



# Solo travel

Lesson code: TQPJ-KJB3-1VD

UPPER INTERMEDIATE +

## 1 Warm-up

Do you prefer to travel alone or with friends? Why?

## 2 Key vocabulary

Read the sentences and match the underlined words to the definitions.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. The border guards were very <u>intimidating</u> . We were afraid to cross the border.                 | a. a charge that is higher than normal |
| 2. I need to remember to add skydiving to my <u>bucket list</u> .  | b. get rid of                          |
| 3. The government finally decided to <u>scrap</u> the law against drinking alcohol.                      | c. scary, threatening                  |
| 4. The possibility of having new, exciting experiences is a good <u>incentive</u> to travel.             | d. something that motivates you        |
| 5. If you travel alone, you normally have to pay a <u>premium</u> when booking accommodation.            | e. start a romantic relationship       |
| 6. The purpose of this website is to <u>hook people up</u> . They can meet their future husband or wife. | f. things to do before you die         |

## 3 Reading

Choose the best answer for each question below and check your responses by reading the next page.

- The percentage of travellers who are single travellers is ...  
a. 10 per cent      b. 20 per cent      c. 35 per cent
- In the future, this figure is expected to ...  
a. rise      b. fall      c. stay the same
- Travelling solo is more popular with ...  
a. men      b. women
- The most popular type of solo travel for women is ...  
a. walking holidays      b. African safaris      c. beach holidays



THE  
INDEPENDENT

# Single travel is becoming more popular than ever

- 1 The idea of exploring the world alone may be intimidating to some, but research shows that travelling solo is about to become increasingly popular.
  - 2 According to an analysis of 100,000 holiday bookings by travel inspiration website 101 Holidays, holiday companies that run group tours in the UK and abroad are reporting that 35 per cent of their clients are single travellers. That figure is expected to increase. 101 Holidays has launched a new website, 101 Singles Holidays, as a result of the predicted surge.
  - 3 Solo travelling is most popular with women, the research has also revealed, as 58.3 per cent of single travellers were female. The figure rises for more active trips including walking holidays (64 per cent) and African safaris (60 per cent).
  - 4 "Not everyone holidaying alone is single," says Winston. "More women are leaving husbands and partners at home as they tick items off their bucket lists."
  - 5 To meet the demand for solo holidays, holiday companies are now offering incentives to attract single travellers, including dedicated solo travel holidays and the scrapping of the single supplement, a premium charged to people who take a room alone.
  - 6 Ellen Simpson, marketing manager of Caribtours, said: "Single travellers are encouraged and there are group tables where singles can join other singles for lunch and dinner."
  - 7 Janice Waugh, travel blogger and writer of The Solo Traveler's Handbook, set up the Solo Traveler blog.
  - 8 "When my husband died in 2006, a couple of years later I realised that I was definitely travelling on my own now," she said.
- "I looked at travelling options online and found it was very commercial - it seemed to be mostly trying to hook people up! I saw a need for a personal voice and personal experience, so I started my blog in 2009."
- Adapted from The Independent, Wednesday 21 January 2015, by Emily Shackleton*

## 4 Checking understanding

Answer the questions below.

1. Why are many women travelling alone?
2. What are holiday companies doing to attract solo travellers?
3. How are Caribtours attracting single travellers?
4. Why did Janice Waugh become a single traveller?
5. Why did she start her own blog?



## 5 Travel tips - collocations

Match the words to form travel tips and complete the advice from Janice Waugh's blog.

- |          |                  |
|----------|------------------|
| 1. pack  | a. a day pack    |
| 2. dress | b. a note        |
| 3. carry | c. appropriately |
| 4. book  | d. in advance    |
| 5. be    | e. light         |
| 6. leave | f. patient       |

- \_\_\_\_\_ — it takes a day or so to settle in to any new destination solo.
- \_\_\_\_\_ so that you can manage all your things easily.
- \_\_\_\_\_ or a purse that crosses in front of your body. Hold both securely in front of you in crowded places like subways.
- \_\_\_\_\_ — reserve your first night's accommodation at minimum and arrive well before dark so that you can make a change if you wish.
- \_\_\_\_\_ — go with at least two pairs of shoes that you know are comfortable for walking.
- \_\_\_\_\_ of where you're going in your room each day or evening and carry the card of your hotel with you so that you always find your way home easily — even if you can't tell the driver where it is in their own language.

## 6 Talking point

Discuss any of the questions below.

- What do you think are the pros and cons of travelling alone?
- What other advice would you give single travellers?
- Which country or city would you really like to visit? Why?
- Talk about some unusual or difficult experiences you've had while travelling.

