet set

Meaning: A group of wealthy people who love to travel.

Example: He claims to be a member of the *jet set* because he travels all over the world.

Build bridges

Meaning: To improve relationships between people or organizations.

Example: She hasn't spoken to her colleague since she was promoted. She needs to *build bridges* with her for the sake of the company.

Smooth sailing

Meaning: To make clear and easy progress without any problems or obstructions.

Example: Getting here by train was *smooth sailing*. It left on schedule and arrived on time and it was very comfortable.

Throw someone under the bus

Meaning: To avoid the blame for something and let someone else take the responsibility.

Example: The coach *threw his players under the bus* when he blamed them for the loss, even though he picked the team himself.

Hitch a ride

Meaning: To go somewhere for free in someone else's car.

Example: Can I *hitch a ride* with you to the station? I know you're going there to meet your brother.

Go the extra mile

Meaning: To make an extra effort to achieve something.

Example: John *went the extra mile* to finish the project before the deadline. He even worked on weekends.