

2.3 Destination paradise

Vocabulary adjectives to describe places

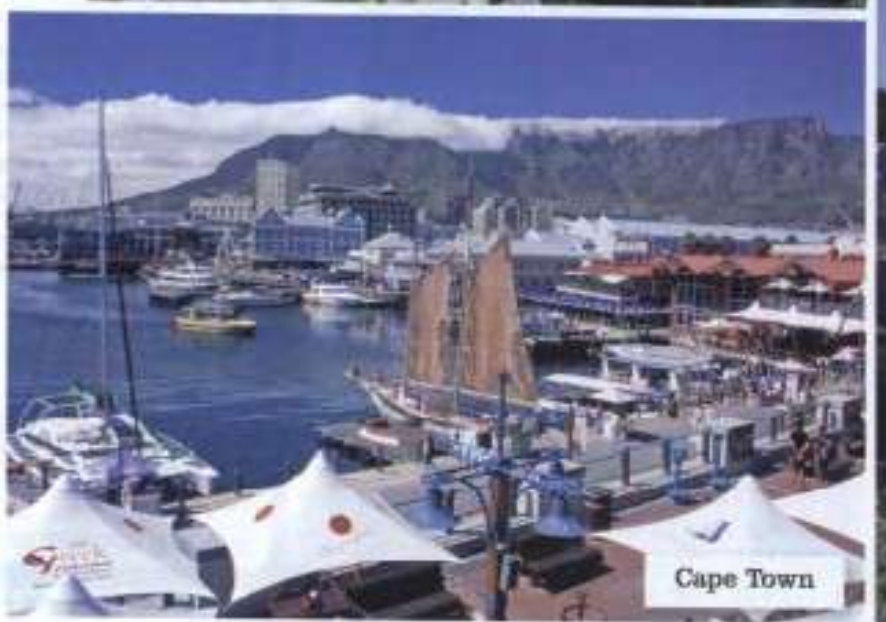
Can do describe a place

Reading

- 1 Discuss. What do you know about the places in the photos? What do you think they are like? Would you like to visit them? Why/why not?
- 2 Work in groups. Student A: read the text about Cali. Student B: read the text about Cape Town and Student C: read the text about Corsica. Make notes about the atmosphere/things to do and see/food, etc.
- 3 Describe the place to the other members of your group.
- 4 Discuss.
 - 1 Each place is described as a type of 'paradise'. Which aspects of these places sound perfect to you? What makes them unique?
 - 2 Which place would you prefer to go to for a holiday? Why?
 - 3 Do you think tourism is good for these three places? What problems might it bring them?



Cali



Cape Town

TEXT A

Cali

- 1 In Cali, they say, even the ghosts dance salsa. Its rhythms, born in Cuba, nurtured in New York and carried on the winds all the way to hot Cali, can be heard in bars, on buses, along the avenues of Juanchito and Plaza Calcedo, and here too, in a taxi moving at the speed of light, taking me to the heart of the bustling city. The driver slows down at a traffic light, turns to me and says, 'Las calenas' (the women from Cali) 'are the most beautiful women in the world!' And we're off again, driving past gangs of *mulato* men laughing in the street.
- 2 My hotel is a run-down old building whose blue skin is peeling in the heat. It has a stunning view from

the balcony, and I gaze down on the square. The guidebooks tell you to visit the Gold Museum and the Museum of Colonial Art, the churches of San Antonio and La Merced, but there's only one thing on my mind as I leave the key at reception: salsa.

- 3 The *salsotecas* don't get busy until midnight so instead I stop at a restaurant serving typical Colombian food: *sancocho* – a stew made with chunks of beef, vegetables, cassava (a tropical plant with edible roots) and *plantains* (a type of banana but not so sweet) served with rice. Then I must choose from the amazingly diverse selection of Colombian fruit. I settle for guanabana and maracuya, and I'm not disappointed. I stroll for a while, tempted by dark smoky cafés, the fans spinning weakly on

the ceilings. This is the old, unspoilt Cali, which lives side by side with a newer version, the Cali of junk food, Internet cafés and vast touristy discos. I walk past the trees and sculptures that line the river, and into San Antonio park, a tranquil spot off the beaten track.

- 4 Later, on Avenida Sexta – Sixth Avenue – I find what I'm really looking for: a *salsoteca*. Some charming young Colombians teach me a few dance steps and we chat about Cali. They say that when times are tough, they dance away their worries. And I must never forget 'las calenas are the most beautiful women in the world!' By 2.00a.m. the salsa is swinging, the drinks are flowing, the place is packed, and I know one thing for sure: I've found the Cali that I was looking for – the salsa dancer's paradise.

Corsica



Corsica

- 1 'Day in, day out, they're always watching: the shepherd on the hillside, the road workers resting under the shade of a tree, the old man on the bench in front of his house, his wife airing the sheets at the window, the boules player next to the war memorial. They hardly move their heads but they see everything. It's a survival instinct moulded out of two thousand years of dangers coming from across the sea.'
- 2 The stereotypical Corsican community is introverted, family-based, dignified and shy. The truth behind the stereotype is that Corsicans love Corsica so much that they don't want the outside world to ruin it. Tradition is important; Corsica is one of the last McDonald's-free zones in Europe. It is also simply stunning; the ancient Greeks called it 'Kalliste', meaning 'the most beautiful one'.
- 3 The island is famed for its diverse landscape. You can find magnificent mountains, long stretches of Mediterranean coastline, and thick forest almost side by side, as well as charming villages, perfect for long, slow days in the sun. The island belongs to France but it has an atmosphere all of its own.
- 4 A good place to start is Ajaccio. In this charming town, you can sit outside the cafés and watch fishermen mending their nets, or stroll in the bustling market which sells delicious seafood and Corsican specialities: *macchia* honey and *brocciu* cheese. Old run-down houses stand proud on the side of the hill, overlooking modern yachts and wooden boats. Stroll along the streets and you will notice something interesting as you gaze at the monuments, the street signs and restaurant names: the town stands in the vast shadow of its greatest son, Napoleon Bonaparte. His influence is everywhere, and in the Musée Napoléonien you can see his baptism certificate and his death mask.
- 5 Although Napoleon is at the heart of Corsican history, it is Corsica's natural beauty that you'll remember. Fishermen, surfers, sailors and hikers all find everything they need here. And for the less energetic, there is always the pleasure of a wander along some of Europe's most tranquil scenery. Despite the tourists, the island is unspoilt. You won't find any packed nightclubs here, but there are plenty of cosy bars off the beaten track, where you can taste the atmosphere of Europe's own natural paradise.

Cape Town

- 1 The first thing I can tell you about Thabo, my South African guide, is that he is the world's worst driver. From the airport to the heart of the city, he does 100 km per hour, swerving around lorries, motorbikes and taxi-vans crammed with people. The second thing is that he knows everybody and everything about Cape Town. This is good, because I am trying to complete *Mission Impossible*: see Cape Town in just three days.
- 2 On the first day, Thabo takes me to the posh areas: suburbs with unpronounceable names – Tamboerskloof and Oranjezicht – from where you can watch the sun go down on Africa. The views are stunning. 'This is all very pretty,'
- I tell him that evening, 'but show me a community. Show me something the tourists never see.' So the next day we go off the beaten track to Cape Flats, the run-down township where the buildings are made of cardboard and corrugated iron. It is the poorest part of the city and it is truly vast – nearly a million people live here, side by side. Skinny dogs slide out of the way as Thabo zooms along roads of mud and rotting rubbish. Some people wave, others stare. Children run barefoot by the car.
- 3 Later that night we walk around the bustling Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, Cape Town's most fashionable area. The contrast from the township could not be greater. As we stroll, the smells of cooking drift up from the kitchens – Asian, French, Italian and of course the wild animals of South Africa that
- end up on your plate. The bars and restaurants are packed, and I soon find out why. Cape Town is a paradise for gourmets, seafood-lovers and people like me, who just like eating. We go into a charming little bistro, and Thabo tells me I can't leave Cape Town without trying some Cape seafood, so I do. It's delicious.
- 4 On my final morning, we spend a tranquil hour sitting outside a café. I gaze at Table Mountain, which forms the backdrop to the city, while Thabo shouts greetings to everyone that passes by. Then we are driving again, experiencing the diverse landscape – sandy beaches, mountain slopes and green valleys unspoilt by tourism. It's a great way to say goodbye to a place I've known only too briefly. I promise myself, and Thabo, that I'll be back.

Vocabulary | adjectives to describe places

- 5 Work in groups. Find words in the texts on pages 26–27 that mean:
- not damaged in character or atmosphere _____ (text A: para. 3, text B: para. 4, text C: para. 5)
 - having variety _____ (text A: para. 3, text B: para. 4, text C: para. 3)
 - look at something interesting for a long time _____ (text A: para. 2, text B: para. 4, text C: para. 4)
 - peaceful _____ (text A: para. 3, text B: para. 4, text C: para. 5)
 - the centre _____ (text A: para. 1, text B: para. 1, text C: para. 5)
 - next to each other (3 words) _____ (text A: para. 3, text B: para. 2, text C: para. 3)
 - in areas people don't normally go to (usually outside the city) (4 words) _____ (text A: para. 3, text B: para. 2, text C: para. 5)
 - extremely large _____ (text A: para. 3, text B: para. 2, text C: para. 4)
 - in poor condition, uncared for _____ (text A: para. 2, text B: para. 2, text C: para. 4)
 - amazingly beautiful _____ (text A: para. 2, text B: para. 2, text C: para. 2)
 - so attractive and pleasing that you admire it/them _____ (text A: para. 4, text B: para. 3, text C: para. 3)
 - very busy, crowded _____ (text A: para. 4, text B: para. 3, text C: para. 5)
 - energetic and noisy, full of life _____ (text A: para. 1, text B: para. 3, text C: para. 4)
 - walk in a relaxed way _____ (text A: para. 3, text B: para. 3, text C: para. 4)

- 6 a Use the vocabulary in Ex. 5 to complete the sentences.

- The roof is falling off and the windows are broken; the old house looks very _____.
- It's hard to find the little villa in the countryside because it's _____.
- You can hardly move during carnival time because the streets are absolutely _____.
- There are many different nationalities living there, so the culture is very _____.
- My favourite holiday activity is lying on a beach and _____ at stars all night.
- The Sahara Desert is 9,100,000 square kilometres. It's absolutely _____.
- We're going to spend a _____ few days camping, far from the noisy city.
- The town remains _____ even though there are lots of tourists now. It hasn't changed at all.



- b Now use the vocabulary to describe the places in the photos above.

Speaking and writing

- 7 Work in pairs. Think of a place you have been to that (a) has stunning views, (b) is off the beaten track, (c) serves delicious food, (d) is in the heart of the town/city, (e) is tranquil, (f) is hustling at the weekends, (g) is good to stroll around. Tell your partner about them.
- 8 a Decide on a favourite place. It could be another country or another city. Think about atmosphere, landscape, things to see/do and food. Make some notes.
- b Write a short paragraph (100–150 words) about your favourite place.
- c Read your paragraphs to the rest of the class. Decide which would be best for a group holiday.

2 Vocabulary

Phrasal verbs

- 1 Read the texts below. Would you like to join any of these communities? Why/why not? Would you like to join them temporarily or permanently?

1 They said it was a passing trend that would never catch on. They were wrong. When I turned up at the Chrysalis Hippy Commune forty years after I'd left it, nothing had changed. Living here, you can still get by on \$50 a week, and you'll have no problems fitting in. Everyone is welcome.

2 We decided to do up a small barn in a tiny rural village. No water, no electricity, no Internet! We filled in some forms to get planning permission, and this took months. Then the terrible weather held us up so we couldn't start renovating. Finally, a year later, the house was finished. We knew nobody in the community except John, who had carried out most of the work.

3 I first came across Claudio and the surfing community in São Paulo. I'd never surfed before, but I took to it immediately. Claudio told me they were expecting giant waves at the end of the summer, so I practised every day and saw to it that I was ready. When the big waves came, I got through it OK.

4 I came up with the idea of starting an online book community. It seemed like a good way to keep up with the latest books. Anyone is welcome to write reviews and post them on the site. It really comes down to democratising the process, because we wanted to get away from the idea that you need a degree in order to write and read reviews.

- 2 Find four phrasal verbs in each text and match them to the correct meaning.

Text 1

- a) arrive
- b) feel comfortable in a social group
- c) survive financially
- d) become fashionable

Text 2

- a) complete paperwork
- b) restore/redecorate
- c) delay someone
- d) put ideas/instructions into practice

Text 3

- a) finish successfully
- b) meet/find by chance
- c) organise/manage
- d) like something/someone

Text 4

- a) escape/avoid
- b) be essentially
- c) invent/think of
- d) know about recent developments

- 3 There are four types of phrasal verb and each text in Ex. 1 contains one type. Match a-d to the correct text and definition.

Text 1 _____ (verb + particle) – no direct object.

The plane took off.

Text 2 _____ (verb + particle) – with a direct object. If the object is a noun, it can come between the verb and the particle or after the particle.

I paid back the money. I paid the money back.

Text 3 _____ (verb + particle) – with a direct object that always goes after the particle.

She looked after me. NOT: She looked me after.

Text 4 _____ (verb + particle + preposition) – with a direct object that usually goes after the preposition.

I went on a spa break to get away from it all.

- a) transitive (1)
- b) transitive (2)
- c) intransitive
- d) three-part phrasal verbs

- 4 a Ask and answer the questions in pairs.

- 1 Did you take to your partner or best friend immediately? Why/why not?
- 2 Do you have to come up with ideas at work/school?
- 3 Have you come across any interesting people/books/places in the last few months?
- 4 Do you usually turn up early, on time or late for appointments? What does it depend on?
- 5 Do you do anything special to get away from your daily routine? What?
- 6 Do you keep up with new developments in your work/hobby? How?
- 7 When was the last time you filled in a form? What was it for?

- b Tell the class one thing you learned about your partner.

Lifelong learning

Personalise phrasal verbs

When you learn a new phrasal verb, write it in a sentence about yourself or your friends/family. This will help you to remember the form and meaning of the phrasal verb. Choose five of the phrasal verbs above and do this.