

EXERCISE 10.1

INVESTIGATING TOURISM MOBILITIES

The research journal *Mobilities* has defined the idea of mobilities as 'encompass[ing] both the large-scale movements of people, objects, capital, and information across the world, as well as more local processes of daily transportation, movement through public space, and the travel of material things within everyday life' (*Mobilities*, Taylor and Francis, 2006). This exercise is designed to get you to consider the implications for this kind of thought on how we think about tourism itself and its place within the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental worlds we inhabit.

Below we detail some of the things we can identify as being mobile and some of the ways in which they might move. Use these ideas and terms to specify the **what**, **who**, **where**, **when** and **why** of networks of mobility involved in the case-studies before answering the questions. Think about the kinds of additional activities that each case study is likely to involve and explain those too (e.g. sending postcards, eating, sending SMSs, watching television, visiting museums or galleries, or anything else you can think of).

Things that move

- People
- Capital
- Ideas/information
- Objects
- Animals
- Natural resources
- Diseases/viral infections

Means of movement

- Walking/running
- Driving or cycling
- Transportation networks
- Communications networks
- Imaginative mobilities
- Natural processes

Case studies

- Heritage tourists visiting Venice
- The swine flu outbreak in Mexico in 2009, and the response of your home country

(Continued)

(Continued)

- British tourists visiting the Spanish coast to engage in beach tourism
- Islamic pilgrimage (the hajj) to Mecca
- Fly-drive or self-drive trips to the USA
- Posting holiday photographs and recollections on Facebook, Myspace or a personal blog
- What does the mobilities paradigm offer to tourism scholars that other ways of thinking lack?
- In what ways is tourism similar or dissimilar to migration?
- What implications does mobilities thinking have for tourism studies as a discipline?

Now choose another example of a kind of tourism and a destination and prepare a poster detailing the kinds of mobilities involved. You should use pictures, drawings, text and diagrams, or anything else that helps you communicate your ideas.