

Travels with Nick and Ben: Yosemite National Park

Action video note

Instruct Ss to make their own travel video.

Write the script

- **Preview the activity:** Tell Ss they will work in pairs to create their own travel videos. Explain that the target language includes comparatives, superlatives, geographical features (such as waterfalls and mountains), and human-made structures (such as buildings or bridges). Point out that even though Ben and Nick actually went to Yosemite, Ss can make a video about a place they haven't been to; they just may need to do some research on it. Alternatively, if there are any local or national places Ss would like to report on, encourage them to do so. Brainstorm ideas with the class.
- **Write the script:** Put Ss into pairs. Go over the sample script below with the class. Then have pairs list three to five geographical features or places that they want to talk about in their video. If necessary, have Ss research their locations. Tell Ss that they can use a combination of factual information and opinion to talk about them. Remind Ss to use the target language.

Sample places

Ayers Rock is in central Australia. Its Aboriginal name is Uluru. It is one of the most famous landmarks in Australia. It is one of the top tourist destinations, too. I think it's one of the most beautiful places in Australia because it looks different at different times of day.

The Sydney Opera House is in Sydney, Australia. It was built in 1973. I think it is one of the most recognizable buildings in the world and one of the most impressive! It is also one of the busiest arts centers in the world.

- **Option:** If Ss are doing a video about local spots, or if it is difficult to do research, remind them that they can offer opinions on places instead of facts. Point out that they can express opposing views about which places are the most beautiful, the most impressive, and so forth.
- **Check the script:** Have pairs rehearse their scripts. Go around the room and give help as needed.

Make the video

- **Plan the video:** Have pairs plan where and how they will make their videos. Explain that Ss can talk to the camera, show photos, or some combination of both.
- **Make the video:** Have Ss make their videos.
- **Option:** If Ss enjoy working with video, they can edit their videos and add any music or graphics they like.

Share the video

- Ss share their videos with the class.
- **Option:** Have a group or class discussion about the videos.
- **Optional preview activity:** If you have a chance to preview the videos, make a list of the places mentioned on the board. Have Ss write superlatives next to each place. Then show the videos. Have a class discussion after viewing in which Ss compare their own opinions to those in the videos.