

CELEBRATIONS

one stop english

Mystery island

Worksheet

Exercise 1: Putting Meretricious on the map

It's called Meretricious and it's been the best-kept secret in the travel world until now!

If someone asked you to place Meretricious on a map of the world, you would probably have to consult an atlas. But that is about to change, because from April 1, when this small British Colony becomes independent, Meretricious will be doing all it can to put itself on the map.



Geography

Meretricious is not one island but three. The main island is dominated by Mount Folpa'oril, a semi-active volcano on the northernmost tip which rises to 2,030 metres.



The name of the volcano means 'cloud piercer' in Meretrician. Constant volcanic activity has given beaches in the south of the island their black sand. The whole western side of the island is mountainous, but the hills give way to the rich vegetation of the lowlands as you move east. The smaller island to the east is called Mendacious. The eastern half of the island never rises more than two metres above sea level, and experts calculate it will disappear if sea levels continue to rise as a result of global warming. The island to the west, La Profilo, is uninhabited and has uninterrupted stretches of sandy beaches.



Getting about and sightseeing

The best place to start sightseeing is in the capital, Jamestown, situated above Swindler's Bay on the western side of the island. A visit to Cook Square will

show you how much impact British culture has had on the islands. The red letterboxes and phone boxes look out of place on this paradise island. Essential day trips include a visit to La Profilo, where the original version of the film *Mutiny on the Bounty* was filmed. Spend a day lying on the beach and you'll discover why Clark Gable tried (unsuccessfully) to buy the island.

Essential information

This year Meretricious will be celebrating its independence from Britain. The celebrations will last all year, but April 1 is Independence Day. Locals promise an unforgettable



experience with 24-hour beach barbecues. There's only one thing on the menu, and that's the local delicacy: fruit bats called 'flying foxes' stuffed with tropical fruits and roasted over an open fire. The local spirit is to be recommended too. It's made from fermented coconut milk and is very strong!

Getting there

There are regular flights to Cook International airport, situated just above Phoney Point, 10 miles round Swindlers' Bay to the south of the capital.

More information

To find out more about Meretricious, visit the official island website at www.meretricious.com.