Madame Tussauds
a review by Tom Croucher

I’m writing this review after a trip to Madame Tussauds in London. This is one of five Tussauds wax museums across the world. It is right next to Baker Street underground station. Entrance is £25.00 for adults, and £21.00 for children. I think it’s quite expensive. You go in and take an elevator up into ‘Blush’, a celebrity-filled zone. You step into flashing cameras – this is to make you a celebrity! Kylie Minogue, George Clooney, Robbie Williams, Jennifer Lopez and many other famous celebrities are in this room.

You then move on to the ‘Pirates of the Caribbean’ exhibit. You meet the actors from the film, including Keira Knightley and Johnny Depp and you can go on Jack Sparrow’s ship, the Black Pearl, and try to find the ‘Dead Man’s Chest’.

Then you enter the ‘Premiere Night’ zone – my favourite zone, because I liked posing with Pierce Brosnan and Roger Moore and pretending to be James Bond! The stars in this zone include Steven Spielberg, Marilyn Monroe and ‘The Terminator’! The zone is full of movie stars past and present.

Next is the ‘World Stage’ zone. Everyone here is famous! Current and former world leaders and sports stars fill the room. Also, the Royal Family stand together on a stage.

Now go downstairs to ‘Chamber Live’. Do not go in here if you don’t like things jumping out in the dark! This was very scary for me, and my ten-year-old son was very scared too!

Then you see the ‘Spirit of London’ ride. This is not scary and it’s a delightful ride through London’s history. You ride in London taxi cabs, and it is a complete history of London from the Elizabethan times to today.

Next you go past a José Mourinho ‘football game’. But you haven’t finished yet! A lot of people don’t realise that a visit to the ‘Auditorium’ of the Planetarium comes with your ticket. It’s a spectacular trip into space and beyond. Don’t miss it!

And that’s the end of your visit and you come out onto the famous London Baker Street.

Madame Tussauds is very enjoyable, but take plenty of drinks because it gets hot and stuffy inside. Some adults may get bored after a while but kids really love Madame Tussauds. If you are visiting London, it’s a great day out.
Comprehension ★

1 Madame Tussauds è un famoso museo delle cere a Londra dove puoi vedere dei modelli perfetti di persone famose. Quali persone ti aspetteresti di vedere lì? Scrivi quattro nomi. Leggi il testo per vedere se trovi i nomi che hai scritto.

Comprehension ★

2 Rileggi il testo. Quali di queste persone vengono nominate? Metti un segno di spunta (√) nella casella.

- Kylie Minogue
- Madonna
- The Terminator
- Jennifer Lopez
- Marilyn Monroe
- George Clooney
- Pierce Brosnan
- Steven Spielberg
- Nelson Mandela
- Robbie Williams
- Roger Moore
- Keira Knightley
- Johnny Depp
- José Mourinho

Adesso leggi il testo ancora una volta e metti le persone nell’ordine in cui sono nominate. Scrivi il numero corretto nello spazio.

Vocabulary

3 Osserva gli aggettivi evidenziati nel testo. Completa la tabella scrivendo quelli positivi e quelli negativi.

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Comprehension ★★

4 Vero o falso? Scrivi V o F negli spazi. Correggi le frasi false.

1 __ Madame Tussauds is the only waxworks museum in the world.
2 __ It’s easy to get to Madame Tussauds.
3 __ It’s not cheap to get into Madame Tussauds.
4 __ You can’t get very near to the models of the celebrities.
5 __ You can see Queen Elizabeth II in the museum.
6 __ You can learn about the history of London in the museum.
7 __ Your Madame Tussauds ticket is also valid for the Planetarium.
8 __ The writer says the museum is better for adults than children.

Comprehension ★★★

5 Rispondi alle domande.

1 How much would two adults and two children pay to get into the museum?

2 Which part of the museum did the author like best and why?

3 Which part of the museum do you think the writer didn’t like very much and why?

4 Why don’t some people visit the Planetarium?

5 Find two negative points the writer makes about the museum.

6 What does the writer tell you to take with you for your visit?
Skills • Listening

6 Scrivi le nazionalità dei ristoranti sotto le foto. Scegli le nazionalità dalla lista.
1 Mexican ☐ 6 Italian ☐
2 French ☐ 7 Japanese ☐
3 Indian ☐ 8 Greek ☐
4 Thai ☐ 9 Austrian ☐
5 British ☐ 10 Chinese ☐

Comprehension ★
7 Ascolta il dialogo tra Mike (un americano in vacanza in Inghilterra) e Lara (una teenager inglese). Metti un segno di spunta (✔) accanto alle nazionalità nell’esercizio 6 che vengono menzionate.

Comprehension ★★
8 Chi dice queste frasi? Riascolta e scrivi M (Mike) o L (Lara) nello spazio.
1 ___ Well, first the bad news.
2 ___ Well, you can eat very well in ethnic restaurants.
3 ___ And are they expensive?
4 ___ Well, it depends on the sort of food you like.
5 ___ Incredible! That’s Indian, isn’t it?
6 ___ I’ll try it this evening.

Comprehension ★★★
9 Ascolta ancora una volta e rispondi alle domande.
1 What does Lara say about the standard of British cooking?
________________________________________________________________________
2 Why are there so many ethnic restaurants in the UK?
________________________________________________________________________
3 Which restaurants are cheap?
________________________________________________________________________
4 What sort of food does Mike like?
________________________________________________________________________
5 What’s the most popular dish in England?
________________________________________________________________________
6 What type of restaurant does Mike decide to go to for dinner?
________________________________________________________________________

Dictation
10 Ascolta e scrivi sei frasi del dialogo.
1 __________________________________________
2 __________________________________________
3 __________________________________________
4 __________________________________________
5 __________________________________________
6 __________________________________________
Skills • Writing

11 Leggi la lettera di Mike alla sua amica Sally negli Stati Uniti e cerchia l’alternativa corretta: a o b.

12 Scrivi una lettera a un tuo amico (100–150 parole). Immagina di essere anche tu in vacanza in Inghilterra. Includi le seguenti informazioni:
- dettagli dell’albergo
- una descrizione del tempo
- una descrizione delle persone con cui sei in vacanza
- il tuo cibo preferito
- quello che stai mangiando
- quello che stai facendo oggi

Non dimenticare di includere:
- il nome e l’indirizzo del tuo albergo
- la data

Inizia e termina la lettera come ha fatto Mike.

The Crown and Mitre
4 English St.
CA3 8HZ Carlisle
12th June 2007

Dear Sally,

I am spending two weeks in Carlisle in England. I’m having a really good time. Amazingly, the weather is fantastic at the moment. It’s sunny and very warm. I’m staying in a really nice hotel – the rooms are very comfortable with a TV and a big bathroom. I have breakfast in the hotel but I have lunch or dinner there as the food is good but quite expensive.

The people here are very nice and one of the receptionists at the hotel gives me lots of good advice about where to go and where to eat. Her name’s Lara and she’s very nice. She’s got long black hair and she’s tall and slim. She’s lovely! There’s lots of really good restaurants in the town – especially the Indian restaurants. Indian food is hot and spicy and I really like it. And it’s quite cheap, too.

My diet is very healthy here in the UK. I’m eating lots of fresh fruit and vegetables and I’m not drinking cola or eating fast food like I do in the States. In fact, I’m losing some weight!

I’m writing this letter next to Lake Windermere. It’s very beautiful. The weather’s great and it’s not raining! Anyway, that’s all for now.

Love,

Mike