

# What makes a good travel audio guide?

*Despina Constantinidou, Alexandra Vanichkina,  
Ines Bieler, e-lang citizen team*

## Teacher Sheet

### Task

Your students will be given the following task.

You are going to reflect on what makes a good travel audio guide.

In order to do so, you are going to listen to various travel audio guides (on different platforms and in different languages, if you wish), and then rank those audio guides according to what you consider to be essential for this genre. Then, reflect on the criteria you used to reach that ranking, and make a list of essential qualities and requirements for travel audio guides.

### Websites

You can find below a non-exhaustive list of sites providing travel guides:

- <https://www.izi.travel/en> (Chinese, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Swedish);
- [www.cityzeum.com](http://www.cityzeum.com) (French);
- <https://www.justahead.com/> (English);
- <https://geotourist.com/discover> (English);
- <https://travelstorys.com/tours/> (English and Spanish);
- <https://guidemate.com/> (English and German);

(Note: one can also compare it with other genres, such as TV documentaries or travel guides in written form.)

## CEFR level - For A2 level and above

### Objectives

#### Digital citizenship and literacy

	Dimensions covered in task	(Potential) specific objectives
Digital citizenship	Informed	Become aware of what should and should not be included in a travel audio guide.
Technological literacy		Learn to use all the elements included in an audio guide (e.g.: audio, maps, pins).
Meaning-making literacy	Information literacy	Assess the quality and usefulness of the information on travel audio guides.
	Knowledge of how information is generated and disseminated	Understand how high-quality travel audio guides are created and their essential features.

#### Main language activity

- Oral/written reception: Listening to and reading existing travel audio guides.
- Written production: Producing a written list of essential qualities and requirements for travel audio guides.

#### Plurilingual/intercultural aspects

- While assessing and ranking the chosen travel audio guides, learners could consider the cultural context(s) of the destination or the audience they address and think about the impact this may have on the audio guide.
- It would be interesting to compare the audio guides for the same place in several languages.

#### Possible steps

- Choose a number of travel audio guides to be assessed, preferably from different websites (and in different languages).
- Listen to the selected travel audio guides and take notes regarding their features, merits and weaknesses.

- Review the notes, taking into account the culture-specific characteristics of the website and the target audience.
- Rank the chosen travel audio guides.
- Review the assessment notes and ranking, and reflect upon the criteria employed.
- Share this information with the group and discuss the findings.
- Produce a written list of essential qualities, features and requirements for travel audio guides (including media elements, such as photos, type of audio provided, maps...).

# What makes a good travel audio guide?

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## Student Sheet

### Task

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In order to do so, you are going to listen to various travel audio guides (on different platforms and in different languages if you wish), and then rank those audio guides according to what you consider to be essential for this genre. Then, reflect on the criteria you used to reach that ranking, and make a list of essential qualities and requirements for travel audio guides.

### Websites

You can find below a non-exhaustive list of sites provided travel guides:

- <https://www.izi.travel/en> (Chinese, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Swedish);
- <https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/audio/audio-tours> (English);
- <https://www.justahead.com/> (English);
- <https://geotourist.com/discover> (English);
- <https://travelstorys.com/tours/> (English and Spanish);
- <https://audiotourguide.gr/> (English - must download an app).

### CEFR level - For A2 level and above

## Objectives

### Digital citizenship and literacy

While completing this task, you can:

- learn to assess and rank travel audio guides, and find out what makes a good audio guide to help travellers around the world;
- become aware of the importance of high-quality, useful and reliable travel audio guides for travellers;
- find out what information should and should not be included in a travel audio guide;
- find out what media elements can be included in travel audio guides and their impact;
- reflect upon the criteria used for evaluating and ranking travel audio guides, and consider how cultural aspects affect the production, reception or assessment of travel audio guides;
- produce a list of criteria for a good audio guide.

### Plurilingual/intercultural aspects

- While assessing and ranking the chosen travel audio guides, you could consider the cultural context(s) of the destination or the audience they address and think about the impact it may have on the audio guide.
- It would be interesting to compare the audio guides of the same place in several languages.

## Hints

### Work on the language-related aspects

- Think about the type of language which is needed in audio guides and create simple 'rules' for producing optimal travel audio guides.

## For you to think about

While completing this task, you can reflect on the following:

- Are travel audio guides a helpful tool? Have you ever used them when travelling?
- Why have travel audio guides become so popular over the past few years?
- What audiences do these travel audio guides primarily address?
- How can travel audio guides benefit your own community and be more inclusive?