

Holiday Diary

What do you know about Madagascar? Have you ever been there? Would you like to?

Read the text and tell your partner if this type of holiday would be your cup of tea.

Madagascar

We're quite adventurous so your standard beach holiday doesn't really cut it for us so after umming and ahing for a few months we finally settled on a trip to Madagascar. We had set our sights on exploring the dense undergrowth of Madagascar's jungles and maybe catching a glimpse of some of its famed wildlife.

We flew into the capital Antananarivo, no sooner had we stepped off the plane than we were hit by a wave of intense heat, Madagascar has a really humid climate so the sweat was pouring down our faces in no time at all. Antananarivo is bustling with life with a mindboggling network of haphazard back streets in which you can lose yourself in the blink of an eye. Apart from the hotel we'd booked online we'd decided to play it by ear for the rest of the trip so we set about looking for a guide to take us into the lush vegetation of the surrounding rainforests. Unfortunately there was a mix-up with our luggage that set us back 2 hours but eventually we picked up our suitcases and set off on our mission.

As a city, Antananarivo isn't much to write home about, it's pretty grimy and run-down and our taxi ride into the city centre was pretty fraught. When we finally arrived at our hotel it looked a sorry sight, not what we'd been led to believe in the brochure. However, we're not really big on creature comforts so we didn't mind. Luckily, the hotel organised guided-tours of the rainforest and there was one leaving the very next day.

We were up at the crack of dawn the next day to board the rickety old minibus that was going to take us out into the middle of nowhere to begin our adventure. The bus journey was a little bit hairy as the road was little more than a track with potholes everywhere. We gradually wound our way up through the mountainous landscape which surrounds the city until we reached the summit of one of the foothills where we stopped for a picnic. The views of the rainforest stretching out in front of us were a real sight to behold, never before have I seen such an awe-inspiring sight...

Read the text again and decide if these statements are true or false.

1. The author likes beach holidays T/F
2. Antananarivo is a difficult city to navigate around T/F
3. They had the whole trip planned out beforehand T/F
4. Their luggage was put on the wrong plane T/F
5. They liked Antananarivo T/F
6. The hotel was different to the description in the brochure T/F
7. They don't mind roughing it T/F
8. The journey to the rainforest was relaxing T/F
9. They were impressed by the views from the foothill T/F

Look at the expressions in bold, discuss their meaning with a partner.

Look at the expressions again and try to categorise them.

What can you remember? Work with a partner.

Madagascar

We're quite adventurous so your standard beach holiday **doesn't really** (1) it for us so after _____ (2) **and aching** for a few months we finally **settled** _____ (3) a trip to Madagascar. We had **set our** _____ (4) **on** exploring the _____ (5) **undergrowth** of Madagascar's jungles and maybe **catching a** _____ (6) of some of its famed wildlife.

We flew into the capital Antananarivo, no sooner had we stepped off the plane than we were hit by a wave of intense heat, Madagascar has a really **humid climate** so the sweat was pouring down our faces in no time at all. Antananarivo is _____ (7) **with life** with a **mindboggling network of** _____ (8) back streets in which you can lose yourself **in the blink of an eye**. Apart from the hotel we'd booked online we'd decided **to play it by** _____ (9) for the rest of the trip so we **set** _____ (10) looking for a guide to take us into the _____ (11) **vegetation** of the surrounding rainforests. Unfortunately there was a _____ (12) with our luggage that **set us** _____ (13) 2 hours but eventually we picked up our suitcases and **set off** on our mission.

As a city, Antananarivo **isn't much to write home about**, it's pretty _____ (14) and **run-down** and our taxi ride into the city centre was pretty **fraught**. When we finally arrived at our hotel it **looked a** _____ (15) **sight**, not what we'd **been** _____ (16) **to believe** in the brochure. However, **we're not really big on** **creature** _____ (17) so we didn't mind. Luckily, the hotel organised guided-tours of the rainforest and there was one leaving the very next day.

We were up **at the** _____ (18) **of dawn** the next day to board the **rickety** old minibus that was going to take us out into **the** _____ (19) **of nowhere** to begin our adventure. The bus journey was a little bit _____ (20) as the road **was little more than** a track with **potholes** everywhere. We gradually wound our way up through the **mountainous landscape** which surrounds the city until we reached the summit of one of the foothills where we stopped for a picnic. **The views of the rainforest stretching out in front of us** were a real **sight to** _____ (21) never before have I seen such an **awe-** _____ (22) sight...

Memory

Cover the text and try to retell the story using as much of the vocabulary as you can.

Personalise

Have you ever had a similar experience? Tell your partner about it using the vocabulary.