

SPEAKING BANK

On site

Guiding a tour

Being a tour guide is an important job because the guide is often a traveller's first impression of a foreign country and they may be the only person to tell tourists about the culture and sites in a city or town. Even if the guide is responsible only for taking a tourist from the airport to his or her hotel, it is their job to make the short trip interesting, informative, and safe.

KEY POINTS

- To be effective as a tourist guide you therefore need to:
- think about what you will want to show and highlight if it is a new tour;
 - research the places you are going to visit carefully;
 - adapt to the age group and interests where possible;
 - speak clearly and slowly;
 - be willing to answer any questions from the group.

KEY LANGUAGE

- *There are lots of activities that you / the whole family will enjoy.*
- *The architecture of this building is typical of the Renaissance / Medieval period.*
- *We are going to visit the art gallery where local / world famous painters exhibit their art.*
- *The water park / aquarium is our city's most recent attraction.*
- *No one has lived in this castle since ...*
- *The church used to be the central meeting place in this town.*
- *En route to the hotel I will point out the beach / golf course / the cathedral...*
- *If you want to see a film while you're here, the entertainment district is just to your left.*
- *With the exception of ... Street, it is generally safe to walk around here at night.*
- *Visitors often say that the highlight of their trip is the Covent Garden/ Modern art museum / Scala / Coliseum.*
- *According to an old legend, ...*
- *We will meet in the lobby at ...*
- *I'll give everybody a map so you can follow the tour as we go.*
- *Every ... there is a local farmer's market on ... Street.*
- *The museum charges a small fee for adults, but students and children are free.*
- *Except for the roof, this stately home has been left in its original state.*
- *You may not take photographs here, but you can purchase a postcard in the gift shop.*
- *We will make our way to the gift shop, which has many great souvenirs, such as postcards and trinkets.*
- *You will see there are many more good places to eat when we head to the restaurant district.*
- *If you wish to buy local products and souvenirs we'll be visiting the shopping district this afternoon.*
- *This is the site of a very famous battle.*
- *I hope you enjoy the ... and its surroundings; please come up and ask any questions you may have*

PRACTICE

1. Complete the tour of Covent Garden with the words given.

whole • walk • dates • pedestrianised • highlight • reputation • en route • hot spot • put up • way • stalls • crafts • accessories • except

Today we'll be visiting the Covent Garden area of London and there are lots of places that the (1) family will enjoy, indeed visitors often say that Covent Garden is the (2) of their stay (3) to the area I will provide you with some brief history. Well, in the 1600s, this had the (4) of being London's best known fruit and vegetable market but by the end of that century, this part of London went into decline. All the residents moved out and Covent Garden was filled with taverns, coffee-houses, and theatres.

The area became known as a (5) for thieves and **pickpockets!**

In the early 1800s Parliament decided to restore Covent Garden and the huge neo-classical building that you can see directly in front of you was (6) in an effort to organise the market. (7) for the relatively new roof, it is virtually unchanged in the last 200 years. Today it is referred to as the 'piazza' and it still holds market (8) as well as a number of shops, restaurants and cafes. We won't be stopping here to eat but you'll find there are many more good places to eat when we head to the restaurant district later on.

So here we are in the centre of Covent Garden. It used to be full of cars but is now entirely (9) and is covered in **cobblestones**. As you can see, there are plenty of magicians, jugglers, musicians and living 'statues' around

the centre piazza! Today's relatively quiet, sometimes these artists can attract huge crowds.

The biggest shows take place in front of the church of St. Pauls, on your right. Not to be confused with the Cathedral of the same name, this (10) back to 1633 and is known as the actor's church because of a long association with the theatre community.

On your left, you can see the two markets that are still operating today – The Apple Market selling hand-made (11) and antiques, and the Jubilee & East Colonnade Market which sells a huge variety of, clothing and (12)

[Later]

Well, I hoped you enjoyed the Piazza and all the shops and entertainers. We are now making our (13) to an area known as Seven Dials. This is a charming small junction where seven roads meet at a tiny roundabout with a circular pillar that has six **sundials**. Why not seven you ask? Because the pillar itself acts as the seventh! The roads that meet here are nice for a (14) around and then we'll go and sit or stand on the pillar itself.

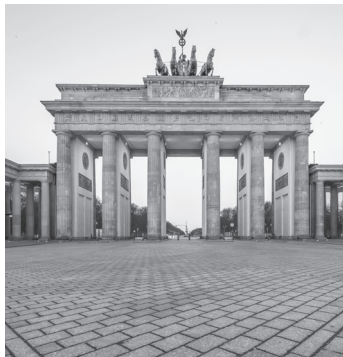
pickpocket: borseggiatore
cobblestone: acciottolato
juggler: giocoliere
sundial: meridian

2. Use Internet resources to prepare a brief guided tour of Berlin to based on the following photos. Provide a brief commentary for each place and some history.

Television Tower



Brandenburg Gate



Reichstag



Berlin Cathedral



3. Create your own guided tour of your favourite city. Add some photos where possible.