



# ABSOLUTELY BREATHTAKING

## VOCABULARY Describing scenery

### 1 Label the picture with these words.

range	plains	crater	river mouth
cliff	dunes	cove	glacier
peak	ridge	gorge	waterfall

### 2 Work in pairs. Decide if both or only one of the words in *italics* is possible.

- It's very popular with birdwatchers because it's at the mouth of *a river* / *some dunes* and there's a lot of *wetland* / *craters* that attract birds.
- There's a very *narrow* / *steep* ridge leading up to the main peak and the views are *breathtaking* / *stunning* – if you're not too scared to look down!
- We sometimes gather mushrooms in the woodland near us, but you have to be careful not to *stray from* / *stick to* the paths as it's so *thick* / *dense* you can easily get lost.
- It's miles from civilisation, really. You just drive along dirt *roads* / *tracks* across these huge *flat* / *rolling* plains. And it's all pretty *lush* / *barren* – just brown grassland.
- It's a mecca for climbers because there are these amazing *sheer* / *jagged* cliffs on either side of the *valley* / *gorge*. I saw quite a few people climbing without ropes. They must be nuts.
- The road winds along the coastal cliffs and there are these little coves where you can scramble down to *sandy* / *rocky* beaches and have a dip. The water's amazing – *crystal clear* / *very murky*.

### 3 With your partner, discuss the questions.

- Which of the features in Exercises 1 and 2 do you have in your country? Whereabouts?
- Which parts of your country do you think are the most beautiful? Which are the worst? Why? Have you been to these areas? When? Why?
- Are any parts of your country popular with these people? Why?  
birdwatchers      climbers      hunters  
cyclists            divers            campers

## LISTENING

### 4 ▶ 24 Listen to two conversations where people are talking about photos. Answer the questions about each conversation.

- Where were they?
- What were they doing there?
- What was the scenery like?

### 5 ▶ 24 Work in pairs. Try to remember what the speakers said about the following. Then listen again and check your ideas.

#### Conversation 1

- a cable car
- a bit of a scramble
- rusty cables
- a head for heights
- a death wish

#### Conversation 2

- a family reunion
- some creepy-crawly
- paradise
- jellyfish
- debt



6 With your partner, discuss the questions.

- Which of the two places sounds better to you? Why?
- Do you have any photos of your friends and family – or of recent holidays – on your phone? If you do, show them to your partner and talk about them.
- Would you ever do any extreme sport like base jumping? Do you know anyone who has?
- Are there any things you think you would appreciate more now than you did in the past?

## DEVELOPING CONVERSATIONS

### Emphatic tags

We often add tags to emphasise our opinions. We usually begin with a pronoun + *really* and we then either repeat the auxiliary if there is one or add *do / does / did* if there isn't.

A: Wow! The view from up there must've been pretty breathtaking!

B: Yeah, it was stunning, **it really was**.

7 Add emphatic tags to the sentences.

- 1 I wouldn't drive it if I were you.
- 2 The views were just stunning.
- 3 The scenery takes your breath away.
- 4 I just love it there.
- 5 It made no difference whatsoever.
- 6 He'll never change.
- 7 I've never been anywhere like it.
- 8 That sounds amazing.

8 ▶ 25 Listen and check your ideas. Then practise saying the sentences with the added tag. In the tag, stress **really**.

9 Work in pairs. How many different replies using emphatic tags can you think of for each sentence below?

- 1 Oh, it was just perfect, **it really was**.

Put it this way: I wouldn't recommend it, I really wouldn't.

Wonderful! I could've quite happily stayed for another week, I really could.

- 1 What was your hotel like? Was it OK?
- 2 So, was it worth climbing to the top?
- 3 What was your tour guide like?
- 4 You cycled there, didn't you?
- 5 It must've been nice being away from civilisation for a few days.
- 6 What did you think of the place?



## CONVERSATION PRACTICE

10 Choose one of these tasks.

- a Think of a place you have visited that had interesting scenery. Think about what you were doing there, how you travelled around and what the place was like.
- b Choose two or three photos from File 18 on page 196. Imagine you took them and be ready to explain where they are, what was happening, what you were doing there and what the places were like.

11 Now work in pairs. Tell each other about your places. Try to use as much language from this lesson as you can. Your partner should ask questions and add comments while listening.



17 To watch the video and do the activities, see the DVD ROM.