



India

Kerala - Nature and Culture

8 days

Kerala, a state in southern India, is famous for its palm-lined beaches, legendary backwaters and rolling hills lined with vibrantly green tea and spice plantations. Kerala is a tropical symphony of wildlife, pristine hiking trails, glistening canals, tribal Keralan communities and ancient temples. This expedition brings you into the thick of it, trekking through the Western Ghats and getting onto the water. This is an enchanting expedition in a world away from the frenzy of the rest of India. An expedition here is sure to stay with you forever.



[Learn more about our
Carbon Labels](#)

Your Recommended Expedition Itinerary

Day 1	Depart UK and Arrive at Fort Kochi Today we arrive in Kochi in Kerala. Kochi is a vibrant coastal city known for its historic spice trade, scenic backwaters, and unique blend of colonial and traditional Indian culture. We have an early night ready to make the most of our expedition.	D
Day 2	Visit Bird Sanctuary Nestled along the Periyar River, Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary is a great day trip destination. Here dense forests and wetlands host over 300 bird species, making it a peaceful and world-class spot for nature lovers. Our STC Leader will be on hand to teach us about the wildlife and our surroundings.	BLD
Day 3	Tribal Settlement and Tea Museum Set in the Western Ghats, our day trip today offers an immersive experience of a traditional tribal settlement. We explore bamboo-crafted homes, try weaving and enjoy an authentic bamboo-cooked meal in a serene rainforest setting. Later on, we settle into Kalypso Camp and make it our home for the next three nights.	BLD
Day 4	Butterfly Forest Trek Today we explore the Butterfly Forest Trek near Suryanelli. We walk through lush forests and meadows filled with seasonal butterflies, while enjoying scenic views of the Western Ghats.	BLD
Day 5	Local Village Visit and Cooking Lesson After breakfast at the camp, we head out for the day and gain an insight into indigenous traditions, daily life, and local crafts. In the evening we return for our final night at Kalypso Camp.	BLD
Day 6	Transfer to Alleppey We bid goodbye to Kalypso Camp this morning and board the buses to Alleppey. Along the route, we will be treated to views of the Nilgiri Hills, the Arabian Sea and the Western Ghats.	BLD
Day 7	Waterborne Activities Today we venture onto the tranquil backwaters of Alleppey, either on a houseboat or by kayak. We glide past village homes, lush paddy fields and coconut groves. On today's excursion we will experience local life up close while enjoying a peaceful adventure in Kerala's tranquil landscape.	BLD
Day 8	Depart from Kochi and Return to the UK On our final day in Kerala, we say goodbye to our STC Leader, before transferring to the airport and flying home to the UK.	B



Look what's included:

- International flights
- All accommodation, transportation and activities
- All food as described above
- Local, bi-lingual, first-aid qualified STC leader
- Parent and student trip launch presentation
- Pre-travel information sessions
- ATOL financial protection
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Donations to two carbon & conservation charities
- Free Fairtrade t-shirt for every participant and teacher
- Free travel guide book to your destination on request

What's not included:

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Emergency Medical & Repatriation Insurance
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters (ask for guidance)
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Personal effects and cancellation insurance



A word about Responsible Tourism

On our expeditions and educational journeys, we strive to connect teachers and students with the people they meet, nurture the cultures they experience and protect the beautiful environments they are lucky enough to explore.

Many companies talk the talk, few truly walk the walk. We are far from perfect, but we are leading the way in sustainability in the school travel sector. In 2018 we were the first UK travel company to become **Travelife Certified** – a verified sustainability certificate formally recognised by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council.

This is our passion, and we'd love to tell you more about it in due course. In the meantime, for more information on some of the steps we take as a company to make our operations more sustainable, please visit:

<https://www.thestc.co.uk/travel/what-do-we-do/>

Trees for Life

Physical Rating for this trip: Grade 3



Moderate physical activities are included in Grade 3 trips. Good health and reasonable fitness are important to get the most out of the trip. Trips of this grading are likely to include multiple consecutive days activity either walking at moderate altitude (up to 2,500m) or paddling. With between five and seven hours of activity with occasional longer/harder days. The trip may contain other activities such as cycling, rafting, remote camping which also require physical effort and a reasonable level of fitness and resilience. Steady preparation and an increase in your underlying fitness levels will help you get the most from this grade trip.

Cultural Rating for this trip: Grade 3



Students should expect some culture shock. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty. The food will be quite different to home and English, whilst still spoken, will be less prevalent. Respecting the local culture will make it easier to fit in and get the most out of your trip. We're likely to visit remoter locations on this tour where access to western-style services may be sporadic. Often on trips of this grading there are parts of the itinerary which are more remote, interspersed with sections which are more 'comfortable'.



Travel Safety & Other Expedition Training

Preparing students and teachers for their upcoming adventure is an opportunity to teach important life skills and a vital part of our overall approach to safety management. Please ask for your quote for the training schedule specific to your expedition. Topics covered will include:

Responsible Tourism workshop

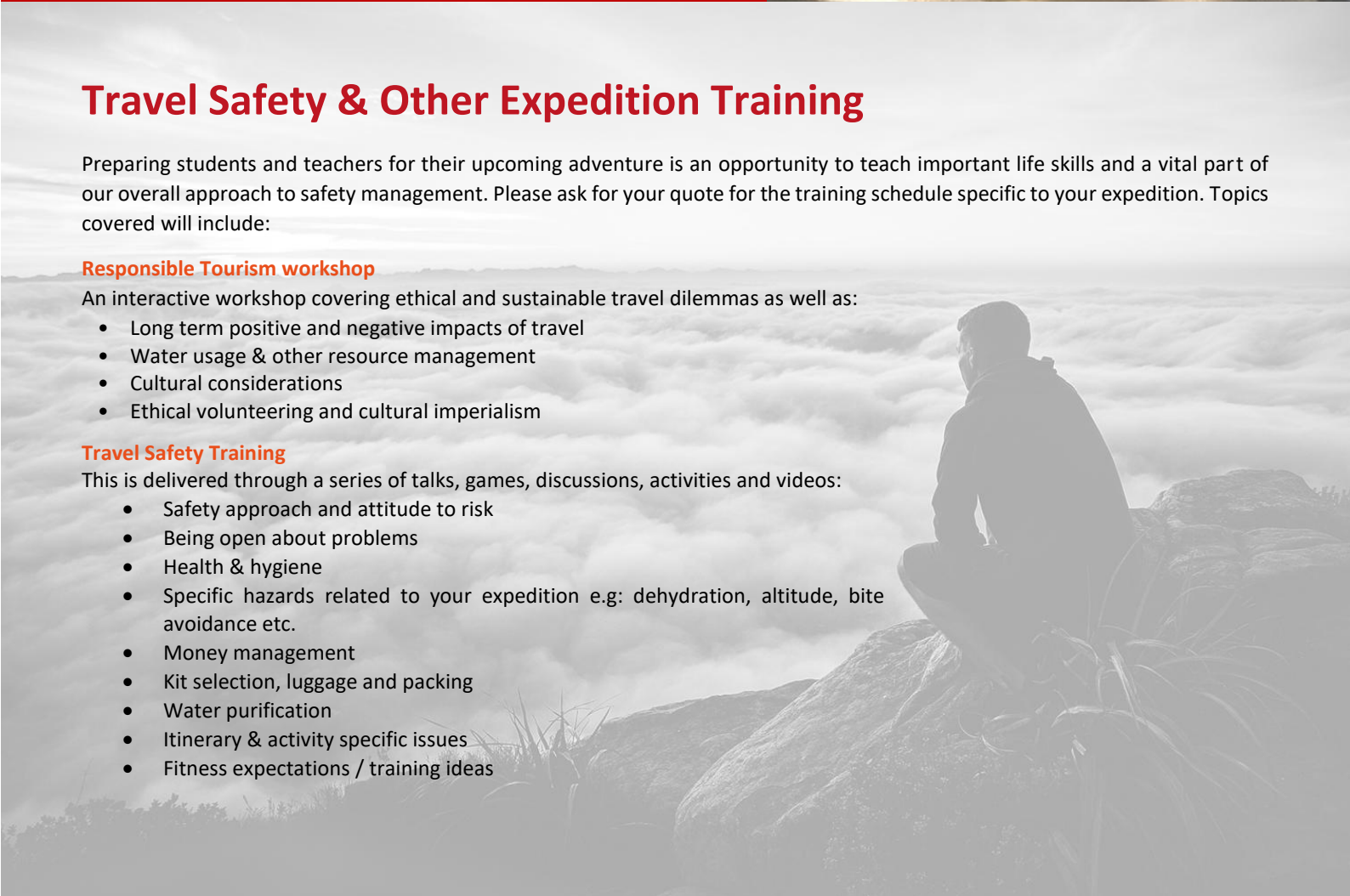
An interactive workshop covering ethical and sustainable travel dilemmas as well as:

- Long term positive and negative impacts of travel
- Water usage & other resource management
- Cultural considerations
- Ethical volunteering and cultural imperialism

Travel Safety Training

This is delivered through a series of talks, games, discussions, activities and videos:

- Safety approach and attitude to risk
- Being open about problems
- Health & hygiene
- Specific hazards related to your expedition e.g: dehydration, altitude, bite avoidance etc.
- Money management
- Kit selection, luggage and packing
- Water purification
- Itinerary & activity specific issues
- Fitness expectations / training ideas





A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your expedition journey

1 Ask for your personalised quote & further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your expedition itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an adventure that's just right for you and your students. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk and threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your Pre-Booking Information Pack too.

3 Arrange an expedition launch evening

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the expedition with a comprehensive information evening covering the itinerary, safety management, the build-up to the trip and lots more. There is also plenty of opportunity for questions.



The home of the modern, innovative school expedition, where a sustainable, ethical approach guarantees unique experiences and a life enhancing adventure.

"I am being completely serious when I say that I won't ever run a school trip without you guys. I trust you and your team completely - and the in-country staff that you carefully cultivate and train are a cut above the rest."

Teacher feedback, King's High Warwick

Contact Us:

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