

**transcript**

**level 1**

Try not to look at this until you've done all the exercises that go with the listening.

**Holidays**

Jackie: For this week's podcastsineenglish.com I'm talking to Simon about his favourite place to go on holiday. Hello, Simon.

Simon: Hello.

Jackie: So tell me, where's your favourite place to go on holiday?

Simon: I was thinking about that. It's either Paimpol in northern France or...no, definitely Ma- Madeira.

Jackie: Madeira, so tell me, where's Madeira?

Simon: Madeira is um... an island belonging to Portugal which lies off the west coast of Africa in the Atlantic ocean.

Jackie: So ...a Portuguese island in the Atlantic. Tell me, why do people go to Madeira?

Simon: Madeira is a very picturesque island. It's green, a very colourful island...

Jackie: And what do people do there?

Simon: One of the favourite things for lots of people is to enjoy the wonderful walks that you have around the island and they vary from short, easy walks to longer, more difficult ones.

Jackie: So Madeira's a good place for people who like walking.

Simon: It's an ideal island for walkers.

Jackie: And what about people who like swimming, do they have lots of beaches there?

Simon: There are no natural beaches. There are few places where you can swim but there are no big sandy beaches which you might expect.

Jackie: Oh OK! I always think of islands as having... as having beaches. So what else can people do on the island apart from walking?

Simon: Well one popular attraction is catching a boat to go out and watch dolphins.

- Jackie: Oh, that sounds interesting! What's the weather like in Madeira?
- Simon: They're very lucky, they have good weather most of the year. It's sunny with a temperature around 20 to 25 degrees...
- Jackie: So you can visit Madeira any time of the year?
- Simon: Yes, you can. Although a very good time to come is in March when they have a wonderful flower festival.
- Jackie: There are lots of flowers in Madeira?
- Simon: It's known as a flower island.
- Jackie: Oh, that's nice! How often do you go to Madeira?
- Simon: Well, we've been about five times, but next time we really must go and see the flower festival in March.
- Jackie: But you said that um... Paimpol was also a place you like to go to on holiday, where is Paimpol?
- Simon: Paimpol's on the northern coast of France, in Brittany.
- Jackie: And is that a good place for people who like walking?
- Simon: It's a very good place for walkers and also for campers because there are very many interesting places which you can go to cycling, or by car.
- Jackie: OK, and ...um do they have beaches in Paimpol?
- Simon: They have a small beach but that's not the major attraction.
- Jackie: What's the major attraction?
- Simon: Oh, I think... it's a... it's a rather quaint, old fishing town: interesting buildings, a wonderful market on Tuesdays when everybody from far and wide comes into Paimpol.
- Jackie: OK. What's the weather like? It's in Europe so it has um... it has the four seasons, right?
- Simon: Yes, it does. I suppose the best time to go would be in the period May to September.
- Jackie: OK. And, and why do you like going to Paimpol so much?

- Simon: It's a picturesque little town, there are many interesting little villages along the north coast and one thing they have all in common is wonderful food.
- Jackie: Wonderful French food.
- Simon: Wonderful French food, indeed. And the people of course are very friendly.
- Jackie: Great. How often do you go to Paimpol?
- Simon: Been three or four times to Paimpol.
- Jackie: And you said that you prefer Madeira to Paimpol, what is it about Madeira that makes it a little bit more special for you?
- Simon: I think the main thing is really is that you can go to Madeira at any time whereas to go to Paimpol you really want to enjoy the fine weather in the summer.
- Jackie: OK Simon that's great! Thanks very much.
- Simon: Thank you.