



# THE TRIP OF MY DREAMS?

It had always been on my bucket list. A country of such amazing contrasts, the Atacama Desert at one end of the country, and the edge of Antarctica at the other. Old colonial towns, and the modern skyscrapers of Santiago. Where am I talking about? Chile of course!

I was going with my new best friend, Daisy. We hadn't known each other that long, but we'd really hit it off right from the start. I'm quite reserved, whereas she is a real live wire, but we seemed to complement each other well. And when I mentioned my fascination with Chile, she became the driving force in actually making my dream happen.

Before I knew it, we were arriving in Santiago. What an incredible city! I loved spending the days walking around the different neighbourhoods, trying some typical dishes such as caldillo de congrio (eel soup – don't knock it 'til you've tried it) and soaking up the atmosphere. But, after a few days, things started to go downhill. Daisy was bored. She wanted to go skiing in the Valle Nevado. The problem was, not only had I never been skiing, but that it was also likely to completely blow my budget. When I explained this to her, she sulked. I wasn't sure what to do. I couldn't really afford the trip, but, then again, I didn't want to fall out with her, especially so early on in our holiday. So, we went.

Daisy loved it and being the social butterfly she is, she soon made a whole load of new friends. Being in the mountains was great, but I can't say that I really clicked

with the new crowd. And I was also itching to get on with our tour and visit the Atacama desert. Eventually, I managed to drag her away, and we set off north.

Wow. What a landscape! We visited Moon Valley and Mars Valley, and it really did feel as if we were on another planet. But it wasn't long before another problem reared its head. I had noticed that Daisy kept taking photos of the local people. Some of them did look pretty incredible, wearing bright colours and big wide hats, but it never seemed to occur to her to ask them for permission first. It drove me up the wall! And then, to make matters even worse, I saw that she was posting them online with stupid comments laughing at them. I wanted to say something to her, but our friendship was already getting pretty frayed around the edges so I just bit my tongue.

Then something happened which pushed me over the edge. We had travelled back down to Valparaiso, which is a really beautiful old city just north of Santiago, on the Pacific coast. It's gorgeous, but there's also quite a lot of poverty. To my surprise, Daisy announced that she had booked us onto a 'slums tour', visiting the poorest parts of the city to take photos. I was outraged, but she just couldn't grasp why I found it problematic.

After this, the trip went from bad to worse. By the end, I couldn't wait to get home. Needless to say, we haven't seen much of each other since we returned.



- 1 In pairs, look at the photos and discuss the questions.**
  - 1 Which country do you think all the photos were taken in?
  - 2 Does it look like somewhere you would like to go? Say why.
  - 3 Who would you like to go with? What makes a good travelling companion?

- 2 Read the blog post about Amy's trip to the country in the photos and answer the questions.**
  - 1 Which country did she visit?
  - 2 What did she do there?
  - 3 Did Amy choose her travelling companion well? Say why.
  - 4 What dilemmas did travelling with Daisy cause Amy? Do you think Amy always made the right decisions? Say why.
- 3 1.14 Listen to Jane Boden, an ethics specialist, talking about ethical travel dilemmas. Which two issues does she mention?**
- 4 REFLECT | Society** Some cities are becoming very overcrowded with tourists. Do you think tourist numbers should be limited, or that accommodation should be restricted? Say why.
- 5 1.14** Complete the advice in the Life Skills box with 1-3 words in each gap. Then listen again and check.

### LIFE SKILLS | How to make a good decision

- 1 Gather relevant information – do \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Make a list of possible options, and consider the pros and cons and \_\_\_\_\_ of each.
- 3 Consider how these options relate to your \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Get some different \_\_\_\_\_ – ask others for their views or experience.
- 5 Make the decision and later consider what \_\_\_\_\_ from this experience.

- 6 In pairs, talk about some decisions you made connected with a trip, e.g. where to go, who to travel with, or perhaps a more complicated ethical decision. How did you make that decision?**
- 7 Do the task below.**

### LIFE SKILLS | Project

- Work in pairs or small groups.
- Choose one of the ethical travel dilemmas:
    - 1 You are visiting South Africa and are given the opportunity to go diving (in a cage) and come face to face with the great white shark. Would you go?
    - 2 You are visiting a country with a great deal of poverty; the local children ask you for sweets. Should you give them?
    - 3 You are mountain trekking in a poor country. Your equipment is extremely heavy. Should you use porters who suffer appalling working conditions to carry your luggage?
  - Using the tips in the Life Skills box, analyse the dilemma and come to a conclusion.
  - Join up with a pair who chose a different dilemma and explain the decision-making process you went through, as well as what you finally decided.