Types of holidays

Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to:
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different types of holidays:
  - package, including all-inclusive and multi or twin centre;
  - independent;
  - fly-drive and self-drive;
  - cruises including fly-cruise;
  - tours, guided tours or safari;
  - special interest, for example food, wine, arts and culture, charity challenge or pilgrimage;
  - adventure, for example bike, hike or kayaking;
  - short breaks and city breaks;
  - luxury, for example ultimate luxury, gourmet inclusive, child-free, honeymoons or glamping;
  - camping and caravan holidays; and
  - staycation.
Types of Holidays

Learning Activity

Most people know what the term ‘holiday’ means.

Take a blank sheet of paper and quickly note all the words and terms that come to mind. Compare your list with others in your class. You have probably included words and terms such as summer; off work; off school; enjoyable; beach holiday; skiing etc.

For this part of the specification, you need to know and understand the main types of holiday.

Package Holidays

A holiday usually involves accommodation, travel, transfers and food. A **package holiday** consists of two or more of these elements sold together as a package at an inclusive price, e.g. transport and accommodation. The definition of a package holiday is set by The Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations (1992). Package holidays are usually booked through a travel agent.

Thomas Cook is regarded as the founder of package holidays; in 1841 he arranged a return trip between Leicester and Loughborough in England. A few years later, in 1855, he organised the first package tour to Europe and by 1872 he was arranging world-wide tours on a small scale.

Package holidays as we know them today really began in the 1950s. During the 1950s and 1960s relatively cheap package holidays combining flights, transfers and accommodation gave people in the UK their first real chance to have an affordable holiday abroad. The main destination was Spain.

The package holiday industry declined during the 1970s when the second-largest tour operator Court Line, which operated under the brand names of Horizon and Clarksons, collapsed in 1974. Around 50,000 tourists were stranded abroad and 100,000 customers faced the loss of their deposit and holiday.

By 2005 many customers were moving away from booking package holidays with a travel agent and were instead using the Internet to book their holiday arrangements independently using budget airlines and booking their own accommodation. In the UK, the downturn in the package holiday market led to the consolidation of the tour operator market, which is now dominated by a few large tour operators such as TUI Travel PLC which operates in over 180 countries with more than 30 million customers in 31 key source markets. TUI Travel PLC has its headquarters in UK and employs around 54 000 people. TUI Travel PLC is the parent company for many familiar tour operators such as Thomson, First Choice and Hayes and Jarvis. Budget airlines have also created their own package holiday divisions such as Jet2 Holidays.

Learning Activity

Anyone booking a package holiday should ensure the booking is ATOL protected.

- Find out what ATOL stands for and what protection the scheme provides for customers booking a package holiday.

From October 2012 anyone booking an ATOL protected holiday should be given an ATOL certificate by their travel company as soon as they pay any money for the holiday even if it is only a deposit.

- Why should holiday makers take their ATOL certificate on holiday with them?
- Customers are advised to ensure that their travel agent is an ABTA member. Find out what this means for the customer.
In recent years there has been an increase in bookings for package holidays. Customers have become increasingly concerned about financial security in the wake of a number of holiday and flight companies going bust, and as the hidden costs of ‘no-frills’ flights increased, for example low cost airlines may charge separately for hold baggage and may charge a fee to check-in at an airport desk. The increase in package holiday bookings has also resulted from a growing trend for customers to leave booking until the last moment in the hope that they will be able to find a bargain.

Package holidays can also be All-inclusive Holidays.

All-inclusive holidays have become increasingly popular in recent years. Basically an all-inclusive holiday is a package holiday in which all food and drink is included in the price of the holiday. In some cases hotel activities such as windsurfing, kayaking, cycling, and tennis are also included. Entertainment such as dance shows and cookery demonstrations may also be included in the price.

All-inclusive holidays are ideal for anyone booking a holiday on a fixed budget whether as part of a group or family. Availability is now widespread across the industry. All the major tour operators and travel agents offer all-inclusive holidays worldwide from Majorca to the Maldives. However, customers need to be careful as not everything may be included in the deal. Exceptions may include branded alcoholic drinks, specific activities such as parasailing and speciality restaurants. The all-inclusive package may only apply to food and drink taken within a specific time each day and there may be charges for services such as room service. The travel brochure will provide details of what is included in an all-inclusive package.

Case Study Riu Cancun – An All-inclusive Hotel

The Riu Cancun is an all-inclusive hotel in Cancun, Mexico. The hotel’s main aim is to ensure that customers enjoy their holiday. Guests staying at the Riu Cancun can enjoy unlimited meals, snacks, beverages, unlimited alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, unlimited use of in-room mini-bar and drinks dispenser, various water and land sports, access to speciality restaurants, daily activities and live nightly entertainment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Riu Cancun: Key features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complimentary gym, sauna and jacuzzi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spa and beauty salon (additional charge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet room (additional charge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three swimming pools including a children’s pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini club and children’s playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complimentary sun loungers, towels and parasols by the pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun terrace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several bars including pool side and swim up bars, a lounge bar, sports bar and El Faro bar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacha disco and nightclub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Juan restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corazone themed restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kawachi Japanese restaurant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig 1: The Riu Cancun Hotel, Cancun, Mexico
Learning Activity

Study the key features of the Riu Cancun.

- Identify one service and one facility that are not included in the all-inclusive package.
- What features of the hotel suggest that it is a family friendly hotel?

Package holidays may also be **Multi or Twin-centre holidays**.

A multi or twin-centre holiday is often booked as a package and involves holiday makers staying at two or more locations during the same trip. Depending on the location, some customers might want to spend time at the beach as well as visiting a city or a mountain region. All the major tour operators and travel agents offer multi or twin-centre holidays, which are particularly associated with long haul holidays to the United States, the Indian Ocean and the Far East.

Multi or twin-centre holidays are ideal for people who want to experience more than one aspect of a country. Travellers to the United States might combine a visit to a city such as New York with a few days relaxing by a beach in Florida. This type of holiday suits a wide range of customers including couples, families or groups where there may be different interests.

A transfer needs to be arranged between the two centres; this may be booked as part of the holiday booking or arranged independently.

Learning Activity

Read the following scenario and answer the questions that follow.

Joe and Sally have decided to visit the United States. Joe enjoys sightseeing and would like to spend some time in New York. Sally enjoys sunbathing and wants to spend some time relaxing. She would like to visit Florida. They are planning a minimum of 14 nights.

- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for Joe and Sally of a twin-centre holiday.
- Joe is planning to book their transfer from New York to Florida separately. What are the advantages and disadvantages of doing so?

Independent Holidays

Some people have always opted to travel independently making their own arrangements rather than booking a package through a tour operator or travel agent. An independent holiday involves booking each element of a holiday separately – flights, accommodation, trips, transfers and catering. The customer can choose exactly the options that he or she wishes and that best suits their needs. There is no particular type of person likely to choose an independent holiday. A school leaver spending their gap year travelling around Europe or a retired couple holidaying in Scotland may both be enjoying an independent holiday. The widespread use of the Internet has made booking a holiday independently of a tour operator or travel agent much easier.

Careful planning is very important when choosing an independent holiday. The holiday maker will need to research their chosen destination, for example investigating climate and weather, different accommodation types, flight options and what to see and do at the destination. They will then need to book separately the various elements of the holiday which can involve phone calls, emails or letters often communicating with someone who does not speak English as their first language. The holiday maker needs to state their requirements clearly to avoid any confusion later. It is also important that copies of all communication are kept in case a dispute arises later. The customer will generally be required to pay a deposit using a credit card or bank transfer.
The customer who opts for an independent holiday does not have the protection that comes with a package holiday booked through a travel agent. This means that, to some people, booking an independent holiday may seem daunting and risky.

**Fly-drive and self-drive holidays**

A fly-drive holiday involves booking a flight, hiring a car and then deciding where to travel to, how long to stay and where to stay. Customers can either follow a pre-planned itinerary or make their decisions as they go along. Some destinations are more challenging than others, especially where there are language and cultural differences. Classic destinations for fly drive holidays are North America, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Europe.

A fly-drive holiday involves the customer hiring a car at their destination. There are often regulations relating to the age of drivers, drivers under 25 years old or over 70 are often excluded from hiring a car abroad.

A self-drive holiday involves the customer taking their own car on holiday and driving to the destination. They have the advantage of having their own vehicle on holiday with them, which may be more comfortable especially if they have young children.

Clients thinking about a fly-drive or self-drive holiday should:

• Plan their route carefully; clients generally pick up their car at the airport and are then on their own. Some car hire companies offer satellite navigation systems (SAT Nav), but it is worthwhile having a good map available as well.

• Hire the right car; clients often underestimate the importance of the actual car. They will be spending quite a bit of time in the car so it is important to choose a car that all the party will be comfortable in, that accommodates all their luggage and that allows the clients to enjoy their trip. Clients are often advised to upgrade to something bigger than they usually would hire if they can.

• Consider their accommodation in advance; Whether they are planning on staying somewhere for a while or moving on to somewhere new each night, fly-drive clients are often encouraged to book their accommodation in advance so they are not driving around looking for somewhere to stay.

• Remember about language/culture; a fly drive holiday in some countries will be more challenging than others. Before leaving the UK, clients should take some time to research any driving laws and cultural differences. Customers travelling to a non-English speaking country should try to pick up a couple of local phrases to help them on their way.

• Have appropriate ID; clients will need to have their driving licence with them to complete the car hire procedures. Drivers usually need to carry their driving licence, insurance and car hire details at all times.

• Enjoy driving; it may seem obvious but if a client does not like driving, this is not the holiday for them.

**Learning Activity**

• Use the information about Fly-drive holidays and any other information available to you to describe and explain the advantages and disadvantages of a fly-drive holiday.

• Identify one type of customer that might select a fly-drive holiday. Justify your choice.
Cruise Holidays

Cruising used to be associated with the rich and famous as well as great ocean liners such as the Queen Mary, the Queen Mary 2, and the Queen Victoria.

Cruise holidays have become increasingly popular in recent years. In 2012, almost two million British passengers took an ocean cruise holiday and cruises continue to account for one in every eight of all overseas package holidays. The number of passengers visiting UK ports during their cruises increased by 11 per cent with 723,000 passengers visiting British ports in 2012 – twice the figure of 2007. The number of UK ports receiving cruise calls also increased to a record 52.

There are several operators providing a range of cruises. Cruises can take several forms:

- River cruises are associated with the major rivers worldwide including the River Danube in Europe and the River Nile in Egypt;
- Round trip cruises mean that passengers embark and disembark at the same port. A number of ships sail from Southampton in England including Royal Caribbean’s Independence of the Seas as well as P&O’s fleet of Aurora, Azura, Oceana, Oriana and Ventura. The ships sail to ports across Europe including the Mediterranean, the Norwegian fjords and cultural capitals such as St Petersburg returning to Southampton at the end of the cruise.
- Many customers are now choosing exotic cruises opting to fly to the point of embarkation. This is known as Fly-cruising and is typical of cruises in the Mediterranean, Caribbean and Far East. In Europe, ships are based out of ports such as Barcelona, Palma and Genoa, all easily accessed by air from the UK. Cruises to the Caribbean tend to be based in Florida, via flights to Miami or Orlando or on the islands themselves, such as Barbados.

Learning Activity

Read the following scenario and answer the questions that follow.

The Kelly family live in England, they would like to take a family holiday during the summer school holidays with their teenage son, daughter aged 9 and the children’s grandparents.

- Using the Internet, find out what options are available to the family.
- What are the advantages for the family of choosing a cruise that sails out of Southampton?
Cruise ships range in size from the Allure of the Seas through to smaller European based ships with the big tour operators such as Thomson. On-board facilities often exceed those to be found in a traditional beach hotel. Most cruise lines provide customers with the opportunity to add a land-based holiday to their cruise so many now opt to cruise the Mediterranean for a week then stay in a hotel in Barcelona or Palma.

Cruising is now regarded as a family activity. Ships that welcome families offer a wide range of services and facilities including:

• A wide range of food is available on-board including children’s menus, fast food, healthy options and special diets. Most cruise ships also offer a range of dining options including fixed dining, anytime dining and self-service options.

• A wide range of activities will be available for all ages including baby minding and clubs and ‘chill out’ areas for teenagers. The activities are usually grouped into age ranges from toddlers up to young adults to ensure that entertainment and activities are tailored to the age group. Typical activities include sports, arts and crafts, children’s entertainers, and the chance to take part in on-board shows and to learn new skills. Most ships have game consoles, DVD libraries and organise activities throughout the day to keep children occupied.

• Safety is a major issue on all cruise ships and the safety of children will be included in the safety briefing which always takes place at the beginning of a cruise. Children are usually issued with wrist bands that show their contact details in case they wander off on-board. All activity clubs are supervised by trained staff.

• Most adult entertainment takes place in the evenings. Many ships run baby-sitting and other services for children so the parents can also enjoy themselves. Many ships also have family style entertainment such as ice shows and Broadway-style theatre productions which are suitable for the whole family.

• Customers travelling as part of a larger family or extended family group can often book adjoining cabins which may have connecting doors. Some ships have larger accommodation suitable for up to four people. Cruise lines often offer free travel to infants less than two years of age when sharing a cabin with parents. Children also get discounts when sharing a cabin with mum and dad, however if a separate cabin is required then prices will be as for adults.

• Generally all food and non-alcoholic drinks are included in the price as well as entertainment and use of the on-board facilities. The only extras are usually alcohol, speciality coffees, trips on shore, the casino and anything purchased from the on-board shops.

Learning Activity

Imagine you are a travel agent. Your client is interested in booking a cruise holiday. They have never cruised before and have some questions before they finally make up their mind:

• What is the best destination to choose?
• How do we choose the right ship/cruise line?
• What length of cruise should we book?
• Should we book ahead or wait for late deals?
• Exactly what is included in the price? What extras can/should we book in advance?
• How do we pay for things on-board?
• How do we know what to pay as tips and gratuities?
• What do we need to pack?

Using the Internet and any other resources available to you, create a ‘Guide to Your First Cruise’ for use with your client.
Tours, guided tours or safari

Tours may be taken in a variety of formats and allow a person to visit and experience different aspects of a destination and its attractions. A visitor may take a tour on their own, take a guided tour or even a virtual tour. Virtual tours allow a person to visit a country or attraction without leaving the comfort of their own home. They may also entice a person to make an actual visit if they have been impressed by the virtual tour.

Guided Tours are led by a tour guide (or tourist guide) who provides help and information and cultural information to people on organised tours. The guided tour can be for an individual client or a group. Guided tours are usually available at places of significant interest such as religious and historical sites (cathedrals and castles) and museums. They are normally led by a guide who holds a recognised tourist guide qualification such as the Blue Badge issued by the Guild of Registered Tourist Guides in the UK. Blue Badge Tourist Guides can be relied upon to be informative, reliable and professional with local and up-to-date knowledge. Their web site claims that they make ‘a good experience great’. Blue Badge Guides may be the only external guides allowed to conduct tours at many major visitor attractions such as Westminster Abbey and the Tower of London.

There are many types of guided tours including walking tours, coach sight-seeing tours, tours of museums and galleries, themed tours or even tours by private car. A guided tour may last a few hours or even days; it may be a small part of a holiday or the holiday itself.

• **Highlight Tours**: for many tourists a highlights tour is one of the first things they do when they arrive in an area or city. Such tours help the visitor to get a feel for the area, to get their bearings and decide which visitor attractions they want to visit. Highlight Tours are typically by bus, often using double-decker buses, and may be half day or full day tours.

• **Walking Tours**: one of the best ways to explore a town or city is on foot. With the help of a guide the visitor can discover things they would not have found on their own. The London Walking Tours company offers a range of walking tours including Jack the Ripper Tours and Haunted London Tours. Such tours are a mix of storytelling and entertainment.

![Image](image_url)
It is important that tourists are clear about the demands of a walking tour which may include uneven ground or steep inclines.

There is often a range of merchandise that customers can use to prepare for or to follow up their walking tour such as books, maps and DVDs.

- **Museums and Galleries**: many of the larger museums and galleries would require several days for a visitor to see all the collections and displays. For those with limited time, a highlights tour will ensure a visitor does not miss anything important and will put their visit in context. Alternatively an in-depth tour of a particular aspect of a collection can usually be arranged with a guide who has a particular speciality.

- **Themed Tours**: for tourists who have a particular interest, a themed tour can ensure that they get to see more of what really interests them. Themed tours cover a diverse range of interest from authors such as Shakespeare to music such as the Beatles, film locations and ghost tours. In London, tours such as the Jack the Ripper Tour, Haunted London and Hidden London are popular.

Guided tours may also be taken using a guide book or an audio tour. Using these types of guided tour a person is able to go at their own pace and dip in and out of the various aspects of the tour. Sightseeing tours on London buses allow the visitor to purchase a ticket which includes headphones which are plugged into an outlet on the bus to provide the guided tour. The visitor can however hop on and hop off any bus offering the tour.

**Safari tours**

The word ‘safari’ in the Swahili language means ‘journey.’ A typical safari trip provides clients with the opportunity to see African wildlife and to experience local culture. Many safaris focus on the Big Five – lions, leopards, elephants, rhinos and buffalo. However, hippos, cheetahs, gorillas and giraffes are also popular with safari guests. In fact, the term ‘Big Five’ is really only a marketing tool. Kenya and Tanzania are popular safari destinations with many tourists choosing to visit the Masai Mara Reserve, Mt. Kenya or the Serengeti. Accommodation will range from tents to luxurious lodges. Safaris can be organised for individuals or groups and are generally led by native guides.

**Learning Activity**

Imagine you are a travel agent. You have several clients thinking about booking a safari holiday.

- What questions would you expect your clients to ask you about safari holidays?
- Design a flyer or leaflet for use with your clients covering what you expect to be the most frequently asked questions.
Case Study

Mr & Mrs Murray want to visit Jordan, they want to see as many of the major tourist attractions in the county as possible. They each hold a valid driving licence but are unsure about driving in Jordan. They decide to seek advice from a travel agent who recommends a private tour based on the following itinerary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Depart London Heathrow with BMI on your flight to Amman. Upon arrival transfer to your hotel in Amman (3 nights).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td>Head to the eastern desert to see the ‘desert castles’ including Azarq which has close links to Lawrence of Arabia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 3</td>
<td>Explore the ancient Roman city of Jerash. Later explore Amman’s citadel, museum, temple and churches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 4</td>
<td>Leave Amman for your journey to Petra. En route stop at Mount Nebo and Madaba. Visit the crusader castle at Karak. Stay overnight in Petra (2 nights).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 5</td>
<td>Tour the fascinating ancient city of Petra.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 6</td>
<td>Explore Wadi Rum, the setting for the film Lawrence of Arabia. Stay overnight in Aqaba.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 7</td>
<td>Travel to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth. Stay overnight at your Dead Sea hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 8</td>
<td>Transfer to Amman for your return flight to London Heathrow.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Learning Activity

This is a private escorted tour. The Murrays will have the services of an English-speaking guide, a driver and an air-conditioned car throughout. All entrance fees for visitor attractions are included in the cost of the holiday.

• What are the advantages and disadvantages of this itinerary for the Murrays?
• The Murrays live in Northern Ireland, what additional factors do they need to take into consideration in relation to this holiday?
• What advice would you give to the following customers who are also considering a visit to Jordan:
  – An elderly couple one of whom has limited mobility; and
  – A young couple with children aged 14 and 8 years old.

Special interest holidays

A special interest holiday is a holiday arranged for people with a particular interest such as food, wine or pilgrimage. This type of holiday allows the customer to combine an interest or pastime with a holiday. Special interest holidays can be taken as an individual, a couple, a family or a group. Typical examples of special interest holidays include:

• food holidays: tasting the specialist foods of a particular country;
• wine holidays: visiting vineyards to observe how the grapes are grown, the wine making process and wine tasting;
• arts and culture holidays are designed to immerse the tourist fully in the elements that make each destination unique. Rather than sitting on the sidelines the visitor is encouraged to embrace as many experiences as possible and chose an array of activities to enable this to happen;
• charity challenge: for example climbing in the Himalayas to raise money for charity; and
• religious pilgrimages, such as visiting the Holy Land to walk where Jesus walked.

There is now a wide range of companies providing special interest holidays worldwide and for all ages.
**Adventure Holidays**
Adventure holidays provide adventure and stimulation to people and can involve any activity including:
- walking with the bears in Slovakia;
- walking in the jungles of Borneo;
- white water canoeing in the American Rocky Mountains;
- scuba diving in the Red Sea; and
- hot air ballooning in New Zealand.

**Learning Activity**
Check out this website for more information on adventure tourism in New Zealand. [www.newzealand.com](http://www.newzealand.com)

**Short break and city break Holidays**
Taking a short break holiday has become increasingly popular recently. Customers might choose a short break as a means of bridging the gap between summer holidays or to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary. There is a huge variety of short breaks ranging from city breaks to theatre breaks. Short breaks may not require the detailed advance planning required for a main holiday, this means that short breaks can be spontaneous, flexible and can take into account last minute or unplanned events such as engagements and sports finals.

The growth of the Internet and low cost airlines has made it easier than ever to book a short break holiday. Most European holiday destinations are accessible in less than 2 hours flying time and booking early usually means that good offers are available on flights.

The value of holidays for our own health and mental wellbeing is now increasingly recognised. Short breaks provide a viable, practical, flexible and low-cost solution to the need to ‘get away from it all’.

**Luxury Holidays**
Luxury holidays involve undertaking a new experience and immersing oneself in a new destination whilst indulging in the very best levels of personal and attentive service, lavish and sumptuous accommodation, exquisite and unrivalled levels of gastronomy.

Luxury holidays include:
- Ultimate luxury, where customers can expect five star plus treatment in an extremely luxurious environment.
- Gourmet inclusive; holidays that treat guests to exclusive meals of a Michelin star quality and perhaps also providing cookery demonstrations and tasting menus.
- Child-free; designed so that couples can have a holiday without the noise that is created by children and where they do not have to worry about their behaviour being inappropriate in front of children.
- Honeymoon; couples can get married in a glamorous setting and the organisation of the wedding is entirely in the hands of the hotel, who will also provide accommodation for the wedding guests.
- Glamping – Recently ‘glamping’ has become popular. This is a combination of ‘glamorous’ and ‘camping’ which allows people to experience the great outdoors without losing out on their ‘creature comforts’. It is now possible to stay in a camping pod or den, a safari tent or a wigwam cabin.
Camping and Caravan Holidays

The first true holiday camp was the Cunningham Camp on the Isle of Man, which opened in 1894. All the campers were men. They stayed in tents and helped with the day-to-day running of the camp. Many similar camps were run in the 1920s and 1930s as the population became obsessed with healthy outdoor living.

During the 1960s caravan and camping holidays started to become popular as an alternative to staying in a traditional bed and breakfast (B&B) or hotel. This type of holiday gave people freedom from the restrictions often imposed on guests staying in boarding and guest houses such as eating at specific times or having to vacate their room during the day. The campers brought their own tents and could make considerable savings on their holiday. However, camping holidays in tents are very weather dependent.

Caravan holidays provided an alternative way to experience the great outdoors. There are two main types of caravan holidays. There are caravan parks with large permanent caravans which are hired by customers by the day/week. There are also sites, often referred to as pitches, for touring caravans pulled by a car. Sometimes a caravan park will provide both static caravans and pitches for touring caravans. Caravan parks generally offer utilities such as water and electricity connections as well as shop and laundry facilities. Larger caravan parks will also provide restaurants, children’s play areas and Wi-Fi.

![Image](image.png)

Fig 4: A typical caravan holiday set up. The family use a large awning and gazebo to double their living space.

Image © Sonia McKee, CCEA

In recent years campervans and motorhomes have become increasingly popular. A motorhome is a self-drive recreational vehicle which provides living accommodation. It typically comprises sleeping accommodation for between 2 and 8 people. Each sleeping place is called a berth. Each berth is either fixed or converts from another part of the interior. A kitchenette area will contain cooking equipment such as an oven, grill, hob, sink and microwave. Motorhomes generally have a bathroom with a toilet, shower and wash hand basin. A dinette area provides a table and seating space. A motorhome will also have a cab area with a driver and passenger seat. These seats often swivel to become part of the living space. A lounge area may also be included consisting of either a u-shaped sofa located in the rear of the motorhome or a side lounge.

Campervans are typically smaller than motorhomes and are constructed differently. Whilst campervans are focused on mobility and low cost, motorhomes have more emphasis on comfort. For example, campervans generally lack built-in toilets and showers, or a divide between the living compartment and the cab of the vehicle.

The Camping and Caravanning Club is one of the oldest clubs in Britain with over 500,000 members.
Case Study: Linwater Caravan Park

Linwater Caravan Park is a touring park for tents, caravans and motorhomes set on open farmland, 7 miles west of Edinburgh. Use the Linwater Caravan Park website www.linwater.co.uk to investigate the services and facilities available to campers.

Learning Activity

List the camping facilities available at Linwater Caravan Park.

Describe two nearby areas where you campers could go walking.

What suggests that the campsite welcomes visitors from outside UK and Ireland?

Staycation

A staycation is a holiday that you spend in your own home or your own country, relaxing and enjoying leisure activities there. Staycations have become popular recently due to a number of factors including:

- Economic recession;
- Currency fluctuations; and
- Safety and security scares, e.g. following terrorist attacks.

The trend towards more people holidaying at home has boosted the domestic holiday statistics for the UK. Local visitor attractions as well as leisure and tourism related businesses often benefit from families opting to stay at home but who still participate in leisure and tourism related activities.

Learning Activity

The Smith family have decided to stay home this year. They have two children both of primary school age. They live in your local area. Both parents have arranged to take annual leave during the first two weeks of August.

Suggest suitable activities and places to visit for the family, include any fees or charges that would apply.

Learning Activity

Define an all-inclusive holiday.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of booking an independent holiday.

Read carefully each of the following holiday descriptions. For each description identify the type of holiday.

- A holiday combining a charter or scheduled flight with car hire.
- A holiday taking in two contrasting or similar destinations.
- A holiday aboard a ship, visiting several destinations.
- A holiday that includes flights, transfers, accommodation, food, entertainment and the services of a resort representative.
- A holiday that involves tourists bringing their own accommodation, staying at one or more destinations.
- A holiday which involves tourists putting together their own itinerary and purchasing their own accommodation and transportation.
- A holiday where tourists learn scuba diving.
Resources
Travel and Tourism, Christine King, Andy Kerr, Malcolm Jeffries (2006) Heinemann
Travel and Tourism, Elise James, Joanne Thirlway, Ursula Woodhouse (2007) – Hodder Arnold

Past papers
May/June 2016 – Q3 (c) & (d)
May/June 2015 – Q3
Jan 2014 – Q1