

Listen to a travel agent explaining accommodation possibilities to a man and woman.

Optional exercise Listen to the conversation and decide if the statements are True or False.

1. The woman would prefer a package tour.
 2. They are only interested in self-catering accommodation.
 3. The travel agent thinks that a self-catering cottage would not be suitable.
 4. The woman doesn't want to sleep in a dormitory.
 5. The travel agent thinks that hiring a caravan is a bad idea. (Answers below)
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Travel agent: Good afternoon. How can I help you?

Man: We're interested in a holiday in Wales. We'd like to travel around and see a lot of the countryside. We'd also like to do quite a bit of walking.

Woman: We don't want a package tour.

Travel agent: That's fine. I can give you information on the types of places you can stay, and help you book rooms in advance.

Woman: That would be perfect.

Travel agent: Are you wanting self-catering accommodation or accommodation with meals provided?

Man: A mixture of the two, I think. The main thing is that we want to get away from towns and cities.

Travel agent: Well, you'll find that Wales can offer a variety of serviced accommodation away from the crowds. There are country hotels, which are usually quiet and in extensive grounds.

Man: I imagine they would be expensive.

Travel agent: Yes, they can be. A cheaper option in a rural location would be farm accommodation. This is similar to a guest house or B&B, but on a working farm. You would get breakfast, and possibly an evening meal provided.

Woman: What options are there if we want to go self-catering?

Travel agent: There are lots of country cottages, restored farmhouses, even castles, available on a self-catering basis. You would probably find, though, that you have to book for a week at a time. So they're probably not suitable if you want to tour around Wales.

Man: No. What about hostels?

Woman: I'm not sure I'd want to sleep in a dormitory.

Travel agent: Many hostels nowadays have private rooms as well as dormitories. Or you could try camping. There are plenty of campsites in Wales.

Man: Maybe we could hire a caravan.

Travel agent: Yes, most campsites allow both tents and touring caravans. That could be an ideal way to see the countryside.

Man: We'd love to spend a few days in the mountains. Are there places to stay there?

Travel agent: Yes, there are bunkhouses, which are like hostels but simpler. And in the really remote areas there are camping barns. These are very basic, and just provide a place to sleep. You need to take everything with you – sleeping bag, food, even a torch.

Woman: How do we find out where all these places are?

Travel agent: I'll get you some brochures. And you can get a lot of information from the Welsh Tourist Board's website.

Man: Thanks very much. We'll have to go away and think about exactly we want to do.

Answers: 1 F, 2 F, 3 T, 4 T, 5 F

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