

## PRE-INTERMEDIATE UNIT 9

- 1 Work in pairs and discuss. What's the most beautiful place you've ever visited? Why?
- 2 Read the first paragraph of an article about the most beautiful places in the world. Is the article about natural or man-made places?

## The world's most beautiful places

Last month we asked our readers to tell us what, in their opinion, were the most beautiful places in the world. Unsurprisingly, most people's answers were rural, rather than **urban** places. Here are three of our favourites.



Torridon, Scotland

This breathtaking place had over a hundred votes, and not only from Scottish people. It seems everyone who visits this area in the northwest Highlands of Scotland is **blown away** by the beauty of its mountains and *lochs* (the Scottish word for a lake). If you're ever lucky enough to travel to Scotland, this is one place not to be missed!

## Formentera, Spain/Mediterranean



The tiny island of Formentera is a **hidden gem** in the popular Balearic archipelago. Only accessible by boat, Formentera is only 19km long, but has some of the most incredible beaches you will find anywhere on the planet. With their brilliant white sand and crystal-clear waters of the most beautiful bluey-green colour, you could easily think you were in the Caribbean, instead of a few miles off the Spanish coastline!

## Perito Moreno Glacier, Patagonia, Argentina

Definitely one of the coldest places you voted for, the **stunning** Perito Moreno glacier in Argentina is an **enormous** piece of ice which is constantly moving towards the freezing cold waters of the Argentino Lake. The glacier can be viewed from many angles, but perhaps the best views are either from an aeroplane or helicopter – only then can you **appreciate the sheer scale** of it – or from the water, where you may be lucky enough to see inside its amazing ice caves. If you're planning a visit, don't forget your camera!



- 3 Read the rest of the article and answer the questions.

- 1 How many readers thought Torridon was the world's most beautiful place?
- 2 Were all Torridon's votes from people who lived in Scotland?
- 3 What is the only way to reach Formentera?
- 4 Where does the writer compare Formentera to?
- 5 How can you see the full size of Perito Moreno?
- 6 What does the writer recommend you take with you if you visit Perito Moreno?

- 4 Match the words/phrases in bold in the text with their meanings 1–6.

- 1 extremely beautiful
- 2 in a town or city, not rural
- 3 extremely big
- 4 somewhere very special that not many people know about
- 5 understand the very big size
- 6 very impressed or pleasantly surprised

- 5 Work in pairs and discuss. Which of the three places in the text would you most like to visit? Why?

- 6 9.1 Listen to Sue and Greg talking about the places they think are the most beautiful in the world. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Greg changes his mind about the place he thinks is the most beautiful.
- 2 Greg thinks that there are lots of wonderful things to see in Venice.
- 3 Greg thinks it's too cold to visit Venice in the winter.
- 4 Sue has visited Venice before.
- 5 Sue went to Bagan when she was travelling around Asia.
- 6 Sue saw Bagan at sunrise from a hot air balloon.

- 7 Look at the extracts from the recording. Choose the correct meaning, a) or b), for the words and phrases in bold.

- 1 ... it's cold and **misty** and romantic.  
a) foggy b) rainy
- 2 ... Buddhist **temples** which are over 800 years old  
a) religious buildings b) statues
- 3 They're **scattered** across the countryside ...  
a) all in one place b) in lots of different places
- 4 ... the golden roofs **sparkling** beneath me.  
a) shining in the sunlight b) seeming very small
- 5 Definitely one for my **bucket list**!  
a) a list of things you want to do before you die  
b) a list of things you would never do

- 8 Work in pairs and discuss. What places would you put on your bucket list? Why?