

Prepare for {IELTS}

Describe something special that you bought at a tourist attraction

You should say:

- What it was
- When/where you bought it
- What it was like
- And explain why you think it was special

To be perfectly honest, I don't usually buy souvenirs when I visit tourist attractions, as they tend to be cheap and nasty and I feel that they are a waste of money. There was one time though when I splashed out on a memento and that was when I was visiting London so I am going to talk about that.

One of the things on my bucket list was to visit Buckingham Palace in London. I'm not a big fan of the monarchy/royal family, but it is a stunningly beautiful building and I am fascinated by architecture so during a trip to London last year, I made a point of visiting it. It is only open to the public for a few days in August and I was lucky enough to be in London at that time. Because of the limited opening times, it was essential to pre-book so I did this a few months in advance.

During the visit, **we were given** a tour of **the state rooms**, which **are used** when the Queen is **entertaining guests**. Obviously, you can't go into her **private quarters**, but it is still **fascinating** and the rooms are **breath-taking**. We had **a guide** showing us around and she told us some **historical facts** about the building and **interesting info** such as there are 775 rooms inside the palace.

After the tour, we were **famished** so went to the café and had **a traditional English scone with jam and cream**. I was **disappointed** that **the tea was served** in a paper cup because I thought that the English **take their tea drinking seriously** and it does not taste as good from a paper cup. **Shortly after**, as **I was browsing** in **the gift shop**, **I spotted a tea cup** and I decided to buy it to remind me of my visit. It is **bone China** and a beautiful **pale pink** colour. I use it every morning for my tea and it is special because it reminds me of my visit to that very special house.

PART 3

Why do people like to take cameras when travelling?

In the past, I think they took them simply **to record their visit** and for something to look at when they got home.

Nowadays though, many just want photos that are **instaworthy**.

Because of the rise in social media usage, virtually everyone is posting their lives online and the photos are used **to show off***. It is almost a competition to see who has the most instaworthy photos.



to show off* = behave in a way that is intended to attract attention or admiration, and that other people often find annoying: *She only bought that sports car to show off and prove she could afford one. He's always showing off to his classmates.*

Prepare for {IELTS}