

# 4 TIME FOR A HOLIDAY!



the Sphinx

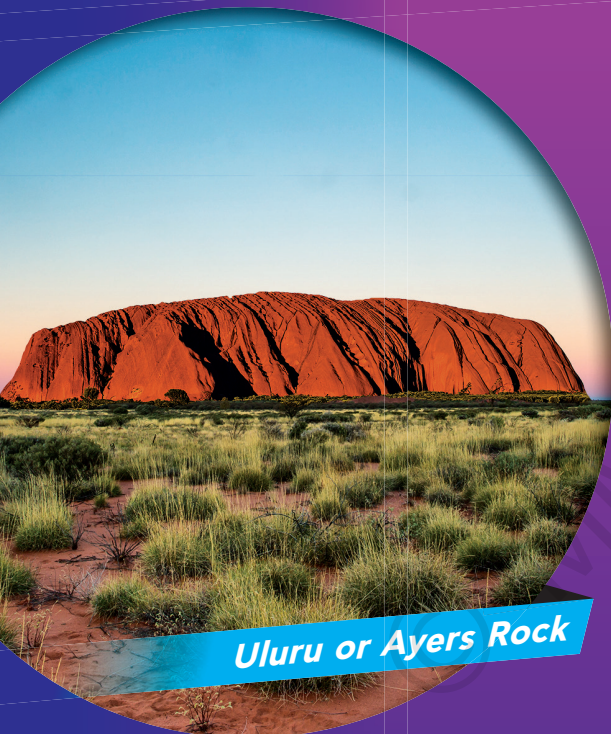
## Discuss:

- Look at the pictures. Where are these famous landmarks?
- Have you ever visited any of them? Would you like to?
- What is important to you when you travel? Why?

local people    culture  
sights    accommodation  
transport    food



Angel Falls



Uluru or Ayers Rock



Terracotta Warriors



the Colosseum



Stonehenge

## In this module you will...

- talk about holiday and travelling experiences
- learn to refer to the future using appropriate tenses
- learn to express hypotheses about what is likely or unlikely to happen in the future
- learn to make a leaflet about a place of interest
- learn to express result, concession and purpose using appropriate clauses
- learn to use linking words/phrases expressing contrast, giving examples and summing up
- learn to write an essay presenting advantages and disadvantages



## A Discuss.

- If it were possible, would you like to travel into space? Why? / Why not?

## B Read the questions 1-3 and the responses a-c. Then match them.



# Q&A ALL ABOUT SPACE TOURISM

**1** It seems we hear a lot about space tourism and how, in the near future, everyone will be taking holidays among the stars. Has anyone tried it yet?

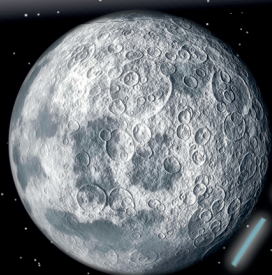
*Joanna, Yorkshire*

**2** My brother keeps talking about how suborbital space flights are the future of tourism. If I managed to get a seat on one, what would the experience be like?

*Terry, London*

**3** I read that astronauts have to be incredibly fit, highly trained and very intelligent. If this is what someone needs to go into space, how could **ordinary** people do it?

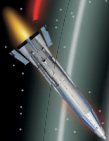
*Frank, Cambridge*



boundary of space (100 km)

orbital

suborbital



**a** The truth is, it's the cost rather than anything else that will stop most people from going into space. A short suborbital trip – in which travellers are taken to the beginning of space, just outside the earth's atmosphere – could cost around \$200,000, but such trips aren't available for tourists yet. Orbital trips – in which passengers can travel on a spacecraft which orbits around the earth – are already possible, but while they are half the price they were in the early days, they're still much too expensive for most people. Hopefully, space flight is going to become cheaper. After all, as technology gets older, prices drop. Of course, even if you can afford the cost of a space flight, you still have to go through the necessary training and health checks.

**b** A while ago, actually. The first space holiday was back in 2001. American tourist Dennis Tito joined two astronauts, travelled into space on a spacecraft and spent six days as a visitor on the International Space Station, which orbited the earth. A lot of people **objected** because they didn't think it was safe, and Tito had to work hard to persuade the unwilling space agencies that he was **capable** of handling the experience. He was in his sixties at the time, but he managed to get through a tough eight-month training period before he was allowed to fly – and he had to hand over \$20 million to pay for his seat.

**c** Keep in mind that while a stay on a space station orbiting earth is already possible, several companies are still working towards offering suborbital space flights for tourists. A short time from now, it's possible that they will have achieved it. Imagine this: a handful of passengers are sitting in comfortable seats inside a 'spaceplane'. Their plane is **attached** to a larger plane, which carries it up into the atmosphere, but as it approaches just over 10,000 metres, the smaller plane will **head** up into space alone. At 100 km above the earth, where space begins, passengers will remove their seat belts, **float** around in zero gravity and enjoy the view of earth through the plane's large windows before departing. We're not quite there yet but, once it happens, that could be just the beginning of even greater things to come.