

Monologue on Travel

‘The road doesn’t tell the traveler what lies ahead,’ so speaks one of Bantu proverbs. Why do people travel? To broaden one’s mind? To relax? There are different kinds of people who explore this world.

Travel and tourism are close concepts, yet they are very different. Travel is a wide term used to describe movement of a person from point A to point B. Some people travel **to become more independent**, **to earn money** or **to learn a new language**. **In addition**, there are lots of people who go to another country to study. I think that those are good reasons for real travel, because they give you an opportunity **to experience different cultures**. **By comparison**, tourism is a narrower term which is basically a **travel for pure pleasure** and relaxation. Tourists stay in comfortable hotels, **go on package holidays**. They don’t want to meet difficulties on their way and just want to spend their vacation abroad relaxing all they can. **In my opinion**, it’s a bad way to visit other countries, as you get almost nothing out of it.

Strangely, many foreigners choose Russia as a place of their visit. Russia is a very large country and it’s easy to get lost in it. **If you were to come to Russia**, I would recommend you to **read about local laws and customs** first and act second, as you might be surprised how different laws in different countries might be. **Along with that**, it would be great if **you obtained comprehensive travel insurance**. You can’t know for sure what might happen to you out there! Oh, and in no case should you **carry packages through the customs for others**. **It might put you in a big trouble**. If you want to go to another city out there, **travel by train**. It’s a good way to get from point a to point b at a reasonable price.

There are also people who are known as explorers. They **discover new places**. It’s not rare to see them **keeping a travel diary**, where they **describe their journey**. **If they find something outstandingly unique**, they **receive awards** for that. **Also**, mere human can also become an explorer of some sort when **going off the beaten track** and **avoiding tourist traps**, **going for the experience** in general.

For example, Jacques Cousteau has been a French **undersea explorer**, environmentalist, and inventor **known for introducing the general public to the underwater world**. He was born in France in 1910. He started the Cousteau Society **to**

protect ocean life. I was really impressed by the fact that he was a first person to explore sea in a such way.

Speaking of me, I'm keen on travelling. I would even go to Irkutsk if someone gave me a lift. If you asked me to name the most interesting place that I've visited, with no doubt I would say Armenia. This place has a unique culture, breathtaking mountainous landscapes and much more. People are completely different out there. We stayed at our family's friends' place, who had been living there for more than two years! They showed us around, so we had a really good time. However, I can't consider that this was the best time of my life or my greatest travel experience. After all, mostly we were visiting tourist attractions.

To be honest, one day I would like to travel light through Eastern parts of our wide country, or to be exact, Siberia. It is a big plain of cruel frost. Thus, my hypothesis is that culture out there is completely different from what we have here, which is worth exploring. Setting out on a journey through such place would be an unforgettable experience.

I can often hear people say things like "I am too old to travel", "I don't have time" and so on. Well, I believe that wasting your time on such justifications is pointless. There are lots of opportunities to travel nowadays. Moreover, I think it's important to get itchy feet while you are still young and not miss the boat to travel, because travel really broadens your mind.

To sum up, travel, tourism and exploring are different things for different kinds of people. Nevertheless, despite the way you travel, it broadens your mind in one or another way. You see new things and learn new stuff. Still, while it must be true that tourism is interesting, I prefer more in-depth methods of getting acknowledged with countries, to fully engross myself in their culture, to pursuit the spirit of explorer and take the most from it.

Active Vocabulary: 27, Grammar Structures: 4, Linkers: 14. Total: 761 words