

VOCABULARY BUILDER · IELTS

Travel

23 high-band words to read, understand,
and actually use – from B2 to C2.

B2

C1

C2

How to use this pack

A word you can only recognise is not yet a word you own. This pack is built to move each term from “I’ve seen it” to “I can use it under exam pressure.” Work through it in order.

1 Test yourself first

Go straight to the **Before** page and write what you think each word means. Don’t look ahead — this is your baseline.

2 Study the word bank

Read each entry: the definition, the example sentence, the collocations and the word family. The example is the most important part — it shows the word alive in context.

3 Do the tasks

Gap-fill, matching, word formation, a full IELTS-style reading, and speaking & writing practice. Use a pencil so you can redo them.

4 Test yourself again

Return to the **After** page and write the meanings from memory. Compare with your baseline — that gap is your progress.

HOW TO READ AN ENTRY

noun / verb / adjective

part of speech

B2 · C1 · C2

CEFR difficulty level

/ˈsɪmbəl/

pronunciation (IPA)

e.g.

example sentence in context

↔

opposite / contrast

What do you already know?

BEFORE

Before you read a single definition, write what you think each word means — even a rough guess or a synonym. Tick how sure you are. This is your honest starting point; you'll come back at the end to measure how far you've moved.

#	WORD	SURE? know · unsure · new	WHAT I THINK IT MEANS
1	tourism	☐ ☐ ☐	
2	destination	☐ ☐ ☐	
3	itinerary	☐ ☐ ☐	
4	excursion	☐ ☐ ☐	
5	ecotourism	☐ ☐ ☐	
6	accommodation	☐ ☐ ☐	
7	hospitality	☐ ☐ ☐	
8	authentic	☐ ☐ ☐	
9	commercialisation	☐ ☐ ☐	
10	souvenir	☐ ☐ ☐	
11	sightseeing	☐ ☐ ☐	
12	expedition	☐ ☐ ☐	
13	cosmopolitan	☐ ☐ ☐	
14	traverse	☐ ☐ ☐	
15	secluded	☐ ☐ ☐	
16	wanderlust	☐ ☐ ☐	
17	backpacking	☐ ☐ ☐	
18	mass tourism	☐ ☐ ☐	
19	overtourism	☐ ☐ ☐	
20	culture shock	☐ ☐ ☐	
21	scenic	☐ ☐ ☐	
22	embark	☐ ☐ ☐	
23	seasonal	☐ ☐ ☐	

The word bank

Twenty-three words, chosen for how often they earn marks in IELTS Writing Task 2 and Speaking Part 3.
Read the example sentence aloud – that is where the meaning sticks.

1 tourism /'tʊərɪzəm/

noun

B2

The business and activity of people travelling to and visiting places for pleasure.

e.g. **Tourism** is the main source of income for many island economies.

COLLOCATIONS

mass / sustainable tourism • the tourism industry

WORD FAMILY

tourist(n), tour(v/n)

2 destination /,destɪ'neɪʃn/

noun

B2

The place to which someone is travelling or being sent.

e.g. The city has become one of the most popular **destinations** in Europe.

COLLOCATIONS

a popular / tourist destination • a holiday destination

WORD FAMILY

—

3 itinerary /aɪ'tɪnərəri/

noun

C1

A detailed plan or route of a journey, listing the places to be visited.

e.g. Our **itinerary** included three cities in five days.

COLLOCATIONS

a packed / detailed itinerary • plan an itinerary

WORD FAMILY

—

4 **excursion** /ɪk'skʒ:ʃn/

noun

B2

A short journey or trip made for pleasure, usually returning the same day.

e.g. The hotel organises daily **excursions** to nearby villages.

COLLOCATIONS

a day / guided excursion • go on an excursion

WORD FAMILY

—

5 **ecotourism** /'i:kəʊtʊərɪzəm/

noun

C1

Tourism that aims to protect the natural environment and support local communities.

e.g. **Ecotourism** encourages visitors to enjoy nature without harming it.

COLLOCATIONS

promote ecotourism • an ecotourism project

WORD FAMILY

ecotourist (n)

IELTS A key word for “sustainable travel” essays – set it against “mass tourism”.

6 **accommodation** /ə,kɒmə'deɪʃn/

noun

B2

A place to stay or live, such as a hotel room or apartment, especially while travelling.

e.g. Finding affordable **accommodation** in the capital can be difficult in summer.

COLLOCATIONS

budget / luxury accommodation • book accommodation

WORD FAMILY

accommodate (v)

7 **hospitality** /ˌhɒspɪˈtæləti/

noun

B2

Friendly, generous treatment of guests; the industry that provides food, drink and lodging.

e.g. The region is famous for the warm **hospitality** of its people.

COLLOCATIONS

the hospitality industry • warm hospitality

WORD FAMILY

hospitable (adj) • opp. inhospitable

8 **authentic** /ɔːˈθentɪk/

adjective

B2

Real and genuine; true to the original culture rather than made for tourists.

e.g. Travellers increasingly seek **authentic** local experiences over packaged tours.

COLLOCATIONS

an authentic experience / dish

WORD FAMILY

authenticity (n) • opp. inauthentic

IELTS A high-band word for “real” — “an authentic cultural experience”.

9 **commercialisation** /kə,mɜːʃəlaɪˈzeɪʃn/

noun

C1

The process of turning something into a source of profit, often reducing its original character.

e.g. The **commercialisation** of the festival has upset many local residents.

COLLOCATIONS

over-commercialisation • the commercialisation of (sth)

WORD FAMILY

commercialise (v), commercial (adj)

10 souvenir /ˌsuːvəˈniə/

noun

B2

An object kept or bought to remember a place, person or event.

e.g. She bought a small **souvenir** from every country she visited.

COLLOCATIONS

a souvenir shop • buy souvenirs

WORD FAMILY

—

11 sightseeing /ˈsaɪtsiːɪŋ/

noun

B2

The activity of visiting interesting places, especially as a tourist.

e.g. We spent the first day **sightseeing** in the old town.

COLLOCATIONS

go sightseeing • a sightseeing tour

WORD FAMILY

sightseer (n)

12 expedition /ˌekspeɪˈdɪʃn/

noun

C1

An organised journey, often long or difficult, made for a particular purpose such as exploration.

e.g. The team is planning an **expedition** to one of the last unmapped regions.

COLLOCATIONS

mount / lead an expedition • a scientific expedition

WORD FAMILY

—

13 cosmopolitan /ˌkɒzməˈpɒlɪtən/

adjective

C1

Containing or influenced by people and cultures from many different countries.

e.g. London is a truly **cosmopolitan** city, home to hundreds of nationalities.

COLLOCATIONS

a cosmopolitan city / atmosphere

WORD FAMILY

—

14 traverse /trəˈvɜːs/

verb

C2

To travel across or through a large area or region.

e.g. The railway **traverses** some of the most spectacular scenery in the country.

COLLOCATIONS

traverse a desert / continent

WORD FAMILY

traversal (n)

15 secluded /sɪˈkluːdɪd/

adjective

C1

Quiet, private and away from crowds or other people.

e.g. They spent the week in a **secluded** cabin far from the nearest town.

COLLOCATIONS

a secluded beach / spot

WORD FAMILY

seclusion (n)

16 wanderlust /'wɒndəlʌst/

noun

C2

A strong desire to travel and explore the world.

e.g. Her **wanderlust** took her to more than fifty countries before she turned thirty.

COLLOCATIONS

a sense of wanderlust • satisfy your wanderlust

WORD FAMILY

—

17 backpacking /'bækpækɪŋ/

noun

B2

Travelling cheaply and independently, carrying your belongings in a rucksack.

e.g. He spent a year **backpacking** across South-East Asia.

COLLOCATIONS

go backpacking • a backpacking trip

WORD FAMILY

backpacker (n)

18 mass tourism /,mæs 'tʊərɪzəm/

noun

C1

Travel by very large numbers of people to the same popular places.

e.g. **Mass tourism** has put enormous pressure on the city's ancient streets.

COLLOCATIONS

the effects of mass tourism

WORD FAMILY

—

IELTS The classic target of “problems of tourism” essays — contrast with ecotourism.

19 **overtourism** /,əʊvə'tʊərɪzəm/

noun

C1

The problem of too many tourists visiting a place, harming the environment and residents' lives.

e.g. Several European cities have introduced limits to combat **overtourism**.

COLLOCATIONS

tackle / combat overtourism

WORD FAMILY

—

20 **culture shock** /'kʌltʃə ʃɒk/

noun

B2

The confused or anxious feeling people may have when they experience an unfamiliar culture.

e.g. Moving abroad, she experienced severe **culture shock** in her first month.

COLLOCATIONS

experience / suffer culture shock

WORD FAMILY

—

21 **scenic** /'si:nɪk/

adjective

B2

Having beautiful natural views.

e.g. We took the longer, more **scenic** route along the coast.

COLLOCATIONS

a scenic route / view

WORD FAMILY

scenery (n)

22 **embark** /ɪmˈbɑːk/

verb

C1

To begin a journey, or to start something new and important (often “embark on”).

e.g. Before you **embark** on a long trip, check that your documents are valid.

COLLOCATIONS

embark on a journey / adventure

WORD FAMILY

embarkation (n) · opp. disembark

23 **seasonal** /ˈsiːzənəl/

adjective

B2

Happening or needed only during a particular season of the year.

e.g. Many resorts rely on **seasonal** workers during the busy summer months.

COLLOCATIONS

seasonal work / demand • a seasonal business

WORD FAMILY

season (n), seasonally (adv)

Task 1 · Gap-fill

Complete each sentence with a word from the bank. You may need to change the form (tense, ending). Each word is used once.

accommodation

authentic

culture shock

ecotourism

embark

excursion

hospitality

itinerary

overtourism

scenic

secluded

wanderlust

1. We booked our _____ months in advance to get a good price.
2. Away from the resorts, you can still find _____ local cooking.
3. The city introduced an entry fee in order to tackle _____.
4. Our guide handed us a detailed _____ for the week ahead.
5. The village is known throughout the country for the warmth of its _____.
6. A deep sense of _____ drove her to keep exploring new places.
7. _____ allows visitors to enjoy the rainforest without damaging it.
8. The train follows a spectacularly _____ route through the mountains.
9. The hotel offers a day _____ to the ancient temple.
10. They honeymooned on a _____ island with almost no other visitors.
11. Living abroad for the first time, he suffered real _____.
12. Tomorrow we _____ on a three-week journey across the country.

Task 2 · Match the meaning

Write the letter of the correct definition next to each word.

1 tourism	☐	a visiting interesting places as a tourist
2 destination	☐	b the place someone is travelling to
3 commercialisation	☐	c to travel across a large area
4 souvenir	☐	d travelling to and visiting places for pleasure
5 sightseeing	☐	e travel by very large numbers to popular places
6 expedition	☐	f turning something into a source of profit
7 cosmopolitan	☐	g influenced by many different cultures
8 traverse	☐	h an object kept to remember a place
9 backpacking	☐	i travelling cheaply and independently with a rucksack
10 mass tourism	☐	j an organised journey for a special purpose

Task 3 · Word formation

Change the word in **CAPITALS** into the correct form to complete each sentence.

- TOUR** The country welcomes millions of _____ every year.
- HOSPITALITY** The local people were extremely _____ to strangers.
- AUTHENTIC** Visitors began to question the _____ of the "traditional" show.
- COMMERCIAL** The _____ of the old market has driven prices up.
- SCENE** We stopped to admire the breathtaking mountain _____.
- SECLUDE** They value the peace and _____ of island life.
- SEASON** The town's population doubles _____ each summer.
- ACCOMMODATE** The resort offers _____ for up to five hundred guests.

Task 4 · Reading in context

Read the passage, then answer the questions. This mirrors an IELTS reading set – notice how many of your new words appear naturally.

Too Popular for Its Own Good

For many towns and cities, tourism is a blessing. Visitors bring money, create jobs and support local businesses, from small guesthouses to family-run restaurants. In places with few other industries, the hospitality sector can be the difference between decline and prosperity.

Yet in the most famous destinations, success has become a problem. When millions of people arrive each year, the result is overtourism: crowded streets, rising prices and historic sites worn down by the sheer weight of visitors. Local residents may find themselves priced out of their own neighbourhoods as flats are turned into short-term holiday lets. The very character that attracted tourists in the first place can slowly disappear.

Some argue that the answer is not fewer visitors but better ones. Ecotourism and other responsible forms of travel encourage people to respect the places they visit and to spend their money in ways that benefit local communities. Others believe stronger action is needed, such as limiting numbers, charging entry fees, or steering travellers away from the busiest spots.

There is no simple solution. Cities depend on the income that visitors bring, yet they must also protect the environment and the people who live there. Managing tourism wisely – welcoming guests while preserving what makes a place special – is one of the great challenges facing popular destinations today.

Questions 1–5 · True / False / Not Given

TRUE = the passage says so. **FALSE** = the passage says the opposite. **NOT GIVEN** = the passage doesn't say.

- | | | |
|-------|---|------------|
| 1 | Tourism can create jobs in places with few other industries. | T / F / NG |
| <hr/> | | |
| 2 | The writer says that tourism never causes any problems. | T / F / NG |
| <hr/> | | |
| 3 | In some cities, homes are being converted into holiday accommodation. | T / F / NG |
| <hr/> | | |
| 4 | The passage states which city suffers most from overtourism. | T / F / NG |
| <hr/> | | |
| 5 | The writer believes there is one easy solution to the problem. | T / F / NG |

Questions 6–9 · Vocabulary in context

- | | | |
|-------|--|-------|
| 6 | Find a word/phrase meaning: the business of people travelling for pleasure | _____ |
| <hr/> | | |
| 7 | Find a word/phrase meaning: too many tourists visiting a place | _____ |
| <hr/> | | |
| 8 | Find a word/phrase meaning: friendly treatment of guests; the lodging industry | _____ |
| <hr/> | | |
| 9 | Find a word/phrase meaning: travel that protects nature and local communities | _____ |

Task 5 · Use it yourself

Recognising a word is easy; producing it is what raises your band. Answer out loud, then in writing.

SPEAK Speaking — Part 3 style

Answer each question in 3–4 sentences. Try to use the words in **bold** accurately.

1. What makes a place a good **destination** for tourists?
2. Do you prefer relaxing on a beach or **sightseeing** in a city?
3. How can popular cities deal with the problem of **overtourism**?
4. Is **ecotourism** a realistic solution, or just a marketing term?

WRITE Writing — Task 2 mini

Write an introduction and one body paragraph (about 80–100 words) for this prompt. Use **at least four** words from this pack.

Many popular tourist **destinations** now suffer from **overtourism**. What problems does this cause, and what measures could be taken to solve them?

Now, from memory

AFTER

Cover the word bank. Write each meaning from memory and tick the box only if you could also use the word in your own sentence. Compare this page with your **Before** page – every word you can now explain is a mark you've earned.

#	WORD	MEANING (FROM MEMORY)	CAN USE IT
1	tourism		☐
2	destination		☐
3	itinerary		☐
4	excursion		☐
5	ecotourism		☐
6	accommodation		☐
7	hospitality		☐
8	authentic		☐
9	commercialisation		☐
10	souvenir		☐
11	sightseeing		☐
12	expedition		☐
13	cosmopolitan		☐
14	traverse		☐
15	secluded		☐
16	wanderlust		☐
17	backpacking		☐
18	mass tourism		☐
19	overtourism		☐
20	culture shock		☐
21	scenic		☐
22	embark		☐
23	seasonal		☐

Answer key

TASK 1 · GAP-FILL

1 accommodation 2 authentic 3 overtourism 4 itinerary 5 hospitality 6 wanderlust 7 ecotourism 8 scenic
9 excursion 10 secluded 11 culture shock 12 embark

TASK 2 · MATCHING

1 d 2 b 3 f 4 h 5 a 6 j 7 g 8 c 9 i 10 e

TASK 3 · WORD FORMATION

1 tourists 2 hospitable 3 authenticity 4 commercialisation 5 scenery 6 seclusion 7 seasonally
8 accommodation

TASK 4 · TRUE / FALSE / NOT GIVEN

1 TRUE 2 FALSE 3 TRUE 4 NOT GIVEN 5 FALSE

TASK 4 · VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

6 tourism 7 overtourism 8 hospitality 9 ecotourism



Nicely done. Revisit this pack in a week and again in a month — spaced review is what turns a recognised word into an automatic one. More themed packs at prepex.ai.