



INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

As adventurous travel and overseas expeditions become more popular with young people the benefit of this type of travel experience is becoming increasingly evident. Being involved in an expedition development programme (as either a student or teacher) can be the challenge of a lifetime and an incredibly rewarding experience.

It gives participants the opportunity to change their perspectives on life and the positive effects leave a lasting impression. Schools undertaking regular overseas expeditions are able to forge strong links with overseas conservation or education projects that can be used throughout the teaching curriculum. The Overseas Expedition Development Programme gives students the opportunity to develop their experience and knowledge through their travel experience. These valuable experiences will improve on transferable life skills like communication, teamwork, leadership, problem solving, planning and organisation. These valuable new skills can open up exciting opportunities in future careers and further education.

Personal & Social Education

Personal, social and health education within schools aims to give pupils 'the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives'.

National Curriculum

Citizenship teaching can benefit from the programme as political, spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues are covered. Students are encouraged to become more involved in their schools and wider communities through fund raising activities.

Experience of the sociopolitical and economic systems in their destination country will bring a greater understanding of these complex subjects and cultural diversity. More traditional subject areas like geography, history and science are covered through the preparation stages and the project work carried out whilst overseas.

Of prime importance is that the ethos of the programme meets the requirements of 'learning across the curriculum'. Meeting Curriculum requirements within this type of learning can be a challenge to schools. Our Development Programmes offers an invaluable learning opportunity for both staff and students.

Expedition Leadership Team

ALS Expedition Leaders & Additional Adults (team size dependant) possess extensive practical knowledge, excellent communication skills and maturity. All Expedition Leaders have travelled independently in the developing world and have proven expedition knowledge, are experienced in working with youth groups in the outdoor environment, are adept at handling challenging situations and most importantly are technically competent!



All leaders are required to undergo a rigorous selection and vetting process before being accepted. The Expedition Leader works on behalf of Adventure Lifesigns expeditions. Adventure Lifesigns takes full responsibility for the duty of care, supervision and Health & Safety of all expedition participants.

Senior Management Team (SMT) Involvement

The main role of the SMT is to allow Adventure Lifesigns to enter the school and to give a presentation about the Overseas Development Programme to teachers, pupils and their parents. The SMT will also assist Adventure Lifesigns by appointing a School Coordinator (this will be explained fully during a presentation to the SMT).

Involving teachers in the Overseas Development Programme not only offers personal development but can also raise the profile of the school amongst parents and the local community. We assist with advertising in the local press to raise funds for their expedition and to publicise their achievements.

Local Authority (LA) involvement

Once the team has been established, Adventure Lifesigns will contact the SMT to discuss the LA Expedition Approval Process.

Our expeditions typically take place in remote areas and in developing world countries which can present significant challenges, so as a process of good practice, Adventure Lifesigns Expeditions will apply to all relevant LA's for approval. Adventure Lifesigns conform to the good practice guidelines set out by the Young Explorers Trust, Expedition Providers Association, Department for Children, Schools and Families, Outdoor Education Advisers Panel and BS 8848.

Duty of Care

School Coordinators (the teacher) accompanying expedition teams must act 'in loco parentis' and must uphold their duty of care responsibilities. Adventure Lifesigns Expeditions has a higher duty of care and is therefore ultimately responsible for the Health & Safety of participants. Adventure Lifesigns will therefore take the lead in seeking LA approval for an Overseas Development Programme.

The School Coordinator

The School Coordinator is an indispensable member of the expedition team and is involved throughout each stage. Without this support it would be extremely difficult for the students to work their way through the preparation period. With their involvement, however, the team has someone they trust to help them through the preparation period and the expedition itself. The School Coordinator acts as a main point of contact between Adventure Lifesigns and the students (Explorers) and are involved with group support and assisting with the fund raising.



The School Coordinators continual support and commitment to the programme is essential and taking part requires not only energy, enthusiasm and a sense of humour, but also dedication to the progress of the students. Adventure Lifesigns offers School Coordinators free training courses and subsidized wilderness first aid courses. The School Coordinator will do his or her utmost to ensure the Health & Safety of everyone in the team and to act as any reasonable parent would do in the same circumstances, work in conjunction with the Expedition Leader and help with control and discipline (pastoral care). They will also (in conjunction with the Expedition Leader), consider stopping the activity if they think the risk to the health & safety of the pupils in their charge is unacceptable.

The cost to the School Coordinator of being involved in the Programme is minimal. The programme includes all UK and overseas phases, UK based training courses, in-country budget, flights, insurance and equipment use. It does not include passport and vaccinations costs or travel costs whilst undertaking UK-based training programmes.

Expedition Safety

Expedition safety is a top priority for us. We operate the most effective safety procedures to maintain the highest possible standards at all times. Comprehensive safety briefings are tailored to each destination and occur during training and throughout the expedition. Each Expedition Leadership Team is equipped with a destination specific casualty rescue and evacuation document listing all local medical services and have advanced wilderness medical skills and safety training. A 24 hour medical rescue service is on hand in the unlikely event of an emergency and 24/7 satellite link to the UK Operations Room means that constant contact is maintained with expedition teams ensuring rapid and appropriate action.

Adventure Activities Licensing Authority

It is a legal requirement that those offering adventure activities to under 18s are registered with the Adventure Activities Licensing Service (AALS). Their licensing scheme ensures that registered providers are operating in accordance with nationally accepted good practice. Adventure Lifesigns has been inspected by the service and has demonstrated compliance with nationally accepted standards of good practice. We are licensed to provide outdoor activities under the Adventurous Activities Licensing Service. Please contact our office for further details.

Risk Assessment

Adventure Lifesigns expeditions has a responsibility and duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all employees and programme participants. We operate a strict safety policy that covers all UK and overseas expeditions. This safety policy includes comprehensive risk assessments designed to minimise potential hazards.



Specialty Assistance

Adventure Lifesigns Expeditions is fully supported by Specialty Assistance throughout our overseas operations. Specialty Assistance crisis management enables organisations to manage unexpected incidents properly and effectively. Specialty Assistance assists with the design and implementation of comprehensive incident response systems, and also supports organisations at the time of an incident through to the post-incident evaluation.

Flights

All flights are protected by the ATOL guarantee. Please refer to the booking terms and conditions for further details. Adventure Lifesigns hold an ATOL license No: 9303.

Insurance

Adventure Lifesigns expeditions' insurance cover offers each participant and staff member world-wide comprehensive insurance covering medical emergencies, rescue, personal and public liability, accidents and legal costs. Each participant and staff member is also covered while taking part in the land and water-based outdoor activities offered by Adventure Lifesigns expeditions, whether in the UK or overseas. Cancellation, curtailment and personal effects are also covered when travelling overseas.

Fundraising

The ALS team will provide fundraising support during the development programme. Workshops relating to savings, employment issues and events management aim to enhance financial awareness in order that participants make independent and informed decisions about budgeting, spending and saving.

Expedition Costs & Payment System

The cost of the expedition is normally spread over four payments: Deposit, EST1, EST2 and the balance payment. The payment structure has been formulated to spread the payments and is intrinsically linked with the UK-based training courses. The total amount also covers the cost of flights, insurance, medical cover, group equipment and all associated in-country costs. It is important to be aware that each participant has the following additional costs:

Each participant must arrange their own travel to and from any associated training courses and are responsible for the cost of the return journey to the departure airport. Participants are also responsible for the cost of passport fees, entry visas (where applicable), inoculation fees (where applicable), personal medicines, personal equipment and clothing.

**Administration**

Adventure Lifesigns expeditions will provide administration support including bookings, travel arrangements and insurance for the expedition.

Support

Adventure Lifesigns expeditions will provide essential support including safety support, expedition training, equipment advice and international rescue service.