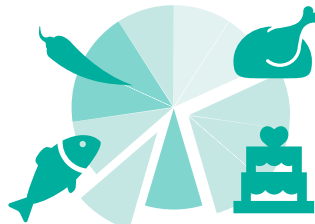


## Food for thought

### 1 Talk about the statistics with your partner. Can you guess what they refer to?



5,000 seats  
1,000 staff  
88,000 m<sup>2</sup>  
70 rooms  
300 chefs  
five kitchens



150 ducks a day  
700 chickens a week  
1,000 kg chilli peppers a week  
three tons of fish a week  
200 snakes a week  
eight weddings a day in season

### 2a Read about the food experiences. Have you ever tried any of them? Which do you find the most unusual?

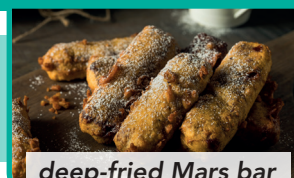
## Fun and fascinating food experiences around the world

### Fascinating food

- Have you heard of durian? It's the smelliest fruit in the world! Native to countries like Malaysia, it's a lot more tasty than it smells!
- The UK is famous for fish and chip shops, and in Scotland they even serve deep-fried Mars bars for dessert.
- Vanilla, chocolate, strawberry ... all very normal ice cream flavours, but there are some unusual ones, too. How about cheeseburger flavour, served in Venezuela? Or octopus ice cream, found in Japan?
- In Japan, fugu, or pufferfish, is a popular dish. But be careful: if it isn't cooked properly it contains a poison that can kill!
- The world's first edible museum will be opening in New York in 2019. In the Museum of Food and Drink, you'll travel the world through interactive exhibits tasting things such as coffee beans and Vietnamese street food.



durian fruit



deep-fried Mars bar



pufferfish



having breakfast with giraffes

### Dining with a difference

- In Finland, enjoy reindeer soup in a restaurant made of ice and snow with temperatures of -5° C. Just remember to wrap up warm!
- At El Diablo restaurant in Lanzarote, Spain, the chefs cook food using the heat of a live volcano!
- You can literally taste the stars for dinner in a restaurant in Costa Rica! The chef uses a special ingredient in his steak sauce – a tiny piece of 4.5 billion-year-old meteorite that crashed to Earth 6,000 years ago.
- In Dubai, dine at 442 m in the world's highest restaurant in the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa.
- The Strawberry Train from Madrid to Aranjuez in Spain serves passengers strawberries and cream during the journey, with staff dressed in 19th-century costumes.
- At a hotel in Kenya, you can have breakfast with giraffes.
- Dine-in cinemas are popular in the US – great for enjoying the entertainment and a meal at the same time.
- Imagine dining 50 m high at a table suspended by a crane! Dinner in the Sky lets you do just that. It's a travelling restaurant that has so far visited 45 countries. But don't worry, you're safely strapped to your seat!



El Diablo restaurant

### Food and festivals

- Why not participate in a food-eating competition? The Hotdog Eating Contest is an annual event in the USA and last year's winner ate 62 of them in just ten minutes!
- What are you doing on the last Wednesday of August? If you're in Spain, take part in the world's biggest food fight at La Tomatina Festival. Since 1945, people have been throwing tomatoes at each other in this fun event.
- Every August, a town in Minnesota, US, holds the Potato Days Festival to celebrate its potato production. The unusual event includes a potato-peeling competition and wrestling in mashed potato, as well as stalls for sampling delicious potato-based treats.
- Participate in a cheese-rolling race, a traditional event taking place in England each May. Roll a 4 kg round cheese down a hill and try to catch it, although it's often difficult as the cheese can reach 112 km an hour!



la Tomatina

**2b Read the text again and circle the correct alternative.**

- 1 You can buy ice cream in Venezuela that's the flavour of coffee beans/cheeseburgers.
- 2 The world's highest restaurant is in Dubai/a travelling one.
- 3 There's an American food festival with the unusual sport of wrestling in tomatoes/potatoes.
- 4 In Spain, you can eat fruit by a volcano/while travelling.
- 5 You can take part in a fun competition in which you run after hotdogs/cheese.
- 6 Costa Rica/Finland has a restaurant serving food with a very old ingredient.

**2c Read the comments and write the country the speaker is from.**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 |    | Every summer, my country hosts the best festival ever. You have to throw food at each other and afterwards you're all red! ..... |
| 2 |    | It's really cold where I live, but the food is delicious. If you visit, you must try the special soup. ....                      |
| 3 |  | I love eating this after my main course when I go to a fish and chip restaurant. ....  |
| 4 |  | My grandfather enjoys this food, but it can be unsafe! ....  |
| 5 |  | At the weekends, I go to watch a film with my friends and we have lunch there, too. ....   |
| 6 |  | People all over the world come to this hotel in my country for a very special dining experience with animals. ....               |

**2d What do the numbers refer to? Read and write.**

- 1 45 .....
- 2 62 .....
- 3 112 .....
- 4 442 .....
- 5 6,000 .....
- 6 4 .....

**Speaking**

**3a Work with a partner and discuss the questions.**

- 1 What fun and fascinating food experiences can visitors to your country have?
- 2 Have you ever tried any of the foods or food experiences that your country offers? Have you ever tried any in other countries?
- 3 Why do you think it is fun to try out new and interesting foods and food experiences?

**PROJECT**

**3b You are going to create a poster for fun and fascinating food experiences in your country and a country of your choice. Read the questions and prepare your project research.**

- 1 Work in pairs. Do some research on the Internet to find out the following information about food and food experiences in the two countries:
  - What foods do people traditionally eat? Are there any unusual foods?
  - Are there any interesting food festivals or events?
  - Are there any unusual places to eat?
  - Is there a special food or a food experience that you can't find anywhere else?
- 2 Create a list of the most fun and fascinating food experiences and think about how best to present them on your poster. Add photos and any other additional information to make your poster more interesting.

**3c Display your poster in the classroom. Read other students' posters and discuss the fun and fascinating facts. Have a vote on the most unusual food experience that has been discovered.**