

1 READING

a Look at the travel photos from two different places. Where do you think they are? Why?



- b Read the blog posts on page 45 quickly. Were you right about the photos?
- c Read the blog posts again and find words and phrases for the things in the photos.
- d Read the blog posts again more carefully and decide if the sentences are true or false. If they are false, say why.
- Javiera travelled to Quito in order to visit the Galapagos Islands.  
*False. She decided to go to the Galapagos while she was in Quito, not before.*
  - Most penguins live south of the equator.
  - The sea lions weren't interested in Javiera.
  - Alexis was able to talk to other passengers because he speaks Russian.
  - Building the track across the Amur River was difficult.
  - Alexis didn't go all the way to the end of the railway.



BETTER READING: INFERRING

Sometimes you can get ideas from a text which are not explicitly stated. Answer the questions below about both blog post writers. Say *yes*, *no* or *I don't know* and give your reasons.

Do you think the writer ... ?

- planned the trip carefully  
Javiera \_\_\_\_ Alexis \_\_\_\_
- lives in the country they are describing  
Javiera \_\_\_\_ Alexis \_\_\_\_
- travelled alone  
Javiera \_\_\_\_ Alexis \_\_\_\_
- is a sociable person  
Javiera \_\_\_\_ Alexis \_\_\_\_

e Find the words below in the blog posts. Use the context to guess the meaning. Underline words that help you.

goggles ancient wildlife stopover  
delicious lakeside

goggles  
swimming with goggles so that I could see under the water

f Would you like to go on one of these trips? Why / why not? Can you think of another interesting travel idea? Compare with a partner.





## Ancient tortoises, swimming lizards and cool sharks

Javiera M

The Galapagos Islands are a dream holiday for animal lovers like me, and so when my brother and I had the chance to visit last July, we took it. We were in Quito, Ecuador, and the islands were just a short flight away. I wasn't disappointed – it was like being in a TV wildlife programme. The animals there aren't afraid of people, and they don't mind if you stand right next to them. We saw the famous giant tortoises. Some of them are ancient – over 150 years old! There are penguins too – this is the only place in the northern hemisphere where they live. I loved the ugly marine iguanas. This is also the only place in the world with lizards that can swim. But my favourite part of the trip was swimming with goggles so that I could see under the water. The baby sea lions were so friendly – they actually come and play with you. One time while I was in the water, I saw a group of sharks a few metres below me. I didn't want them to see me, so I didn't move, but I was terrified. Fortunately, they weren't interested in me!



## Following the last tsar's tracks

Alexis V

I once took a trip across Russia on the Trans-Siberian railway, from Moscow to the Pacific Ocean. That's a very long train ride – 9,200 km, across eight time zones! It takes seven days non-stop, but it took me longer because I had a stopover for a few days. I speak a little Russian, so I could talk to some of the other passengers. I learned about the history of the railway. The work was started in 1891 by the last tsar and finished 20 years later – the last piece to be finished was the bridge over the Amur River. That was a big engineering challenge! When the Communists came to power, the tsar was transported as a prisoner on the same railway he built! I broke the journey for a few days beside the deepest lake in the world, Lake Baikal. I stayed in a lakeside village. There was a café, really just a room in one of the colourful wooden houses, and some people were playing folk music there. I had my violin with me so I joined in. They invited me to a party the next day. We played music, and we cooked and ate delicious fresh fish on the beach. It was the best part of the whole trip!

