

# Miles of Memories: Adventures on the Open Road



Travel Series | Episode 7

## PRE-LISTENING | Warm-up

Prepare before you listen to the conversation.

### Brainstorm

1. Look at the topic of this episode. Do you have any personal experiences related to this topic? If not, do you have any thoughts or opinions about it?
2. Below, write notes about what comes to your mind.

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### Vocabulary

1. What vocabulary do you think will come up in this conversation? If you can't think of the English word, check it in a dictionary.
2. Write the vocabulary that you came up with in the table below.

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## LISTENING | Exercise

Listen to the conversation – feel free to pause any time or go back if you miss something.

The conversation revolves around the advantages of traveling independently on the open road compared to guided tours. Su and Colin discuss the freedom, flexibility, and unique experiences that come with exploring by car. They highlight the limitations of bus tours, emphasizing the joy of discovering hidden gems and remote locations. The conversation touches on personalization, the challenges of city life in Tokyo, and the accessibility of natural beauty through car travel, using their experiences in Japan and Costa Rica as examples. Ultimately, the open road offers a more personalized and adventurous way to create lasting memories.

## Note-taking

Identify the key points of the conversation and add notes on some details. Try to keep it short.

| Key Points | Details |
|------------|---------|
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## Quiz

Choose the correct answer – you can check your answers at the end of this PDF.

1. What is the main topic of the conversation?
  - a. Bus tours
  - b. Adventures on the open road
  - c. Traveling by train
  - d. City exploration

2. According to Su, what is a disadvantage of bus tours?
- a. Limited mobility
  - b. Fixed schedules
  - c. Main tourist spots
  - d. Popular areas
3. Why does Colin mention YouTube videos?
- a. To promote his YouTube channel
  - b. To criticize travel research methods
  - c. To highlight a source of travel information
  - d. To discourage independent travel
4. What does Su say makes a trip more personal?
- a. Following a strict schedule
  - b. Exploring with a group
  - c. Having a unique experience
  - d. Taking bus tours
5. What does Colin suggest about bus tours?
- a. They limit exploration options.
  - b. They provide a sense of discovery.
  - c. They are perfect for exploration.
  - d. They are suitable for remote locations.
6. According to Su, what changed their trip in Costa Rica?
- a. Following a set schedule
  - b. Eating at tourist spots
  - c. Exploring remote places
  - d. Making their own decisions
7. Why does Colin mention living in Tokyo?
- a. To highlight the city's attractions
  - b. To discuss the challenges of city life
  - c. To contrast city and countryside experiences
  - d. To promote tourism in Japan
8. According to Colin, what does a car provide access to?
- a. Main cities
  - b. Remote and beautiful locations
  - c. National parks in the city
  - d. Crowded tourist spots

## POST-LISTENING | Resources

Review the language used in the podcast

| Word/Phrase                                               | Class            | Example Sentence                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>gems</b>                                               | <i>noun</i>      | "The small bookstore is full of literary gems waiting to be discovered."                    |
| Precious or valuable objects, often small and attractive. |                  |                                                                                             |
| <b>exploration</b>                                        | <i>noun</i>      | "Their exploration of the ancient ruins revealed hidden chambers and mysterious artifacts." |
| The action of traveling in or through an unfamiliar area. |                  |                                                                                             |
| <b>mobility</b>                                           | <i>noun</i>      | "Having a car provides the freedom of mobility to explore remote places."                   |
| The ability to move freely and easily.                    |                  |                                                                                             |
| <b>fixed schedule</b>                                     | <i>phrase</i>    | "Bus tours often have a fixed schedule, limiting spontaneity in travel plans."              |
| A planned timetable that does not change.                 |                  |                                                                                             |
| <b>remote locations</b>                                   | <i>phrase</i>    | "They preferred exploring remote locations to avoid crowded tourist destinations."          |
| Distant places away from populated areas.                 |                  |                                                                                             |
| <b>accessible</b>                                         | <i>adjective</i> | "The national park was not accessible by public transport, requiring a car for entry."      |
| Able to be reached or entered.                            |                  |                                                                                             |
| <b>countryside</b>                                        | <i>noun</i>      | "Living in the countryside allows for a peaceful and nature-filled lifestyle."              |
| Rural areas or the open land outside of cities.           |                  |                                                                                             |
| <b>unique experience</b>                                  | <i>phrase</i>    | "Traveling independently allows for a unique experience tailored to personal preferences."  |
| A one-of-a-kind and distinctive encounter or event.       |                  |                                                                                             |

## POST-LISTENING | Activities

### Shadowing

Choose one part of the conversation and listen to it again. Try to repeat what you hear out loud. Make sure you copy pronunciation, pauses\*, and stress\*.

\*Use the transcript to mark the **pauses** with a slash / and the **stress** with an underline \_\_\_.

### Speaking Practice

*Below are two questions you can use for speaking practice.*

- 1. Read each question and write some notes. Keep them short and only use bullet points or a mind map – these notes are just to help you organize your ideas.*
- 2. Record yourself answering the questions. Try to speak for at least 2 minutes for each question.*

**Exploring Nature:** Talk about the importance of exploring nature during travels. Describe a trip where you immersed yourself in natural surroundings, and discuss the unique feelings and experiences associated with it.

**Discovery on the Road:** Talk about a time when you discovered something unexpected during a road trip.

**Q:** How did it impact your journey?





## Transcript

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**Colin:** This is episode seven of our travel series and today's topic is miles of memories, adventures on the open road. Hello Su.

**Su:** Hey.

**Colin:** How are you?

**Su:** Good, how are you?

**Colin:** I'm very well. Um, so travels on the open road, we're talking about traveling by car, traveling independently. So you're not taking a bus or a train somewhere, you're traveling by yourself. What are some of the advantages of this kind of travel?

**Su:** I think, um, you can plan a route, but I think the advantages would be discovering what's in that route because sometimes, um, you can find information about what's there. But it's not everything. There's always little places, little kind of gems.

**Colin:** Yeah.

**Su:** Uh, that you could kind of have a look at.

**Colin:** Yeah. I mean, I think we talked about this before, but when you plan a trip, you might do some research, get a book, maybe you watch some YouTube videos these days, um, but when you're on the journey itself, you might see something that you didn't read about, or you didn't hear about, and it might be interesting for you. Um, and if you have your own car, if you're in control of your own schedule, you might want to stop and take a look at something. Maybe spend half a day exploring an area that you hadn't thought about visiting before.

Um, so it gives you this flexibility, um, to just stop and be curious about an area, um, or maybe learn about something, um, that you hadn't thought about looking at before.

**Su:** Yeah, you're very free with your time. When you're on a tour, uh, a bus tour, um, they give you time to explore certain areas. So it is a bit difficult. Sometimes, even in those tours, you discover some things, but they might be a little bit far or you don't have enough time.

**Colin:** So what you're saying is on a bus tour, you're limited to how much you can explore.

**Su:** I think so. In terms of time and in terms of mobility.

**Colin:** Yeah, I mean, they have a very fixed schedule. The whole reason that bus tours work is that they have a fixed schedule. Everybody knows we're going from here to there and we're going to stop at these places. Obviously they need to be clear to their customers what's going to happen. Where are they going to go? So there's advantages to that.

For some people, that's exactly what they want. They don't want to have to think too much. Get on the bus, look out the window, relax, and then get off at the next stop. But I think in many cases, having a bit more freedom to have a more personal trip and make decisions and have your kind of unique experience.



Um, I think it's an important part. It's almost like you're exploring. If you take a bus tour, you don't have that sense of exploration. When you're with, a group of people and everybody's going to the same place, every place you stop at, there's 40 people with you. Um, and you didn't really do anything to get to this location.

You didn't find this location by yourself. Um, but if you're in a car, maybe you and some friends are taking a trip, there is a sense of discovery. Look at this place, look at this place that we've arrived in, look at this place that we found almost.

**Su:** Yes. I think, um, that changes your trip. It, it makes it so much more personal.

**Colin:** So it allows you to get off the beaten path as well. So, again, if you're taking a bus tour, for example, you're going to go to the main spots and the main spots are the main spots for a reason. You know, they're are popular areas, um, that people you know recommend you visit.

Um, but sometimes you don't want to go to the main spot with hundreds of other tourists or travelers, you want to be somewhere a little bit more remote, perhaps?

**Su:** Yeah, I mean, I traveled to Costa Rica once and it's such a beautiful country. Um, and the tours, um, they were very much set. You know, there's places that you're taken, but also for eating, for example.

And, uh, we thought, well, maybe this is just very much set for tourism. So we asked, uh, if we could go to eat somewhere that, you know, our tour guides enjoyed and they thought about it and they took us to this beautiful place in the middle of the mountain. They clearly knew the people there because they were very happy to see them and we had rabbit because that was, um, the main dish there and it was such an experience, but we wouldn't have been able to get there, uh, without their knowledge, one, but also if we would have followed, you know, the instructions of what to see.

**Colin:** Right. Yeah. So it's being able to make your own decision about, okay, this is what the schedule is but we want to try and do this. We want to sort of change, um, the plan for today. Um, it's interesting talking about getting out into the countryside because again, one of the advantages of traveling by yourself is that you can get to more remote locations. Um, and we live in Japan at the moment. It's very easy to get between cities.

You know, if I want to go from Tokyo down to Osaka, I can get there on a train very easily. But if I want to go out to the countryside and the mountains, it gets more difficult, um, and you need a car. Um, you can get a bus, you know, but there, there might be two buses a day or something to some remote location, so having a car allows you access to these incredibly beautiful parts of the country, which are inaccessible, um, by public transport.

**Su:** Yeah, you, you know, it's, it's more natural because it's not cities, nature will be there, uh, and that's always, I don't know, when I think of a trip, that's what I think of sometimes, it's just nature. Just exploring nature, uh, which is a very different feeling.

**Colin:** I think living in Tokyo for us, going on a trip is getting out of the city. I mean, we can go to another city, but we live in a city. Um, so a trip for us is very often getting out, uh, into, into nature. Um, getting a bit of fresh air, um, and a real change of scenery. Um, and being able to explore, you know, national parks or getting out to the coast, again, you know, once you get to the coast, um, public transport gets a bit more difficult. Um, so yeah, I think Japan is kind of interesting. Everybody has this idea that Japan has great. public transport. And yeah, in the cities, that's absolutely true. Trains, um, subway, buses, taxis, whatever. But when you go to a small city or a small, uh, town, public transport is really not that common. It can be quite rare that you'll, you'll see a bus going through the town. I lived in the countryside for many years and yeah, there was not a great bus service. You needed a car. Um, and that was my kind of first experience of this freedom of the open road. Um, so the open road, meaning the roads outside of the city. And that's what we would do at the weekend, get a few people, jump in the car and head out and see what we could discover.

A beautiful part of the world to just discover. We didn't really know much, this was pre YouTube time, so information on what was available locally was limited. You had to talk to people and ask kind of which places should we visit. Um, but again, you're creating your kind of unique memories. You're discovering these places, you know, with your friends. And yeah, every weekend becomes a memorable adventure.

## ANSWERS – Multiple-Choice Questions

- |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. b | 2. a | 3. c | 4. c |
| 5. a | 6. d | 7. c | 8. b |