



Japan

Culture: A Taste of Everything

9 days

Join us on a journey through the Land of the Rising Sun as we travel from Tokyo to Hakone and onto Kyoto. Learn about the unique challenges living on the ring of fire as well as the amazing cultural geography. We travel through vibrant cities, iconic temples and take a ride on the world-famous bullet train. Did we mention Mickey Mouse?



[Learn more about our
Carbon Labels](#)

Your Recommended Expedition Itinerary

Days 1 - 2	Depart UK Arrive Tokyo Upon arrival in Tokyo, we will be met by our experienced Japanese leader before transferring to our hotel via train. After we have settled into our rooms, we will have a briefing before heading out for our first taste of Japanese cuisine. Known for fresh, high-quality produce, mealtimes are a real highlight of the Japanese experience.	D
Day 3	Tokyo Today promises to be a jam-packed adventure! A day in Tokyo moves from calm mornings to vibrant crowds, especially at the iconic Shibuya Crossing where the city pulses with energy. Later the Harajuku area adds a colourful contrast before neon lights take over the night.	BLD
Day 4	Disneyland Tokyo We have an exciting day ahead as we visit Disneyland Tokyo. This 115-acre park in Urayasu near Tokyo was opened in 1983 as the first Disney park outside the US. We have the day here to experience classic rides and enjoy the park at our own pace.	BLD
Day 5	Hakone Ropeway No trip to Japan is complete without a trip on a world-renowned bullet train! This morning, our journey takes us on a scenic train ride to Hakone, a renowned mountain resort situated approximately 2.5 hours away from Tokyo. If we are lucky, we may catch a glimpse of Mt Fuji, providing an amazing backdrop to our adventure. Upon arrival, we'll hop onto a boat for a short cruise on Lake Ashinoko, offering breathtaking views, followed by the ropeway ascent to Owakudani. Here we will see (and definitely smell), the many sulphuric hot springs that adorn the valley. At the end of the day, we'll take a train back down the mountain to Odawara by the sea.	BLD
Day 6	Kyoto This morning, we will make the two-hour journey to Kyoto, Japan's cultural capital, at speeds of up to 320 km/h; an amazing part of the adventure itself. Upon our arrival, we'll dive into the heart of Kyoto's culture, exploring the city with the help of our Japanese leader.	BLD
Day 7	Nara Today we will make our way to Nara, one of the ancient capital cities of Japan. But first, we'll make a stop at Fushimi Inari Shrine, famous for its many Torii gates. A visit to this incredible shrine sets the stage for a day of spirituality. In Nara, we'll visit the awe-inspiring Todaiji Temple, known for its colossal Buddha statue that stands testament to centuries of history. Adjacent to the temple lies Nara Park, a serene landscape where deer freely roam, adding a touch of natural charm to the city. At the end of the day, we will make our way back to Kyoto for the final evening.	BLD
Day 8	Kyoto and Departure On our final day in Japan, we will pay a visit to Arashiyama in the western part of the city, celebrated for its Bamboo Grove. Following this, we will take a short hike where we will have the chance to see wild monkeys! In the afternoon, we visit Nishiki Food Market, which specialises in all things food. From produce to cookware, this 400-year-old market is a must-see in Kyoto. Following our visit to the market, we will head back to our hotel to grab our luggage and hop on the train to Osaka airport.	BLD
Day 9	Arrive UK After an overnight flight, we will arrive back in the UK, after an incredible and unique trip.	BL

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 2



Some low-level physical activities included in your trip, including walking on uneven terrain, maybe a morning/afternoon trek of two to four hours. That said, no physical preparation is required to make the most of the tour. High humidity and temperatures can occur at certain times of the year.

Cultural Rating for this trip: Grade 4



Students joining trips at this level will find the comforts of home are more of a rarity – or viewed another way, a welcome luxury. English is unlikely to be widely spoken and the food will be quite different to home, perhaps for extended sections of the trip. You should observe local customs so as not to cause offence. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty and accommodation in some locations is likely to be basic. Whilst a challenge, destinations and trips at cultural level 4 are also a fantastic opportunity to see a very different part of the world.



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

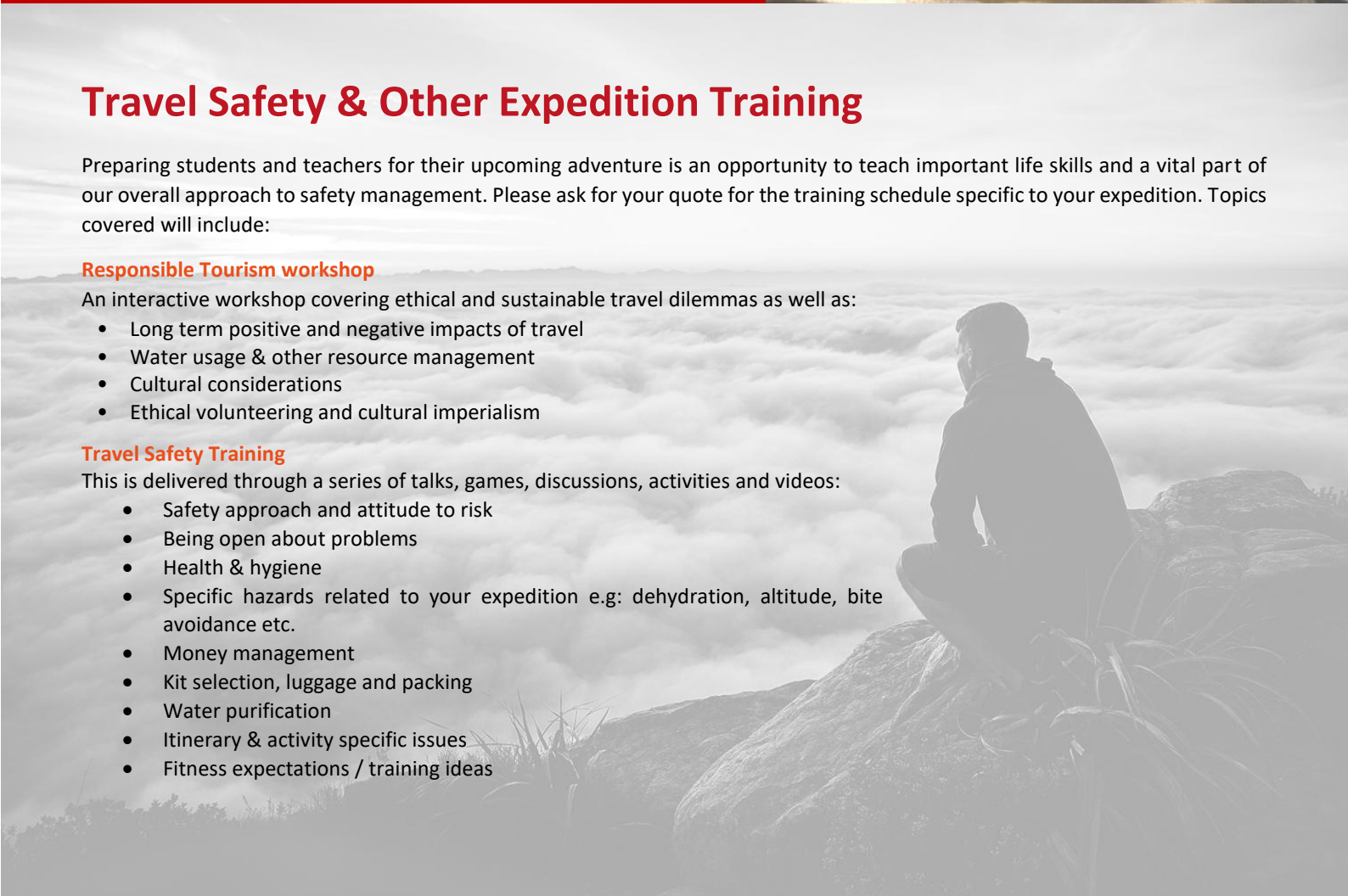
An interactive workshop covering ethical and sustainable travel dilemmas as well as:

- 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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