



وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي

جامعة تكريت

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المرحلة: الثالثة

المادة: الاستماع والتحدث

عنوان المحاضرة: Talking about places of interest

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## Talking about places of interest: What a great View!

### 1. Introduction

When you visit a different country or city on a business trip or on holiday, what is the best way to know what you should and shouldn't do when staying there? Asking people who know or live in the place.

So, it is important to know the English vocabulary and phrases that are used for both asking people about what to do and see in a city/country (e.g. what museums to visit, what restaurants to eat in etc...) and what people will say when making recommendations to you. And this is what you will learn in this exercise.

In this summarized account, one will learn and remember English vocabulary that is used when both asking about things to do in a city or

country and what people will say when giving recommendations and advice about what (and what not) to do. One will also learn some phrases that are used to give an opinion about something.

These vocabulary and phrases can also be used when recommending people what to do when visiting one's city or a place he/she knows very well.

## **2. Showing Places of Interest - English for Tour Guides**

This account includes the vocabulary needed by people working as tour guides in an English-speaking context.

During a tour, silence might be unsettling. Even if you can't talk the entire time, you should strive to learn as much as you can in English about the locations where you are conducting tours in order to keep the tourists engaged. You can always point out something, like a landmark, a particular kind of tree or flower, if you ever find yourself short on things to say. Here are a few methods you can use to draw attention to interesting locations during the tour.

## **3. Tour Guide**

The following starters can be used in a conversation during a tour:

- In front of you is...
- On your right/left you will see...
- Up ahead...
- On your left you will see...
- As we turn the corner here, you will see...
- In the distance...
- If you look up you will notice...

- Off to the north...
- Look to the east...
- To your west...
- In a few minutes we'll be passing...
- We are now coming up to...
- As you will see...
- You may have noticed...
- Take a good look at...
- I'd like to point out...
- Keep your eyes open for...

#### **4. Tourist Questions**

Questions in a tourist conversation can vary to include:

- Is that the...you were talking about?
- Are we going to pass the...?
- Are we going to see any...?
- Is it on the right or the left?
- I don't see it. Can you point it out again?
- Did I miss it?
- Will we see it on the way back?

#### **5. Sample Conversation**

**Guide:** It's about a three minute ride up to the top of the mountain. As we pass the two towers the gondolla may sway a little.

**Man:** This thing is safe, right?

**Guide:** Yes, you don't have anything to worry about. We do about 100 trips a day up the mountain, and these tours have been going on for over ten years without any accidents. Keep your eyes open for wildlife as we ascend. It isn't uncommon to see deer and even bears.

**Woman:** What's that mountain to the left called?

**Guide:** That's Mount Karen. And to the right of that with the three small points is Mount Brown. Now, if you look up straight ahead, you should be able to see a large eagle's nest. Does everyone see it there?

**Man:** Are there any baby birds?

**Guide:** That's a good question. I haven't seen any yet, but we usually see them around this time of year.

**Woman:** What's that lake down there, to the right of the green meadow?

**Guide:** I'm glad you asked. That's John Lake. It's actually a man made pond that was built as part of a conservation effort over twenty years ago. During the 70's there was a lot of clearcutting of forests in the area, and much of the wildlife was lost. Since John Lake was built, ducks, swans, and geese have returned to the area.

**Man:** Is this the highest mountain in this region?

**Guide:** No, actually, Mount Heather, which you we will be able to see in just a minute or so has the highest peak. But, this is the highest mountain for recreational purposes like skiing and guided tours.

**Woman:** Can you ski throughout the year?

**Guide:** No, it warms up enough to actually suntan up there in the summer. Oh, look everyone. There are two deer feeding in the clearing right below us.

**Man:** Thanks, that should be a great photo. So... what is there to do besides ski at the top of the hill at this time of year?

**Guide:** Oh, there's plenty to do. We have horseback riding, snowmobile tours, and a petting zoo for children. If you look to your left you'll see the snowmobile trail going through the mountain.

*For more information you can see:*

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