

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Present a written argument or case to an educated non-specialist audience on the following topic:

Some people who want to travel overseas elect to go on group tours. This can provide them with a sense of security and ease in a foreign country where they are unfamiliar with the language and customs, but it can also restrict them from experiencing a lot of things about the country they have come to see.

To what extent is this style of travel effective?

Are there better ways to travel overseas and experience a foreign country and culture?

You should write at least 250 words.

You should use your own ideas, knowledge and experience to support your arguments with examples and relevant evidence.

The question posits the theory that some, if not many people, prefer to travel in groups. Being unfamiliar with their destination, can be an intimidating experience which could put a large number of prospective travellers off, however, with the added security and insurance of coordinated, accompanied travel they make a decision they may not have made otherwise.

This style of accompanied travel has opened up many previously unheard of destinations, to name a few, Peru in South America, and Vietnam in South East Asia. Twenty years ago it would have been rare for average income individuals to take such holidays, mainly because of the lack of local knowledge, and difficulty understanding the language and customs, a real problem when travelling alone.

The advantages of group tours are that you can sit back and relax with reasonable confidence that all the necessary details will be ironed out for them; problems with visas, currency, hotels etc., would in theory be someone else's responsibility, leaving them to enjoy hassle free days and nights, a home away from home!

There are disadvantages to this style of travel, firstly, being accompanied and itinerated, leaves you open to a timetable mentality, this may seem regimented, and can include things you don't really want to do,

taking up your valuable holiday time. Secondly, The authentic nature of a country or culture cannot truly be experienced from behind a group schedule, you really need to go out and explore for yourselves, try a few phrases with local people, eat the food, and shop in the markets, you should then mix that with you group tour for an all round experience.

The most important thing to remember is that this is your holiday, and what ever makes you happy is the priority, that then, is why there are so many brochures offering all in holidays to today's busy consumer, basically, because we have little time or inclination to work these plans out for ourselves, a bit like buying the finest ethnic foods from Tesco, you simply haven't the time to create it yourself!

350 words.