

Forms of transport

- 1 Work with a partner. Look at the infographic. What do you think makes these some of the best public transportation from around the world?
- 2a Read the article. Why do you think these forms of transport are used in these countries? Do you think they are a main form of transport in each country?

232 stations, 17 lines, 289 miles of railway, 3.4 billion riders per year	1 Beijing, China
270 stations, 11 lines, 250 miles of railway, 1.27 billion riders per year	2 London, UK
47 stations, 2 lines, 46.3 miles of railway, 137.8 million riders per year	3 UAE
61 stations, 5 lines, 43 miles of railway, 2.49 billion per year	4 Sao Paulo, Brazil
300 stations, 16 lines, 133 miles of railway, 1.5 billion per year	5 Paris, France

Something a little different



Coco taxi, Cuba

A trip to Havana or Varadero offers a step back in time and the opportunity to travel in style in some of the original Chevrolets. However, the opportunity to hop on and off the Cuban equivalent of a rickshaw, provides tourists with an affordable, fun and convenient alternative. Named a coco taxi because they form the shape of a coconut shell, they provide two seats for passengers and the driver sits on the moped that the fibreglass shell is built around. A point worth noting is that yellow cocos are for tourists and the black ones are for locals.

Dog sled, Alaska

Dog sledding (or mushing) is now mostly a touristic activity in Alaska as most Alaskans use snowmobiles and only drive dogs for recreation or racing.



During the winter months it can provide an exhilarating experience that enables its almost two million visitors to view the landscape and travel part of the 1,150-mile Iditarod National Historic Trail from Anchorage to Nome. With up to 16 highly trained huskies pulling the dog sled through the snow and scenery at high speeds, it'll be a memorable and adrenalin-filled ride. Be sure to wrap up warm!



DUKW, UK

The DUKW (pronounced 'duck') is an amphibious machine that was designed and developed to function both on land and water. A unique way to experience London and to see everything it has to offer is to sign up for one of their tours. It will take you through the city's roads and on to the River Thames in a 7.5 tonne DUKW. You and around 30 other passengers will see some of London's famous landmarks like the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace.

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Tuk tuk (auto-rickshaw), India

A more affordable form of transport for many people, tuk tucs are used widely, from delivering milk, to dropping the kids off at school, to taking many tourists from A and dropping them at B. Despite India's rail network and 37,200 miles of rail tracks, the tuk tuk's popularity means India produces over 530,000 tuk tucs each year and exports another 300,000. Sadly, the tuk tuk has been banned from some of the business areas of some cities, for example, Mumbai. This is in order to keep some areas cleaner, calmer and quieter.



Bamboo train, Cambodia

A 15- to 20-minute journey each way, the bamboo train, or 'norry', takes its passengers from O Dambong to O Sra Lav along what remains and is still used of the 1920s French-built railway. It can carry around 10 to 15 people and travels at speeds of up to 15 kph. It's now much more of a tourist attraction than anything else. There is often talk that it is going to be demolished due to the introduction of better roads and buses, but it is still going strong after many years. You'll feel the wind in your hair and there might be a few hair-raising moments as you cross some of the rickety bridges.



Totora reed boat, Peru

Tourism is a growing industry in Peru. Around the coastal regions of Peru, many of your options to travel will be by boat. Reeds from the native Totora plant have been planted, harvested and used to build homes and the Totora reed boats amongst local families for many years. You will see these boats around Lake Titicaca. At 3,800 metres above sea level it's South America's largest body of freshwater on the Peru and Bolivia borders.



**2b Read the article again and choose the best alternative to answer the questions.**

- 1 Which form of transport has two variations specifically for different types of passengers?
  - a The coco taxi – tourists can only use yellow cocos and locals use the black ones.
  - b The DUKW as it is used to transport people on land and water.
- 2 Which traditional form of transport, used by locals, is handmade locally?
  - a totora reed boats
  - b bamboo train
- 3 What is a key difference between taking a coco taxi and a tuk tuk?
  - a They're actually quite similar.
  - b A tuk tuk can go faster.
- 4 Which form of transport can be used by large groups of people?
  - a DUKW
  - b coco taxi
- 5 What do most Alaskans use for travel in place of mushing now?
  - a snowmobiles
  - b dog sleds
- 6 Where does India produce most of its tuk tuks for?
  - a other countries
  - b India

**2c Read the article carefully and answer the questions. There might be more than one answer for some.**

- 1 Why do you think the bamboo train is still going strong?  
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- 2 Why do you think more people are visiting Lake Titicaca?  
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- 3 The article mentions that there are a lot of tuk tuks on the roads in India. Why is this?  
.....
- 4 Which words are used to describe a breathtaking and unforgettable journey?  
.....
- 5 Why do you think totora reed boats continue to be made from reed and not man-made materials?  
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- 6 Which forms of transport do you think are mostly used by locals and tourists in and around Lake Titicaca?  
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**Gateway to culture**

**3a Work with a partner and discuss the questions.**

- 1 What is the best method of transportation you have used?
- 2 Are there any forms of transport that are very traditional, a part of your local culture or are quite unique in your country?
- 3 Are there any similarities to how people use transportation in your country and the countries in the article?

**PROJECT**

**3b You are going to work on a project about travel and forms of transport in your country and another country. Read the questions and prepare for your project research.**

- 1 Work in small groups and choose a country. Choose three different ways that locals and tourists are encouraged to travel in your country and three from the other country you have selected.
- 2 Compare and contrast the different ways to travel within each country. Think about the questions below when you do your research online.
  - Who can use it for travel?
  - What does it cost to use?
  - What is it made from and who made/makes it?
  - How easy is it to use?
  - Is it traditional to that country? Why?
  - How long has it been available/used for?
  - How tourist friendly is it? (language, cost, pressure to buy things)
  - Any other useful information.

**3c Present your observations and findings to the class. Choose the most interesting points and suggest whether you think these forms of transport are here to stay or might change in the near future. Add some of your personal thoughts and experiences, too.**