

RP

The Place That Ruined All Other Places

Travel stories so powerful they changed how people see the world

B2

Reading

Grammar

40 min

★ Lesson Objectives

- ★ Read travel stories about transformative journeys
- ★ Learn vocabulary related to travel and personal change
- ★ Master so...that and such...that for intensity and result
- ★ Distinguish so + adjective/adverb from such + noun phrase
- ★ Discuss transformative travel experiences
- ★ Write about a powerful experience using so/such...that

1 Before You Read

- ▶ Have you visited a place that changed how you think?
- ▶ What is the most beautiful place you've ever seen?
- ▶ Can travel truly change a person?

2 Reading: Four Journeys That Left a Mark

"It ruined all other places for me." Experienced travellers use this phrase for a place that moved them beyond words — so extraordinary that everything afterwards felt pale.

Lena, 33, Stockholm — Svalbard. "The silence was **so complete that** I could hear my heartbeat. The northern lights were **such an incredible sight that** I started crying. They were **so vast** and **so alive that** photographs felt like insults. It was **such** a profound experience **that** I cannot enjoy a city skyline since."

Ravi, 41, Mumbai — Kyoto. "The temples were **so meticulously** designed **that** every stone felt intentional. The gardens had **such extraordinary precision that** I began seeing beauty in things I'd always overlooked. Meals were presented with **such** care **that** eating felt like a ceremony. Kyoto changed how I see everything."

Clara, 27, Lisbon — Patagonia. She'd been working **so hard that** she hadn't taken a holiday in three years. "The landscape was **so immense that** I felt invisible. Mountains **so** tall clouds formed halfway up. Glaciers **so** blue they didn't look real. It was **such** a confronting experience **that** I cried every day — from relief." She resigned on return. "Patagonia didn't ruin all other places. It ruined the life I'd been living."

Kofi, 52, Accra — Fez. "The sensory overload was **so intense that** I had to sit down. Alleys **so** narrow two people could barely pass. Spices **so** strong I could taste them. Tile colours **so vivid that** they seemed to glow. The craftsmanship was **such that** I could see the artisan's hand in every doorway. **Such** an emotional connection to the past **that** I felt like walking through a living textbook."

These travellers experienced something **so** powerful **that** it rewired how they think and live. A holiday is a break from your life. A pilgrimage is a break in your life — a fracture line between "before" and "after."

3 Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example
remote	far from cities	<i>A remote archipelago.</i>
overwhelming	extremely strong	<i>Overwhelming stillness.</i>
vast	extremely large	<i>So vast and alive.</i>
profound	very deep/intense	<i>A profound experience.</i>
meticulously	with extreme care	<i>Meticulously designed.</i>
precision	being exact	<i>Extraordinary precision.</i>
overlooked	failed to notice	<i>Things I'd overlooked.</i>
immense	extremely large	<i>So immense I felt invisible.</i>
solitude	being alone	<i>The solitude affected her.</i>
confronting	making you face truths	<i>A confronting experience.</i>
resigned	left a job officially	<i>She resigned.</i>
sensory	relating to senses	<i>Sensory overload.</i>
vivid	bright, producing images	<i>Colours so vivid.</i>
craftsmanship	skill in making things	<i>Exceptional craftsmanship.</i>
inhabited	lived in	<i>Inhabited for 1,000 years.</i>
pilgrimage	transformative journey	<i>More pilgrimage than holiday.</i>

Collocations: off the beaten track • once in a lifetime • change of scenery • culture shock • breathtaking view • hidden gem • wander through • leave a mark

4 Grammar: So...That & Such...That

■ In the Text, You Saw...

- so + adj + that: "The silence was **so complete that** I could hear my heartbeat."
- such + a/an + noun + that: "They were **such an incredible sight that** I cried."
- so + adv + that: "Working **so hard that** she hadn't taken a holiday."
- such + noun + that: "The craftsmanship was **such that** I could see the artisan's hand."

Structure	Pattern	Example
so + adj + that	so + ADJ + that + result	It was so cold that the river froze.
so + adv + that	so + ADV + that + result	He spoke so quickly that...
so + much/many	so + quantifier + that	So many people that we couldn't move.
such + a + N + that	such + a/an + ADJ + N + that	Such a beautiful day that...
such + N + that	such + ADJ + plural/unc. + that	Such kind people that I felt at home.

★ Quick Decision Test

- Next word = adjective/adverb alone → so: 'so beautiful that...'
- Next word = a/an + noun phrase → such: 'such a beautiful place that...'
- so much / so many / so little / so few → always so (quantifiers).

▲ Common Mistakes

- X "It was so a beautiful day..." → ✓ "such a beautiful day..." (noun = such)
- X "There were such many people..." → ✓ "so many people..." (many = so)
- X "She spoke such fast that..." → ✓ "so fast that..." (adverb = so)

5 Game: So or Such?

1. The view was ___ breathtaking ___ I forgot photos. → so (adj alone)
2. It was ___ a beautiful sunset ___ everyone stopped. → such (a/an + noun)
3. He spoke ___ quietly ___ nobody heard. → so (adverb alone)
4. They were ___ friendly people ___ we felt at home. → such (adj + plural noun)
5. There was ___ much traffic ___ we missed our flight. → so (quantifier)
6. It was ___ an incredible journey ___ I still think about it. → such (a/an + noun)
7. The food was ___ delicious ___ I ordered more. → so (adj alone)
8. We had ___ little time ___ we saw only two museums. → so (quantifier)
9. It was ___ terrible weather ___ we stayed in. → such (adj + uncountable)
10. She was ___ exhausted ___ she fell asleep on the bus. → so (adj alone)

6 Comprehension Quiz

1. What does 'It ruined all other places' mean?

Answer: The experience was so special nothing else compares

2. Why did Lena cry at the northern lights?

Answer: They were so beautiful she was overwhelmed

3. What changed in Ravi after Kyoto?

Answer: He started noticing beauty in everyday things

4. What did Clara do after Patagonia?

Answer: She resigned from her job

5. 'The view was ___ beautiful ___ ...' So or such?

Answer: so (adjective alone)

6. 'It was ___ a powerful moment ___ ...' So or such?

Answer: such (a/an + noun)

7. 'There were ___ many tourists ___ ...' So or such?

Answer: so (quantifier)

8. When do we use such?

Answer: Before a noun phrase

7 Fill in the Blanks

1. The sunset was ___ beautiful that everyone stopped.

2. It was ___ a long flight that I slept most of it.

3. She spoke ___ softly that I had to lean in.

4. They showed ___ incredible hospitality that we stayed.

5. There were ___ few tourists that we had it to ourselves.

6. It was ___ an emotional moment that nobody spoke.

7. The music was ___ loud that my ears rang.

8. We had ___ a wonderful time that we booked again.

● **Answers:** 1. so • 2. such • 3. so • 4. such • 5. so • 6. such • 7. so • 8. such

8 Speaking & Writing

◆ Discussion Questions

1. Which travel story was most interesting? Use so...that.
2. A place so beautiful that photos couldn't capture it?
3. Clara says Patagonia 'ruined the life she'd been living.' Meaning?
4. Describe a meal or view that was such a powerful experience that...
5. Are some trips pilgrimages — dividing 'before' and 'after'?

◆ Example Dialogue

A: Iceland's landscape was so dramatic that I felt like another planet.

B: It was such an expensive trip that I saved for a year. Worth it.

A: The ice was so blue that it didn't look real.

B: And such silence that I could hear my own breathing.

◆ Writing Task

Write 100–150 words about a powerful experience:

- At least 3 so...that sentences
- At least 2 such...that sentences
- Explain how the experience changed you

9 Review Checklist

I can now...

- ✓ understand travel stories about transformative experiences
- ✓ use vocabulary related to travel and personal change
- ✓ use so + adjective/adverb + that for intensity and result
- ✓ use such + noun phrase + that for intensity and result
- ✓ correctly choose between so and such
- ✓ write about a powerful experience using so/such...that



Congratulations!

You have completed Lesson 21: The Place That Ruined All Other Places.