



3B



TOURISM IN ANTARCTICA

SHORT ANSWERS

- 1 SKIM the text to get the general idea.
- 2 Read the questions and find key words.
- 3 SCAN the text for information that might give you the answer. All the information in the text will be in the same order as the questions.

NB. The key words you identify in the questions may not be the same words that appear in the text, so you should also look for synonyms.



suggested time
9 minutes

TASK

Read the text on "Tourism in Antarctica" on the pages opposite.

Answer questions 1 – 6 choosing NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage for each answer.

REMEMBER

When you write your answer, check the word limit in the task. For this reason, it's also a good idea to write numbers as figures rather than words.

eg. 210 (= one word) NOT *two hundred and ten* (= four words)

Hyphenated words count as one word.

Example When were the first commercial passenger thought to have visited Antarctica?

1920s _____

1) How many scenic flights did Air New Zealand organise in 1978?

2) What caused a passenger plane to crash into Mount Erebus?

3) What is the maximum number of passengers who can leave a ship?

4) Which sport has become popular lately?

5) In which month does the summer tour season begin?

6) Which country sends an official on all ships visiting Antarctica?

Tourism in Antarctica

1 Tourism in Antarctica started during the 1920s, when a Falkland Islands mail ship, the *SS Fleurus*, made annual trips to the South Shetland Islands and South Orkney Islands to serve whaling and sealing stations there. It carried a small number of commercial passengers, and marketed round-trip 'tourist tickets'; these were probably the first commercial tourists to
5 sail to Antarctica. However, since then, only a few tourists been lucky enough or brave enough, to set foot on the frozen continent.

Occasional scenic overflights of Antarctica started from from Chile in 1958 but even larger numbers were organised from Australia and New Zealand, with airlines from both countries commencing flights in February 1977. The majority of the flights were simple return trips,
10 and in no cases did they landed in Antarctica. Qantas operated its first Antarctic charter flight on 13th February and by 1979, twenty-seven flights had carried more than 7,000 passengers. Similarly, Air New Zealand's first scenic flight took place two days later and was followed by five more that year, then four each in 1978 and 1979. Both Airlines cancelled all flights to Antactica however, when a route-planning error lead to a passanger aircraft
15 crashing into Mount Erebus on 28 November 1979, with the loss of all 257 lives aboard.

Despite being seemingly more hazardous, sea travel has proved a great deal more reliable. Private yachts started visiting the Southern Ocean in the 1960s, with some visitors even circumnavigating the whole continent. Modern expedition cruising was pioneered by Lars-Eric Lindblad who, in 1969, launched the *MS Lindblad Explorer*, a purpose-built liner. As of
20 the 21st Century, there are now dozens of yachts offering cruises to the Antarctic Peninsula every year from Ushuaia in Tierra del Fuego and Stanley in the Falkland Islands, but only smaller vessels are allowed to bring their crew ashore. Occasionally, very large cruise vessels have visited Antarctica carrying over 950 people. These vessels are usually cruise based and offer no landings. However, in 2009, new regulations were enforced that stopped
25 large vessels from operating in Antarctic waters due to their heavier fuel oils. Ships can only land 100 people at a time and those that carry over 500 people are not allowed to land anyone.

For those who do venture ashore, land activities include camping, hiking and cross country skiing. Tourism companies are required by the Antarctic Treaty to have a permit to visit
30 Antarctica. Many sea cruises by cruise ships include a landing by RIB (Zodiac) or helicopter. Some land visits may include skiing or even a visit to the South Pole. These activities have become especially popular in recent times, as suggested by the increased number of tourists that come to visit Antarctica. Sightseeing flights by airliners from Australia and New Zealand, were resumed in the 1990s and continue to this day. The summer tour season lasts
35 from November to March. Most of the estimated 14,762 visitors to Antarctica from 1999–2000 were on sea cruises. During the 2009 to 2010 tourist season, over 37,000 people visited Antarctica.

Tourist operators in Antarctica have organised an association (the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators) to promote safety and environmental responsibility amongst
40 cruise operators. The members of this association carry the majority of tourists to Antarctica.

45

Individual countries have also introduced measures to minimise effects of tourists. Chile requires all captains of ships that go to Antarctica to attend a month-long school in Antarctic navigation. New Zealand sends a government inspector on all ships to observe how well the provisions of the treaty and protocol are adhered to. In 2008, the South Korean government passed a law prohibiting Korean passport-holders from visiting Antarctica.

50

Even with reduced impact per visitor, the increasing number of visitors could still have a considerable effect on the environment. Monitoring of impacts at specific sites can be used to determine whether tourists should be allowed to continue to visit a particular area. Although visits are usually short, they are concentrated into a small number of landing sites and have the potential to destroy parts of a unique environment and to jeopardize scientific research.