

PREPARE FOR IELTS. VACATIONS. TRANSCRIPT

Describe a place you visited on vacation

You should say:

Where it is

When you went there

What you did there

And explain why you went there

One country I've been to - which made a huge impression on me - is Switzerland. I went there with a bunch of classmates from uni, just after we had graduated. We wanted to wind down after a gruelling year of study. We went backpacking, as we were all practically penniless, and we stayed in hostels and got around using public transport. We did try hitchhiking, but without much success.

I was absolutely staggered by the cleanliness of the accommodation. The rooms were spotless. You could literally have eaten your lunch off the floors. It was also shocking how punctual and reliable buses were.

We spent most of the fortnight we were there climbing, hiking and visiting beauty spots. They have stunning snow-capped mountains, spectacular valleys, quaint little villages, and it's all so picturesque. We did a bit of sightseeing in the cities, but I must admit we skipped the museums, art galleries and historical monuments. The thing which left a lasting impression was the food: gorgeous cheese and scrumptious chocolate. It makes my mouth water just thinking about it.

As I mentioned, we went there to chill out, but also to visit a Swiss student who'd been on our course. He promised us the holiday of a lifetime, and we certainly weren't disappointed.

VOCABULARY

to wind down/to chill out = to relax; to reduce your stress or anxiety

gruelling = very tiring and difficult, needing a lot of effort, energy and determination

backpacking = to travel with the clothes/things you need in a big bag which you carry on your back

practically penniless = being poor; having almost no money

absolutely staggered - to be extremely surprised to be spotless = to be incredibly clean (usually used to refer to a room/house)

hiking = to walk in the countryside, often in a physically demanding way

I must admit = a phrase to show that you didn't do the normal, expected thing

If something 'leaves a lasting impression on you', you remember it very well because it impressed or affected you a lot

If food 'makes your mouth water', it makes you want to eat it

As I mentioned (before/earlier) = a phrase to show you need to repeat something which you already said