

Most visited places on Google Maps



Colosseum is a twenty century-old amphitheatre in the centre of Rome, Italy. At first it was used for entertainment: gladiator fights, animal hunts, and theatrical performances. Later, people lived there, used the stone for other buildings, opened workshops, and prayed. Today, it is the most popular tourist attraction in the world, with 7 to 8 million visitors every year.



Everest base camps are two places from which mountain climbers begin their ascent to the highest places on Earth. North base camp is in Tibet and has a road by which you can reach it. South base camp is in Nepal, and Sherpas (people from the Himalayas) have to bring supplies on yaks. People started to climb Mt Everest in 1920s, but today people mostly use Google Maps to see these camps.



The Grand Canyon of the Colorado River is in Arizona, the USA. The river needed 5 to 6 million years to cut such a large canyon: it is 446 km long, up to 29 km wide and over 1.8 km deep. Native Americans lived here in the caves, and walked to see it on pilgrimages. The first Europeans were here in the 16th century. It is one of the most visited natural attractions, with 5 million tourists every year.



Scott's hut is another place which is difficult to see in person. It is the place from which Robert S. Scott started his expedition to the South Pole in 1911. It is on Ross Island in Antarctica. It was buried in snow and ice for 40 years, but because of the cold most things inside look just like a hundred years ago. It has been opened for visits since 1970s.

Questions and tasks:

- 1 Which places do people visit more in person, and which do they search for on Google Maps?
- 2 Which places are natural attractions, and which are man-made?
- 3 What was each place used for in the past? What is it today?
- 4 Order the places according to how old they are.
- 5 Discuss which of these destinations you would like or would not like to visit.
- 6 Use Street View in Google Maps to see these places yourself.