Expedition

"Blue Ventures does magnificent work, helping local communities and offering extraordinary volunteering opportunities that you’ll remember for the rest of your life."

Simon Reeve
Adventurer, author and presenter of the BBC’s Indian Ocean series
“An incredible life-changing experience, where real science is combined with an eye-opening view of some of the challenges facing development today.”

Matt Mitchell, Expedition Volunteer

“You’ll learn to dive and conduct research on the coral reefs with Malagasy locals, measuring fish populations, examining bleaching effects on the reef, and monitoring mangrove swamp ecology, all against an exquisite backdrop of wild palms, blue lagoons, and white-sand beaches.”

National Geographic Traveler Magazine

“We’re confident that the experiences we offer are the most rewarding and worthwhile placements available in volunteer conservation today.”

Alasdair Harris, Executive Director
Why choose Blue Ventures?

Volunteers are vital to the success of our projects and we are committed to delivering high quality and rewarding expeditions that benefit volunteers, host communities and the fragile marine environments where we work.

Since 2003 we have been working with volunteers to develop locally led marine conservation initiatives in places where the ocean is vital to local cultures and economies.

Alongside our practical conservation work, our aim is to increase awareness of the critical need for marine conservation and research and to demonstrate that marine conservation can be in everyone’s interest, and that taking less from our ocean can give us much, much more.

The dives you undertake and the data you collect whilst on an expedition are invaluable for developing effective approaches for safeguarding threatened marine biodiversity and traditional coastal livelihoods.

By joining us as a volunteer you are contributing to our impact as we focus on driving the adoption of our locally led marine conservation models.

CONTENTS

Why choose Blue Ventures? 3
Staff 4
Expedition living 4
Expedition costs 4
Responsible tourism, standards and awards 4
Talk to past volunteers 4
Blue Ventures expedition site: Andaavadoaka, Madagascar 6
Blue Ventures expedition site: Sarteneja and Bacalar Chico, Belize 8
Blue Ventures expedition site: Atauro Island, Timor-Leste 10
Life on a Blue Ventures Expedition 12
What should I expect? 12
Science Training 12
Diving 12
Accommodation 13
Life outside diving 14
Safety on camp 14
After your expedition 15
Keeping in touch when I get home 15
Staff

At Blue Ventures we focus on recruiting experienced teams and providing the right mix of international and local staff to give our volunteers the training and support that they need to get the most from their expedition.

Some organisations offering marine conservation expeditions host large numbers of volunteers in the same project and site. We believe that this can limit the learning experience, the availability of facilities, and the access to activities and training that you can participate in.

At Blue Ventures we are committed to getting you, the volunteer, involved in all aspects of our research and to providing the best training and support. Therefore, we limit our volunteer numbers to ensure a ratio of staff to volunteers that is never more than 1 to 3.

Expedition living

Living in remote communities is exciting and challenging. We provide living conditions that ensure your comfort and also reflect the local culture and community that you are working in. There will be days on your expedition when you’ll work long hours to achieve your expedition goals and we believe that our volunteers need comfortable accommodation and a balanced diet to help them achieve these goals. On a Blue Ventures expedition local chefs prepare delicious meals using fresh and locally sourced ingredients. Our volunteer accommodation overlooks the sea and is built by local craftsmen. We structure our expeditions to maintain the balance between work, research and recreation, by giving you the time and space to get the most out of your stay with us.

Expedition costs

We understand that one of the most important considerations for our volunteers when deciding which volunteer project to join is the cost of the project and identifying exactly where your money goes and what the cost includes. When investigating your options we recommend that you understand what kit and equipment you will be expected to purchase before your trip. We provide the majority of the diving equipment that you require and all of the expensive items are included in your expedition fee (Buoyancy Control Device (BCD), Regulators, dive cylinders and weights). No matter how remote the environment or location, volunteering on an expedition shouldn’t mean that your living conditions are neglected. If, whilst working as a conservation volunteer, you’re expected to sleep in tented or dormitory accommodation and cook your own food, the price of your project should reflect this. Blue Ventures volunteers receive three meals per day, cooked by experienced local chefs and live in eco-cabins overlooking the beach. Our approach is to employ, source and buy locally whenever possible and we spend more than 70% of volunteer fees in our expedition countries, with the remaining sum used to support our UK-based team, and the other essential costs involved in running expeditions such as the payment protection insurance that secures your payment.

Responsible tourism, standards and awards

We are an industry leader in responsible tourism, volunteering and conservation tourism. Our staff have helped draft and guide industry codes of practice and are key influencers in the tourism sector. As a leading member of the Year Out Group we abide by their Code of Practice and Charter. Since we launched our first project in Madagascar in 2003 we have won 10 awards for our marine conservation expeditions. But we don’t rely on past successes and our commitment to quality and giving you the best possible expedition experience remains a priority on every trip we organise.

Talk to past volunteers

Nobody will be able to give you a better idea of whether you will enjoy the expedition than a past volunteer. When choosing your expedition, ask whether it’s possible to speak to people who have participated in the project. Make sure that these are recent volunteers and don’t be afraid to ask them detailed questions about life in the field.

A marine conservation expedition is not just a holiday on which you collect some data, and return home again. We are committed to providing you with new skills and experiences. Our aim is for you to come out of the project having had a truly life-changing experience, fostering a passion and motivation to do more in the marine conservation, responsible tourism and education sector. We also hope that by the end of your time with us you’ll share our love for you’re the communities where we work and our projects both above and below water. This expedition guide has been written with the help of past volunteers.
“I very much appreciated the integrated research approach and I was thoroughly impressed by the way volunteers were able to integrate themselves into the broad range of conservation, education and research activities underway on site.”
LEDA SMITH, EXPEDITION VOLUNTEER

Find out more or get in touch:
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Andavadoaka, Madagascar

The remote fishing village of Andavadoaka, Blue Venture’s expedition site, is located along Madagascar’s southwest coast and boasts beautiful, diverse and unexplored terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

In Andavadoaka the clear turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean meet sandy white beaches and offer visitors a wide variety of activities from snorkelling to bird watching to trekking through legendary baobab forests. With a population of just 2,500, Andavadoaka is home to the Vezo, known as “people of the sea” for their cultural, economic and spiritual ties to the ocean waters. The Vezo regularly hold traditional ceremonies thanking spiritual ancestors for the bounty the sea provides. Community members also believe that foreign visitors can “become” Vezo by learning how to properly sail their traditional canoes, called pirogues.

Because of the remoteness of Andavadoaka, the area is far removed from any city sounds or sights. With its shallow lagoon, island studded horizon, wooden huts and wandering goats, Andavadoaka feels like a private tropical paradise.

The third largest continuous coral reef system in the world is located here, extending more than 300km. The waters of Andavadoaka are home to endangered marine turtles, migrating humpback whales, spinner dolphins and more than 500 species of tropical fish and corals.

Global warming, destructive fishing practices and a growing population around Madagascar’s coasts pose increasing threats to these hugely important underwater systems.

Spiny forests, described by some as the “eighth wonder of the natural world”, are the main vegetative type in this eco-region. An intriguing combination of desert and forest, spiny forests are endemic to Madagascar’s southwest coastal areas, one of the only vegetative communities able to survive the extreme arid climate of the region. Plants here can go without water for more than a year. This forest can be seen all around Andavadoaka, and can be visited during excursions from the site. Incredible vistas with majestic baobab trees can be seen throughout the region. A vast array of indigenous and endemic birds provides fascinating bird-watching opportunities. And, of course, there is plenty of opportunity to simply relax and sunbathe along deserted white beaches. Our research site is located some 175km north of Toliara, the nearest city, approximately eight hours by 4x4 vehicle along very basic but beautiful roads and tracks! The main objective of our volunteer research programme is to survey and chart the unexplored fringing coral reefs, study their biodiversity and health, assess potential threats to these uncharted ecosystems, and develop management plans with local communities to protect their vital marine resources through locally managed marine areas (LMMAs).

We lead expeditions to Andavadoaka where you will be trained in diving, scientific research and on-the-ground conservation. The expeditions run year-round and usually last for six weeks (although shorter and longer trips are available).

Our expeditions allow you to explore underwater worlds that few people have ever seen before. During daily diving excursions, team members encounter brilliantly coloured starfish, sea anemones, corals and an endless...
array of tropical fish. Beach-side seminars teach team members how to identify marine species, calculate fish populations and collect scientific data to be used to develop conservation plans that will ensure these critical habitats remain healthy and productive for generations to come.

In the field, resident local cooks are responsible for preparing all meals for the research team each day. Generally meals consist of a main course of delicious meat or seafood, with rice and beans, vegetarian options are also available and we can cater for most dietary requirements. We also try to arrange camping trips to remote islands in order for you to enjoy a different perspective of local life and have the opportunity to cook local produce for yourselves. The experience of cooking fresh fish and vegetables over a driftwood open fire on the beach is not to be forgotten!

Members of the expedition team live and work alongside villagers, with opportunities to take language lessons, learn to sail local outrigger canoes, experience family meals with village hosts and to help local staff and researchers develop their English language skills. You will also participate in a number of other non-diving related research activities, such as supporting aquaculture projects of sea cucumber of seaweed and monitoring endangered spider tortoises in nearby villages where some of the last remaining healthy populations of the species survive. These projects involve close interaction with nearby communities and provides an excellent insight into local culture.

The specific nature of the research undertaken when you are on site depends on a number of factors (including the weather!), and you will be fully briefed on this on arrival at the site.

All our work is carried out in collaboration with researchers from the Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines (IHSM), the University of Toliara’s national marine institute, as well as a wide range of governmental and non-governmental partner organisations. This greatly benefits our research aims in the area, which are to identify strategies and targets that Blue Ventures, our partner communities and NGOs and the IHSM can work towards to develop sustainable local environmental management plans for the region’s unique marine and coastal ecosystems.
The Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System meets the land only once as it stretches for 1,000 km along the coast of Central America. It does so within the Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve, the site of Blue Ventures’ dive camp. Bacalar Chico is a remote, rarely visited reserve with palm studded white beaches and backed by mangroves that fade to the west into Corozal Bay. The reserve has an unusually high biodiversity for a barrier island and this led to its protected status in the 1990s. Bacalar Chico contains swamps, grasslands, forests, beaches, sea grass beds and barrier reef habitats. Marine habitat highlights include manatees, crocodiles, loggerhead turtles, dolphins, sharks and rays. The forests contain all six species of cats native to Belize including puma and jaguar and bird species like ospreys, pelicans and roseate spoonbills are commonly seen. On the mainland shore of Corozal’s large shallow lagoon is the village of Sarteneja, Blue Ventures’ community base, a traditional fishing community who sail the entire coast of Belize in their quest for a catch.

With a population of just over 2,000 people, Sarteneja is the largest fishing community in Belize. Fishers return periodically to their home village with its picturesque waterfront nestled between thriving mangrove stands.

The area around Sarteneja and Bacalar Chico is rich in Mayan history. In Mayan times the population of Belize was almost twice what it is now and the remnants of this culture are evident throughout the country. Cerros, an ancient Mayan port first constructed and inhabited around 400BC, is a short boat ride from Sarteneja and is the only Mayan site on the Belize coast. Mayan artifacts and sites can be seen near our dive camp in Bacalar Chico at Chac Balam, and the Mexico/Belize border to the north of our dive site lies along a waterway that is the remains of a canal dug by the Maya to gain access to the ocean for trade, an inspiring achievement by a people excavating the channel using handtools more than 2000 years ago.

“The group dynamic that Blue Ventures attracts is uniquely appropriate, with no single demographic isolated and all minds eager to learn and explore.”

LINDSAY BAZETT, EXPEDITION VOLUNTEER
Did you know?

Our Lionfish 9 day dive trip in Belize has been named as one of National Geographic Travellers “50 Tours of a Lifetime” 2015.

This is an accolade reserved for the most authentic, innovative, immersive and sustainable travel experiences on the planet. These are tours that “open the world to travellers and at the same time leave a positive impact on the destinations and its people.”

Between Sarteneja and Bacalar Chico there is the wide expanse of Corozal Bay providing a home for a large population of endangered manatee. These majestic marine mammals can also be seen in the mangrove lakes and seagrass beds on the ocean side of Bacalar Chico where they often swim to the edge of the Belize Barrier Reef. This barrier reef is 300 km long and is part of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System that stretches from Cancun, in Mexico to Riviera Maya, in Honduras. This reef is the second longest barrier reef in the world after the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

The Belize Barrier Reef gained Natural World Heritage status in 1996, but despite this recognition, the area is now threatened by agrochemical wash-off from extensive agriculture inland, pollution from expansive developments on the coast and overfishing by local and illegal international fishermen.

As a part of the expedition team in Belize, you will begin your stay in the village of Sarteneja, carrying out initial dive and science training and becoming integrated in the community. Once this orientation has been completed, you will travel across the Corozal Bay through the ancient Mayan canal to our dive camp on the coast of Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve.

Here you will be able to dive an area of the reef that is rarely seen as it is far from the resorts and tourist hot spots to the south. Our remote site is a former park ranger station and stands alone in a wilderness that stretches 13 km north across the Mexican border to the town of Xcalak and south for 10 km of untouched palmed beaches, with only a few sporadic developments prior to San Pedro, a small resort town an hour’s boat ride south of our site.

You will contribute to the monitoring of this region, its beaches, which are nesting sites for turtle, and the mangrove forests and lagoons which host populations of rare salt water alligators and West Indian Manatee. Your monitoring and research of these sites will include corals and fish life, seagrass habitats and manatee populations, birdlife, mangroves and fish hatcheries.

At the end of your stay at our dive camp you will return to Sarteneja where you will have the opportunity to work with the local community and assist in manatee monitoring and mangrove conservation efforts. Alternative livelihood training and conservation education in the local community are key to the success of Blue Ventures and local conservation efforts in the region. The fishers of Sarteneja are the principle providers of lobster, conch and fish to the national market. We are working closely with them and with fishing cooperatives throughout Belize to develop a new commercial fishery targeting lionfish, an invasive species that is a voracious predator of native species and a huge threat to Belize’s fisheries.

Using the information our volunteers collect about the health of the marine environment in the Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve and lionfish in the protected area, we are developing management plans and conservation efforts in partnership with those who most directly affect and rely upon the marine life of this beautiful coastline. The work our volunteers conduct contributes to annual reports about the status of the reserve and the monitoring efforts of the Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD), which has a broad remit for responsible development of the Corozal Bay in this area and conservation education for the local community.

All our research is carried out under permit from the Fisheries Department and Forest Department and shared with them in annual reports, ensuring that our findings are accessible by the Belizean government for use in any environmental policies.
Volunteer with Blue Ventures in the unique natural paradise of Timor-Leste and contribute to critical marine conservation in a country at the heart of the Coral Triangle, home to the highest diversity of marine life on earth.

Bathed by the deep waters of the Banda and Timorese seas, Timor-Leste along with Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and the Solomon Islands form the world-famous Coral Triangle. While it covers less than 2% of the earth’s oceans, the Coral Triangle hosts more than 75% of all known coral species, almost 40% of all known coral-reef fish species, more than 50% of the world’s coral reefs. Numerous shark, whale and dolphin species and six of the world’s seven marine turtle species are also found here.

The waters of Timor-Leste are a biodiversity hotspot and a global marine conservation priority, yet data on the status of the marine ecosystem is severely lacking, with limited monitoring and research. Blue Ventures’ volunteers will assist our team of scientists with the collection of marine inventory data completing research dives in previously un-surveyed waters. The data collected will inform Blue Ventures’ theory and practice and contribute directly to our efforts to develop new approaches to engaging Timor-Leste’s coastal communities in marine conservation.

As well as surveying the status of the coral reefs, particular attention will be paid to threatened seagrass beds, this habitat, home to numerous vulnerable species, including dugongs, serves as a vital feeding ground and nursery area for reef fish.

Blue Ventures’ expedition will be based on Atauro Island, which lies 25 km across the Wetar Strait from Timor-Leste’s capital Dili. The island is surrounded by a fringing reef that drops off sharply to the open ocean only a few metres away from shore and has some of the most breathtaking scuba diving on offer anywhere in the world.
There is no doubt that the highlight of your expedition experience will be the incredible marine environment. Thousands of fish fly past your nose as you dive or snorkel over the reef and into the deep blue beyond. Truly spectacular coral walls fringe the island with stunning habitat easily accessible from the shore. While we can’t guarantee you specific wildlife sightings, there really are few, if any, better places in the world to explore rich coral ecosystems bustling with life.

The deep ocean channels of the Wetar and Ombai straits surrounding Atauro plummet more than 3,000 metres deep and are a major migratory route for marine wildlife moving between the Pacific and Indian oceans, including whales, dolphins, large sharks and turtles.

Whilst contributing to marine conservation, you will discover a land filled with remarkable people, inspiring history, rich culture, remote villages and diverse landscapes.

Similar to our current expedition sites in Madagascar and Belize, we will be developing, with the help of our volunteers, a number of community based conservation projects in Timor-Leste. Throughout 2016 our team and expedition volunteers will work to develop conservation and community priorities. These are likely to include dugong and seagrass surveys, terrestrial fauna surveys, marine habitat surveys and community aquaculture projects. In addition to this, volunteers will participate in conservation and environmental awareness projects and activities such as beach clean-ups and language exchange sessions.

With incredible reefs just offshore you’ll be forgiven for spending all of your free time swimming and snorkelling. However, the island is filled with tropical forests covering some high peaks that offer great hiking to savannas and silky white, deserted beaches.

You will also have the opportunity to visit local markets (a weekly highlight for many on Atauro) and craft centres where you can pick up some beautiful souvenirs while contributing to local development efforts.

Beyond Atauro and our expedition site, trips to Dili and the districts of Timor-Leste will be part of our exploration of the country. Tourism infrastructure is limited but improving and Homestays offer the chance to experience Timor-Leste amongst local hosts and families. Whether you would like to visit remote mountain communities specialising in producing stunning coffee, or fancy more underwater time diving along the north coast of the island, there is much to explore.

This is an exciting new expedition and an opportunity for volunteers to work in a new country as part of the team that will establish the focus of our work and specific goals as we explore Timor-Leste.
What should I expect?

In addition to diving and other research work, all volunteers are involved in a wide range of aspects of the day-to-day running of the project, from kit maintenance to dive planning. There are a multitude of tasks each day that can make expedition life extremely busy, but at the same time ensure that it will be a fascinating learning experience for all.

Each day begins early and often ends quite late. There is, however, plenty of time for rest and relaxation and for taking part in other activities such as volleyball, football, snorkelling, walking, sunbathing, board games, reading, and simply exploring the surrounding environments. Expeditions are superb fun but hard work. An enormous amount can be gained, although this depends on how much you put in!

We’re also happy to put you in touch with volunteers who have worked with us in the past, if you’d like more impartial advice!

Science Training

Science training is carried out alongside dive training as soon as volunteers arrive at the camp. The duration of the marine science training period is weather dependent, but typically lasts around 10-14 days.

Science training, taught in an informal and highly engaging manner by our field staff, has a strong practical component, and is designed to give you a broad introduction to the spectacular natural history of the region, as well as a more detailed introduction to the specifics of the work you’ll be carrying out as a volunteer. The course aims to impart an excellent working knowledge of some of the issues and driving forces affecting the management and conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems at our project sites.

You’re encouraged to prepare for the expedition by taking the time to study pre-departure science training materials that are given to everyone at the time of booking an expedition. On site, you will be taught identification of the species and groups of species you are likely to encounter during the course of survey dives, and finally how to implement these skills in underwater research methodologies.

Identification skills and survey techniques are practised throughout the science training programme, and at the end of this period you will have a short test to validate the accuracy of the data that you’re collecting. Whilst on site, your general health and well-being are looked after by the Expedition Medic, who will be available at all times in case of accident or emergency.

Diving

Diving at our research sites is nothing short of stunning. Varying from shallow fore-reef channels to deeper sites and sea-fan forests, the sites we visit offer experienced and new divers alike the chance to encounter a wide range of the habitats you learn about during your time with us. As an added bonus, when conducting reconnaissance dives, there is a very good chance that you will be the first person to ever dive at that site.

Of course one of the primary considerations of such
remoteness is safety. All diving is carried out according to our Diving Protocol, and under the guidance of our Dive Manager.

Part of this protocol is that one day in every six is taken as a compulsory “no-dive” decompression day, to ensure that any residual nitrogen build-up from the week’s diving is completely cleared from your system. If you require any further information about this protocol, or if you have any further diving related queries, please contact us at: info@blueventures.org

Another key component of our dive protocol is that all divers are trained to at least PADI Advanced Open Water standard prior to taking part in any underwater marine research activities.

For those who have never dived before, our research sites are a fantastic place to learn: why learn in a pool when you can learn in a warm, tropical ocean! Initial dive training to Open Water level is undertaken in the first week of the expedition, giving new divers the chance to rapidly progress to diving with the more experienced divers on survey and reconnaissance dives.

Further dive training to Advanced Open Water level ensures that all divers on the expedition are capable and confident in the water. For divers who arrive on site already trained to this level (or equivalent), your initial dives will be a chance to refresh your diving, and start to explore the reefs.

If you are a qualified diver who has not dived for more than six months, we ask that you take part in a SCUBA Tune-up to refresh your skills before arriving on site or we can offer this refresher upon arrival.

There is also the opportunity to take your diving education further still; each expedition, several volunteers complete the Emergency First Response and Rescue Diver courses. These two courses go hand-in-hand to increase a diver’s knowledge of first aid, along with techniques for locating and dealing with tired, panicked or unconscious divers. For those who intend to stay for a second expedition, training to Divemaster level is available.

Depending on local weather and sea conditions, you should be able to complete on average one research dive per day. However, this is only a guide, and depends on local conditions. By the end of your stay on the expedition you will be both skilled and experienced in the underwater identification of fishes, corals and invertebrates.

You will see a huge diversity of abundant marine life, both in the warm waters of the lagoons and in the deeper waters of the exterior of the reefs.

Accommodation

You have the exclusive use of a group of eco-cabins at our sites. Each eco-cabin accommodates up to four, but we can often offer single and double rooms on request for a supplement.

For photographs of our sites and accommodation please visit www.blueventures.org.
Life outside diving

Outside of diving, expedition life is very active. There is plenty to keep you occupied, from trips and excursions to various sites of interest to beach games or relaxing on our beach.

Due to the remote location of our research sites there will not be the same array of nightlife you might have at home. However, the warmth, the beach, expedition team-mates and music mean that the evenings can be as much fun as the days. Feel free to bring games to add to the site collection.

As well as relaxing and enjoying the surrounding environment those who want to can observe and often contribute to other projects and the regular meetings and workshops that we hold with local communities. These meetings can give you insights into how conservation works in the field and will increase your understanding of our work and priorities.

Safety at camp

At Blue Ventures, safety is a priority on all of our expeditions and by taking sensible precautions we can make your marine conservation expedition a safe as well as enjoyable experience.

Our diving staff are highly experienced divers trained in first aid and practical rescue management. We have a full Medical Evacuation Plan (Medivac) that ensures an effective response in the event of any sort of accident and 24 hour contact between our dive camps and our London Headquarters and medical advisers. Our health and safety protocols and evacuation plans are revised on a regular basis, and on arrival on site, you will receive a full safety and health briefing from our staff.

“Aside from diving I was able to teach English to primary and secondary schools, as well as be involved with giving swimming lessons to the children of Andavadoaka.”

ANDREW RITCHIE EXPEDITION VOLUNTEER
After your expedition

Keeping in touch when you get home

There are numerous opportunities for you to stay in touch with your team, and to stay involved with our work, after your expedition. We keep you up to speed with project progress via newsletters, blogs and social media.

If you want to get more involved with us when you return, we have a number of part-time and full-time paid and unpaid positions within the UK and abroad. This can range from working in our offices in London, to joining the expedition team that trained you during your time with us.

Please visit the jobs section of our website for more information: www.blueventures.org/about/careers/

“The diversity on the reefs is mind blowing. It was an amazing way to spend six weeks.”

WILL PROTO
EXPERIENCE VOLUNTEER

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We are a member of the Year Out
Group, a not-for-profit association that
promotes well-structured year out
programmes and helps young people
and their advisers select suitable and
worthwhile projects.

As featured in:

Global Youth Travel Awards
2015
Winner of the Outstanding
Volunteer Project award
The CfDs act as a benchmark
to excellence and celebrate
outstanding performers
within the youth, student and
educational travel sector.

Skoll Award 2015
The Skoll Award recognises
social entrepreneurs whose
innovations have already
had significant, proven
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world’s most pressing
problems, supporting even
greater impact at scale.

National Geographic
Traveler ‘Tour of a Lifetime’
Award, 2015
Our Belaya Lolotaka
expeditions won this award
which is reserved for the
most authentic, innovative,
immersive and sustainable
tours on the planet.

British Youth Travel Awards,
2014, 2012
These awards celebrate
the work and success of
organisations engaged
in youth, student and
educational travel. We
were finalists in the Best
Volunteering Organisation
in 2014, and winners
in 2012.

The St Andrews Prize for
the Environment, 2014
The St Andrews Prize for
the Environment recognises
practical solutions to
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that are developed
and implemented by
multidisciplinary teams or
community groups.

United Nations
Development
Programme
Equator Prize
2006: the Village
of Andavadoaka,
winner (in
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United Nations
SEED Award
2005: winner,
“Madagascar’s
first experimental
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Enterprising
Young Brits 2005
& 2006: highly
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Winner, Buckminster Fuller
Challenge, 2011
For work to protect marine
resources and improve
the livelihoods of poor
coastal communities in
Madagascar.

CondiL Nest Trawler
Environmental Award, 2009
for two decades, CondiL
Nest Trawler has been
honouring environmental
visionaries around the
world who have found
innovative solutions to
seemingly intractable
problems.

Skoll Ecotourism
Awards 2006:
Winner, “General
Countryside”

Responsible Tourism Awards
2010: Winner for “Best volunteering
organisation”
for “Best in a marine environment”
2008, 2006: highly commended for
“Best Volunteering Organisation”

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environmental challenges
that are developed
and implemented by
multidisciplinary teams or
community groups.

United Nations
Development
Programme
Equator Prize
2006: the Village
of Andavadoaka,
winner (in
partnership)
United Nations
SEED Award
2005: winner,
“Madagascar’s
first experimental
community-run
MPA”

Enterprising
Young Brits 2005
& 2006: highly
commended,
“Social and
Environment”
United Nations
Development
Programme
Equator Prize
2005: the Village
of Andavadoaka,
winner (in
partnership)

Global Youth Travel Awards
2015
Winner, Buckminster Fuller
Challenge, 2011
For work to protect marine
resources and improve
the livelihoods of poor
coastal communities in
Madagascar.

CondiL Nest Trawler
Environmental Award, 2009
for two decades, CondiL
Nest Trawler has been
honouring environmental
visionaries around the
world who have found
innovative solutions to
seemingly intractable
problems.