

Reception: Well the Albaicin is a fascinating quarter. It's the remaining old Arabic part of the city – lots of winding alleys, squares and terraces, and artisan shops. And try some of the tapas bars.

Man: Sounds good. We could have lunch there tomorrow.

Reception: Another day, you could go to the city centre where most of the shops and museums are.

Man: Thanks for your advice. What about some local culture one evening? We'd like to see some flamenco.

Reception: There are lots of places to see that. You can go to the caves in Sacromonte where the flamenco gypsy music originated. The hotel arranges evenings there if you're interested.

Man: Mm ... And what about trips outside the city?

Reception: Just ask at the tour desk. I'm sure you'd enjoy a day in the mountains of the Sierra Nevada. There are lots of hiking trails ...

UNIT 12

12.1 Giving advice about local travel

1

Guest: We'd like to go across to the island for a day. Could you tell us how to get there?

Reception: Er, yes. It would be a good idea to go on one of the organized cruises from the harbour. They sail every day at half past nine.

Guest: Mm ... How much time would we have on the island?

Reception: About an hour.

Guest: Mm ... We'd really like to have longer than that – we enjoy walking.

Reception: Well, why not take the ferry from the jetty near the market square? There are ferries at 7.30 and 11.00 and they return at 3.30 and 6.00 in the evening. You can get to the jetty on foot from here.

Guest: Is there anywhere to eat on the island?

Reception: There's a small café, but I'd recommend taking a packed lunch from the hotel.

Guest: Thanks. Good idea ...

2

Guest: ... What's the best way to get to the city centre?

Reception: Well, you can take the underground to Central Station. There's an

underground station five minutes' walk from the hotel. Or ... er ... You could take the 14 bus all the way from the end of the road – takes a bit longer, but it's an interesting route.

Guest: Thanks. Do you have a map of the city?

Reception: Yes, of course. Here you are. ... Um ... Here's the hotel ... and here's the underground station.

Guest: Er ... We'd like to visit some art galleries. Maybe the National Gallery. Is there any parking there?

Reception: No, there's no parking at the gallery, and the roads through the city are very congested. Why don't you leave your car here and use public transport? It's much more convenient.

Guest: OK.

Reception: Your best option is to take bus number 42 from Central Station to the gallery ... But avoid travelling between 3.00 and 5.00 in the afternoon when the traffic is very heavy.

Guest: Thanks ...

3

Guest: ... We're thinking of going to Hampton Court tomorrow – can we drive?

Reception: In my opinion, the best way to get to Hampton Court is by riverboat. You can get the boat at Westminster Pier.

Guest: Mm ... I'd like that. How long does it take?

Reception: I think about three hours.

Guest: Oh ... that's quite long.

Reception: Well, you could take the train from Waterloo. Trains go every 30 minutes.

Guest: Hm ...

Reception: Well, how about taking the underground to Richmond, then the boat? The boat takes about an hour from there.

Guest: That would be good.

Reception: Take the District line to Richmond then change to the boat ...

12.2 Giving advice about tickets

1

Guest: Can we buy tickets on the ferry?

Reception: At this time of year, I'd strongly recommend getting your tickets in advance. If you let me know which day you want to go, I can reserve them for you.

Guest: Great. Thanks.

2

Guest: ... And where can we get the bus tickets?

Reception: Your best option is to buy a strip of ten tickets. It's much cheaper. You

can buy them at the ticket machine at the bus stop. When you get onto the bus, stamp one ticket in the machine by the door.

3

Reception: Have you thought about buying an Octopus Card? You can travel with it on the MTR – that's the metro system here in Hong Kong – and all other forms of public transport. The basic card costs \$150, that's \$50 deposit and \$100 credit for travel. Any unused credit and the deposit are refundable. Or you can keep the card for your next trip. It's valid for three years.

Guest: And can I top up the card?

Reception: Yes, you can use the Add Value machines for cash in any MTR station or go to the customer service desk.

4

Reception: If you want to travel in Hamburg for one week or longer, your best option is to get a travel card.

Guest: Is that for the buses?

Reception: You can use it on all forms of public transport ... the S-bahn – that's the suburban lines, the U-bahn – that's the subway, ... buses ... and the ferries in the harbour and on the river Elbe.

Guest: Where can I get the card?

Reception: You have to go to the Hauptbahnhof – that's the central railway station. Get some passport photos from the machine and then buy your card at the information office in the central concourse. The price you pay depends on how long you want the card for and how many zones it covers.

UNIT 13

13.1 Giving directions inside the hotel

1

Reception: Here are your keys. You can take the lift to the third floor. Just walk across the reception area and past the shop. The lifts are on the right.

Guest: And ... er ... Can you tell me how to get to the swimming pool, please?

Reception: Of course. It's in the basement. Go down the stairs, along the corridor and then into the changing rooms on the right.

Guest: Thanks. And the fitness centre?

Reception: Yes ... It's also in the basement. You can either walk through the changing rooms to a blue door, which will take you into the fitness centre ... Or continue along the corridor, past the changing rooms and take the next door on the right.