

TRAVEL – Package holidays

TRANSCRIPT

I'm not keen on package holidays, I've been on a few before. When I was a student I went on a couple of package holidays with friends and obviously as a student it's a good idea because it's much cheaper and everything's thrown in together, so you've got the hotel and the flights and the meals all thrown in. So it's easier but I don't like going to tourist resorts. I've been to a few dodgy resorts before where you see pictures advertised but when you get there it doesn't look anything like the picture and the hotel's always miles from the beach and then when you get to the beach it's packed full of other tourists. I think it's easy to get ripped off as well in tourist resorts. People can see you're a tourist and you tend to get overcharged. If you don't speak the language then it's much harder to argue and explain that you know you're being ripped off.

It doesn't feel a very personal experience either. So I prefer a more personal holiday. I prefer to find my own hotel, book my flights separately and I don't like going on big group tours either, because the tour guides only take you to places they want to take you that tend to be very touristy and probably quite tacky as well and full of tacky souvenir shops. I hate sightseeing. I mean I love seeing beautiful buildings and important historical monuments but I don't like going there with hordes of other tourists. Everyone taking pictures of the same thing. Plus, with so many people around you all the time it's hard to really soak up the atmosphere and experience these amazing places.

Unfortunately some of the most beautiful cities and some of the most beautiful tourist attractions in the world are so touristy now that when you get there, they're packed, it's expensive, you get pushed and shoved, it's just not an experience I really enjoy so I tend to avoid package holidays and touristy resorts. There are so many amazing places to visit that it's not necessary to stay in places like this.

I think the really touristy places tend to be full of tacky souvenir shops selling plastic models of famous monuments and t-shirts with 'I love...' wherever the place is! I wouldn't buy anything like that for friends or family so...and I wouldn't buy it for me either, so I tend to avoid places like that.

VOCABULARY

I'm not keen on – I don't really like/enjoy

package holidays – holidays with all the expenses included in one price

everything's thrown in together – everything is included

tourist resorts – popular places developed specifically for tourism

dodgy – poor quality, untrustworthy, cheap, bad taste, broken, uncool

miles from – a long way from

packed – extremely full

got ripped off – be overcharged because you don't know the usual price

touristy – a place that has too many negatives aspects of popular tourist resorts

tacky – cheap, poor quality, unfashionable, uncool, bad taste

sightseeing – visiting popular tourist places

historical monuments – old buildings and structures that represent past culture

hoards – large, aggressive, noisy groups

soak up the atmosphere – experience the sights, sounds and smells of an interesting place

get pushed and shoved – be rudely and aggressively pushed around by a crowd

GRAMMAR

Would – different uses and meanings

Why **wouldn't** you help me yesterday?

(past volition/willingness)

I **would** play football every day when I was a child

(past habit/repeated action)

The phone's ringing. That **would** be for me

(probability)

Why **would** anyone want to live in such a horrible place?

(reason)

I **wouldn't** do that if I were you

(advice)

Would you like a drink?

(invitation)

I thought it **would** rain today

(past prediction)

I **would** like a cup of tea, please

(polite request)

You said you **would** always love me!

(past intention)

I told you I **would** be working today

(future in the past)