

Thanks to the advance of tourism to the remotest corners of the earth and the spread of satellite communications, the world has come to seem a much smaller place than it seemed only a few decades ago. But even if you have the feeling that you've 'seen it all' there's still one place you can go (providing you can afford it, that is) – space, tourism's final frontier.

### Watch this space

The next time you're planning where to go for your holidays, you might want to consider that the sky is no longer the limit. The recent successful launch of 'SpaceShipOne', the world's first manned\* private space flight, has opened up the prospect of what, not long ago, was only a dream: a holiday in space.



### An expensive business

Space tourism promises to be a lucrative\* business but our companies still face one major obstacle: getting into space costs money, a lot of money. Although full orbit is actually not that far away (only 200km above the Earth) the Space Shuttle is currently the only reusable space vehicle capable of getting you there and back, and each shuttle trip costs an astronomical \$500 million.

### The lower end

A more affordable prospect is a sub-orbital flight, classified as 100km above the surface of the earth. One space-plane developer, Xcor Aerospace, is selling advance tickets for sub-orbital trips for just \$98,000, and there are predictions that prices will eventually drop to around \$10,000. From this

**manned:** with people aboard  
**lucrative:** profitable  
**weightlessness:** absence of gravity

distance, passengers will be able to enjoy both the experience of weightlessness\* and breathtaking views of the earth's curvature and the black infinity of space. (Of course, on the other hand, they may spend the whole trip trying not to be sick.)

### Billion star accommodation

But space tourists aren't going to have much to write home about if their holiday is simply a question of going up and coming back down. If space really is the place to be, they're going to need somewhere to stay. Some experts suggest that space hotels will be a real possibility within 20 or 30 years. Somewhat optimistically British billionaire businessman Richard Branson not long ago announced his hopes to open a Virgin Hotel in space within five years. The Hilton group have plans for a hotel on the moon with 5,000 rooms and an artificial beach. Ideal for moonbathers!



### Pre-Reading

1. Would you like to travel to outer space? Why/Why not? What would you do there?

### Reading

2. Read the article and note down the following:
  - a name of first private space flight
  - distance from earth of full orbit
  - cost of a shuttle trip into orbit

- d distance from earth of sub-orbit
  - e current and future costs of a sub-orbit trip
3. What plans are there to build accommodation in space?

### Speaking

4. What other tourist facilities do you think might be constructed in space? Make a list in pairs, and share your ideas with other students.



**Vocabulary:** Travel, tourism, types of holidays

**Skills:** Reading, writing, listening, speaking

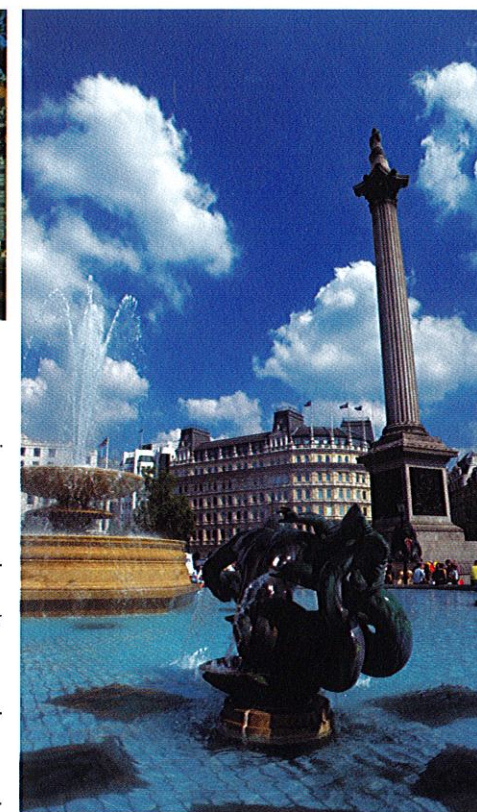
**Grammar revision:** Relative clauses

### Grammar/Reading

1. Read the following sentences from a guide book of London. Make each pair into one sentence with a relative clause.



- 1 London is one of the most popular capital cities in the world. Opportunities for entertainment by day and night are virtually infinite there.  
London .....
- 2 The main geographical feature of London is the River Thames. It flows through central London, dividing it into two halves.  
The main geographical .....
- 3 The West End is extremely popular with tourists from all over the world. It includes Soho, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square and Regent Street.  
The West End .....
- 4 The King's Road is a street in West London. Fashionable people go there to buy their clothes.  
The King's Road .....
- 5 Christopher Wren was an architect. He designed St Paul's Cathedral.  
Christopher Wren .....
- 6 Buckingham Palace was built in 1705 for the Duke of Buckingham. It has been the royal family's London home since 1837.  
Buckingham Palace .....
- 7 The Globe Theatre was originally founded in the 16th century. It specialises in performances of the works of Shakespeare.  
The Globe Theatre .....



### Writing

2. You are in the middle of a backpacking holiday. Write a letter (120-180 words) to a friend describing your experience including details about the places you have been to and the people you have met.

### Listening 16

3. You will hear five students talking about their travels after finishing high school. Choose which of the following adventures (A-F) happened to each speaker.

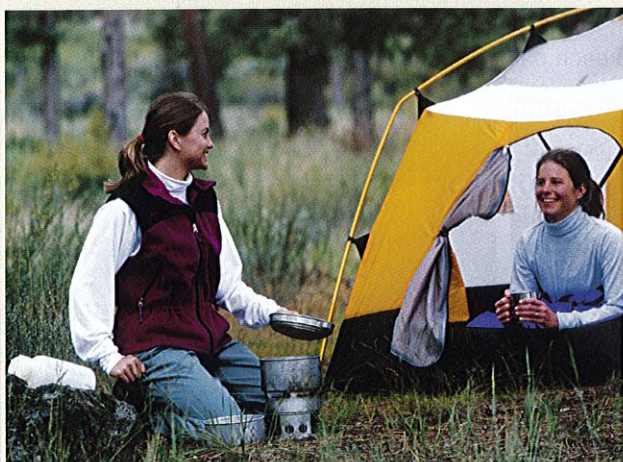
Who:	Speaker
A discovered something unpleasant about his travelling companion?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
B was frustrated in his attempts to study?	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
C learned a useful language?	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
D had to change her route?	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
E had an accident which ruined his holiday?	5 <input type="checkbox"/>



# Language Lab

## Speaking

- Do you like travelling? Where do you normally spend your holidays?
- Compare and contrast the two photographs. Where do you think they were taken? What type of holiday do they offer? What type of person do you think would be interested in them?



## Group Work THINK TANK

Work in small groups. Like Dave and his friends in *Are You Experienced?* imagine you are preparing to go travelling together. Choose a destination and plan an itinerary. Try to look for detailed maps, addresses of places to stay, things to visit and so on. You can use guide books or the Internet. Tourist sites put up by local travel agencies and associations can be of great help. When your itinerary is ready present it to the rest of the class.

## Walk this Way

Much of the work of artist Richard Long is based around the simple act of walking. Walking a line is the simplest thing a human being can do to put his mark on a place, and the idea of the path exists in all religions and cultures. During his walks, Long finds imaginative ways to map the natural world and his relationship with it, leaving traces of his passage in the form of stone circles, improvised monuments and other markings, which he then photographs for historical record. Long considers his outdoor art as something that works 'with' rather than 'against' nature, subject to the same processes of generation and corruption as the natural world. The recordings which Long makes of his movements, which may take the form of photographs, maps, drawings, charts or poetic texts, remain as signs of his mental and emotional link with the places where he has walked. At the same time Long also makes works for galleries, which, though made of the same natural materials as his outdoor walks, may endure much longer.



## Speaking

- In what way is walking central to Richard Long's art?
- In what way does this art differ from the kind of work we normally find in art galleries and museums?

## Research

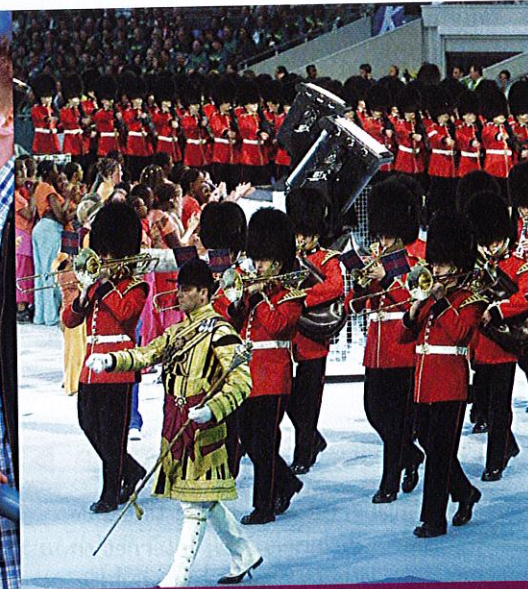
- Richard Long's work is associated with an art movement known as land art (see also p. 139), whose other pioneers include Robert Smithson and Dennis Oppenheim. Look for information on these artists and their works or on land art in general. Search the Internet for photographs and share your findings with other students.

# LEISURE & SPORT UN

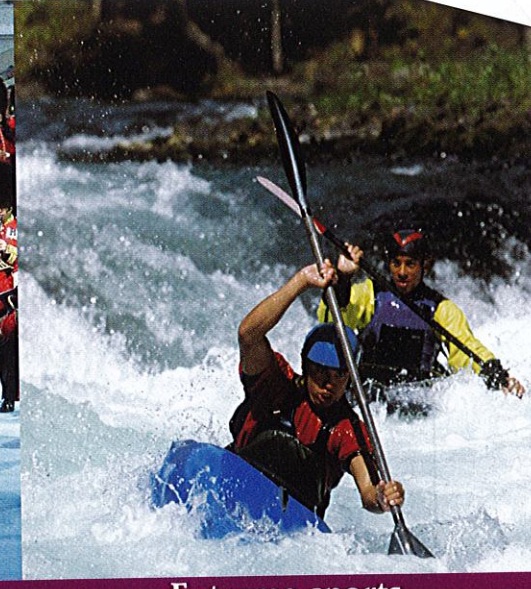
In this unit you'll encounter the following topics and issues. In pairs, look at the images and discuss...



Leisure activities



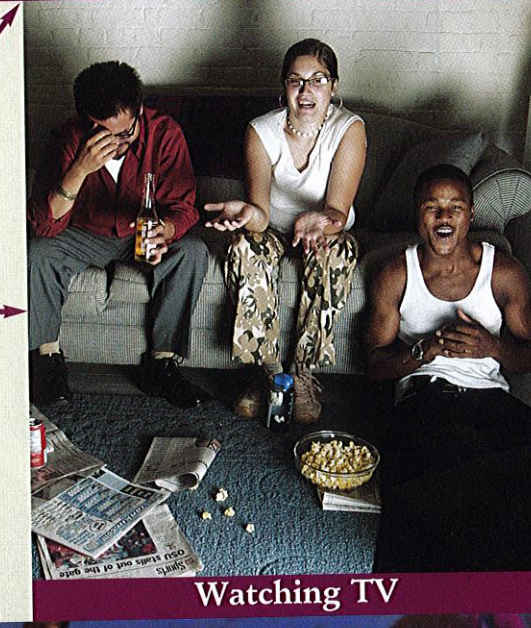
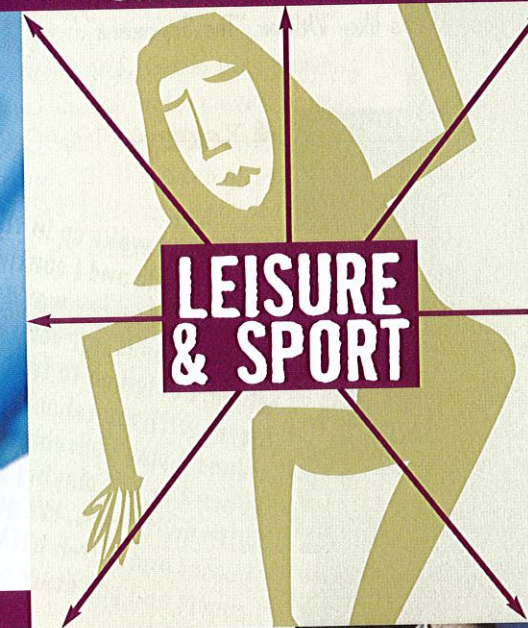
Commonwealth Games



Extreme sports



E-society



Watching TV



Sports in the English-speaking world



Going out