



Green Edventures Tours & Research Expedition Teams

Adventure | Education | Science



Alaska | Baja Mexico | Costa Rica | Florida | Trinidad & Tobago

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About Green Edventures Tours

Amazing destinations for students to investigate natural processes, and learn about their role in the global ecosystem. Local guides, and hand-crafted outdoor activities like hiking, sea kayaking, glacier trekking, waterfall rappelling, snorkeling, camping, and really cool animal encounters ensure that students are immersed, engaged, and wowed by a place. They will be talking about their school trip the rest of their lives.



Why Choose Green Edventures?

- Teachers travel and participate free with as few as 7-10 paying students.
- Wild, off-the-beaten path destinations that help inspire wow, wonder, and world citizenship in your students.
- Inquiry-based, student-centered programs aim to facilitate that immerses students in environments where their questions drive the educational direction of the trip.
- Safety is our number one priority. We have a strict conduct code and small groups of no more than 10 students per adult. Group size is 12-20 participants.
- Expert guides, 24-hour support, and hand-crafted adventures ensure that you and your students will be engaged participants on a tour tailored to you.
- Upgrade your place-based trip to be an Expedition Team that incorporates STEM curriculum, into your adventure to help your students think like scientists.
- We are eco-conscious supporting local guides and conservation efforts in the places we visit. Trips are carbon neutral through Carbonfund.org and our ecological footprint is always considered when developing tours.

Tara Short – Founder & Director

Tara cultivated her passion for ocean life at a young age through her vivid imagination while playing in her grandparents' swimming pool in suburban Chicago. She would snorkel & explore this pool playground, often pretending to be in oceanic waters filled with dolphins and colorful fish.

Tara turned her passion for exploration, marine life and environmental preservation in to Green Edventures in 2008. She designed this eco-adventure program to educate students and adults through travel and outdoor activity while supporting local-based businesses and conservation programs.

Through professionally guided tours, it is Tara's mission to facilitate life-changing natural encounters to educate and inspire.

"Having facilitated over 1,000 participants on trips all over the Americas, I know firsthand the positive, life-changing effects that nature has on people," Tara says. "I tell people that I am a teacher and guide, but what I really am, is a matchmaker. I provide the ambiance and set the mood for people to connect with, be fascinated by, and fall in love with the ocean, the rainforest, the desert, and other amazing wild habitats, in hopes that they will want to protect them."

Tara has nearly two decades of experience in eco-tourism, guiding and educating students of all ages in the Americas, the Caribbean, and Iceland. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in Natural Resource Management with an emphasis in Environmental Education/Interpretation. Tara has worked for notable educational, scientific, and conservation organizations and institutions such as the John G. Shedd Aquarium, Chicago's Museum of Science & Industry, USDA Forest Service in the Chugach National Forest in Alaska, and Wild Studies in the Bahamas.

When Tara is not away leading Green Edventurers' Tours, she can be found underwater at the Shedd Aquarium as a volunteer diver on Tuesday mornings in the 90,000-gallon Caribbean Reef Exhibit.

Tara is a PADI Open Water Diver, Advanced Diver, Rescue Diver and has specialty certifications as Underwater Naturalist, Deep Diver, Multi-Level diver and Night Diver.



How to Schedule a Group

Choose A Destination

If you are considering a trip for your students offer them an adventure that will wow them, inspire them, and give them an opportunity to do and see what most people only dream about. That is where Green Edventures can help you! We have uncommon and authentic places for you to choose from. The following factsheets will provide you an overview of the trips with highlights, prices, and accommodations. Detailed and up-to-date information can be found online at www.GreenEdventures.com

Reserve Your Date!

After you decide where you want to go, contact Green Edventures for a list of available dates. You will be penciled in the schedule, provided registration forms, and given a timeline with important dates and deadlines.

Collect Deposit & Forms

We need your help to generate interest at your school, collect the deposits, and registration forms. After you form your group, mail in the paperwork and payment and we will take it from there. Students will pay their program fees in monthly installments.

Airline Tickets

Green Edventures works with Ridgebrook Travel Agency in Deerfield, IL to book each group's flight. Airline fees will be billed to the participants separately plus a \$25 ticketing fee.

Role of the Group Leader/Chaperone

Before the trip, you will hold a pre-trip meeting to collect signed waivers and to discuss last minute trip procedures. Onsite, your role is to help with managing students, ensuring that they are prepared for and on time for activities, and that they follow our rules of conduct. Together, we can create a learning environment that minimizes risk and which fosters a positive experience for everyone.

Payments

Parents pay the program fees in monthly installments throughout the year, and participants must be paid in full 30 days before the departure date. Fundraising is a good way to supplement the tour fees, but should not be the sole funding for the trip. Parents must be committed to paying the trip regardless of the amount a student collects in fundraising.



Alaska: Kenai Explorer

Location: Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

Duration: 7 days

Dates Offered: June and July

Group Size: 11 (1 chaperone and 10 students)

Group Leader: 1 free with 10 paying students, including airfare. A guest fee available for a reduced rate.

Ages: Middle School (7th-8th grade), High School, & College



Summary:

See Alaska like a local! The Kenai Peninsula is one of the most glaciated regions in North America and ground zero for climate change. Here, we will study glaciers from the icefields where they were born down, to the oceans where they die, and the forces they used to form the topography and ecology of south-central Alaska. Students will investigate various habitats from temperate rainforest, alpine tundra, marine, and intertidal via hiking, kayaking, and rafting.

Animals:

Bears, moose, whales, eagles, porpoise, salmon, puffins, mountain goats, marmots.

- Hiking, kayaking & white water rafting on the spectacular Kenai Peninsula, including two nights at Kenai Fjords National Park; one night in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge; and two nights in cabins in remote Kachemak Bay State Park. We also hike in the Chugach National Forest, and visit the charmingly Alaskan seaside towns of Seward, Homer, and Hope.
- Excellent wildlife viewing opportunities throughout the tour!
- Scenic r/t boat crossing of Kachemak Bay.
- Great Food! Fresh, homemade, multicourse meals and deserts.
- Whitewater Rafting on the Class IV Six-Mile Creek (or upgrade Class V for an additional fee). – Note for student groups ages 13 and younger, this activity will be substituted with a science float on the Kenai River. Must know how to swim to river raft.
- Sea Kayaking in the wildlife-rich waters of Kachemak Bay State Park.
- Hiking: A variety of exceptional 2- 6-hour scenic day hikes over mixed terrain including a rewarding hike to see where glaciers are born.
- A 6-hour boat trip into the Kenai Fjords to for wildlife and glacier viewing.

Lodging: Hostel (1 night), camping (3 nights), shared cabins (2 nights)

Land Fee: \$2195

Not included: Airfare (750-900 RT), \$150 per person gratuity, personal spending money,



Baja Mexico: Sea of Cortez Discovery: Marine Biology

Location: La Paz, Baja Sur, Mexico

Duration: 8-days

Group Size: 7-21 students plus 3 chaperones

Dates Offered: Spring break, May, June, July, August

Group Leader: 1 free with every 7 paying students.



Ages: Middle School (7th-8th grade), High School, & College

Summary:

A budding marine biologist's dream is the Sea of Cortez from La Paz, Baja California Mexico!! Our living laboratory is set on a UNESCO World Heritage Site and marine preserve. Students will investigate one of the most beautiful and biologically diverse marine systems in the world, the Sea of Cortez. Our team of local guides are some of the most caring, fun, and knowledgeable people you could ever introduce your students to. You will want to come back year after year. The camp is literally Heaven on Earth.

Animals:

Seal lions, whales, dolphins and whale sharks, corals, 850 species of fish, jack rabbits,

Highlights:

- Snorkel with 500 wild and playful sea lions
- Experience nature 24/7 while glamping on an uninhabited island.
- Kayak through sea caves and along rugged desert coast.
- Hike through pristine desert and learn about seemingly otherworldly creatures that have adapted to this extreme environment.
- Explore coral reefs, rocky reefs, and sandy bottom marine habitats.
- Learn to SCUBA dive (additional fee)
- Possibly see and snorkel with wild dolphins and whale sharks (season specific).
- Gray Whale Experience (February & March) is whale watching like you never imagined. You must see it, to believe it. As us for photos.

Lodging: Hotel (1 night), Camping/Glamping (6 nights)

Land Fee: \$2095 per person.

Not included: Airfare (\$550-850 RT), \$80 gratuity pp, and travel insurance.



Costa Rica: Osa Peninsula Rainforest Discovery

Location: Osa Peninsula (far west corner of the country)

Duration: 9 days

Group Size: 10 students + 1 chaperone or 16 students & 2 chaperones

Group Leader: 1 free with 10 paying including airfare, then a second free with 16.

Ages: Middle School (7th-8th grade), High School, & College



Dates Offered: Spring Break, May, June, July

Summary:

Take a walk on the wild side in the real Costa Rica! Leave San Jose and bus tours behind and enter what National Geographic has named one of the most biological rich places in the world. Students will investigate and explore primary rainforest, lowland swamps, high impact beaches, and marine environments by foot, kayak, and snorkel to discover not just the plants and animals but to see first-hand the interdependence and relationships that make survival in the rainforest possible. Expect to see monkeys, dozens of bird species, insects, amphibians, and reptiles.

Highlights:

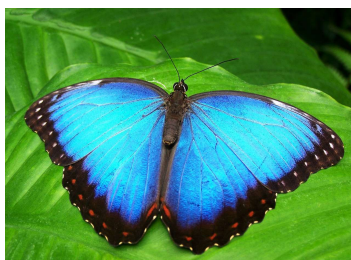
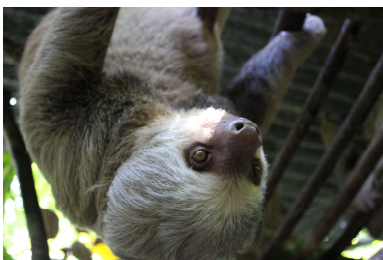
- San Jose attractions of La Paz Waterfall Garden, Poas Volcano, and Doka Coffee Plantation.
- A r/t 50-minute prop plane flight to the Osa Peninsula.
- Hike primary rainforest trails led by your expert and fun Tico guide.
- Go kayaking in lowland swamp in search of crocodiles.
- Snorkel to discover coral reef communities with invertebrates and fish.
- Visit a wildlife sanctuary to learn about and interact with rainforest creatures that have been rehabilitated.
- Wake to the sounds of howler monkeys from your rainforest platform glamps.
- See spider monkey, howler monkeys, capuchin monkeys, and squirrel monkey in their wild habitat.

Animals: Monkeys, macaws, blue morpho butterflies, green and black tree frogs, sloths, and so much more!

Lodging: B&B (2 nights), Eco-Lodges (platform glamps) (5 nights), Cabinas (1 night).

Land Fees: \$2300 this includes an in-country flight from San Jose to Puerto Jimenez.

Not included: Airfare (\$550-700RT) \$85 gratuity, and travel insurance.



Florida: Manatees and Springs Discovery

Location: Homosassa, Florida

Duration: 5 days

Group Size: 10 + 2 Chaperones

Group Leader: 2 free with 10 paying students.

Ages: Middle School (5th-8th grade), High School, & College

Dates: Winter Break, Spring Break, Summer

An adventure close to home, that will allow students to have big animal encounters with loveable manatees while exploring one of the USA's most valuable resources, fresh water springs. Citrus county has more than 700 springs that people and wildlife depend on, it is also the manatee capital of the world, and the only place in the United States that you can legally swim with an endangered marine mammal.



Highlights:

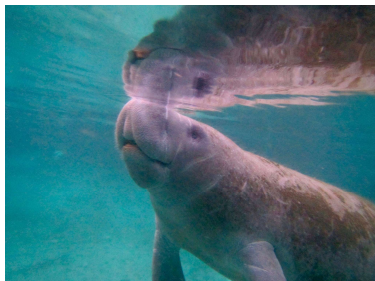
- Experience the real Florida along the Nature Coast.
- Learn about Citrus County's amazing springs and how people and animals depend on them for survival.
- Go kayaking in the wild Chassahowitzka River, Florida's Amazon.
- Life-changing in water guided encounters snorkeling with wild manatees.
- A thrilling airboat ride over wetlands and through rivers to see wildlife not accessible by the prop boats.
- Take a walk on the wild side with naturalist-led hikes to learn about ecology of upland Hammock Forests.
- Plankton tows, microscopes, and habitat keys will get your students looking more closely at the surrounding environment.
- Visit to the Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park for a closer look at native Florida flora and fauna.
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Animals: Manatees, birds, dolphins, alligators, turtles, plankton, macro invertebrates

Lodging: Rental home with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and a very large and spacious living area w/ kitchen. Participants live and participate together as part of a community. Meals are prepared by the participants with a set menu. There is an option to stay at a local resort hotel. Please contact us for pricing.

Land Fees: \$1395

Not included: Airfare (\$400-550 RT) \$60 pp gratuity, travel insurance.



Trinidad & Tobago: Rainforest to Reefs Discovery & Sea Turtle Rescue

Location: Trinidad & Tobago

Duration: 8 days

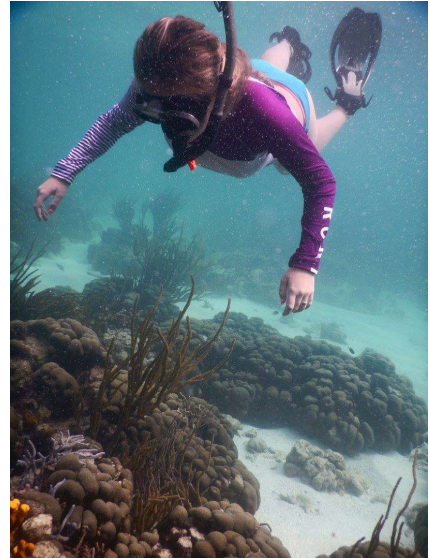
Group Size: 16 students and 2 chaperones

Group Leader: 1 free with each 8 paying, including airfare.

Dates Offered: May & June

Summary

Imagine yourself sitting next to a 600-pound living dinosaur watching her excavate her nest and lay her eggs on a primordial beach. This is just one of the exciting experiences on this twin island nation. Trinidad & Tobago is known for its colorful culture and festive carnival, but it's nature side is just as wild. They have rainforests, coral reefs, swamps, and beaches. Student love the variety of activities such as snorkeling, standup paddle boarding, and waterfall rappelling!



Highlights:

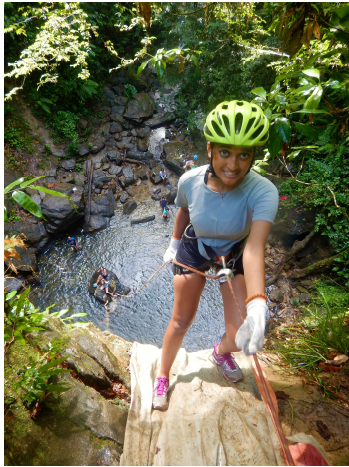
- Snorkeling world class coral reefs in crystal clear warm Caribbean water.
- Rappelling down 72ft waterfall into a jungle pool.
- Kayaking in mangrove swamps at sunset to see caimans, anteaters, and other wildlife with a grand finale of a fiery sky full of Scarlet Ibis coming in to roost.
- Stand Up Paddling on a bioluminescent lagoon at night.
- Hike the world oldest protect rainforest.
- Help collect leatherback sea turtle hatchings.
- Get up-close to mother sea turtles nesting on the beach and witness a process that have been happening for millions of years.

Animals: Leatherback Sea Turtles, 200+ Species of birds, fish, invertebrates, amphibians, & reptiles.

Lodging: Guest house (3 nights), Eco-Lodge (4 nights)

Land Fee: \$2650

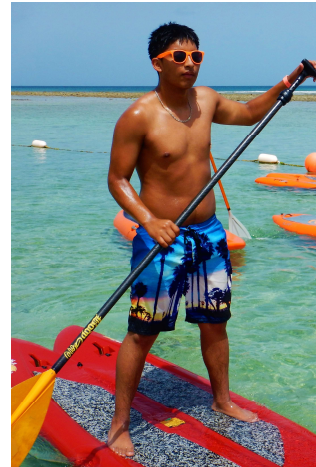
Not included: Airfare (\$750-850RT), gratuity of \$80 per person, travel insurance.



Expedition Team w/ STEM



Add On



Take your placed-based educational tour to a new level! Upgrade your group to an Expedition Team. Led, by a scientist from the University of Wisconsin Extension and paired with STEM curriculum, students will use technology to dig deeper into data on the trip.

Why make your group an Expedition Team?

Not only are you adding value to your travel experience, but you are giving your students an opportunity that is hard to find anywhere else.

Objectives:

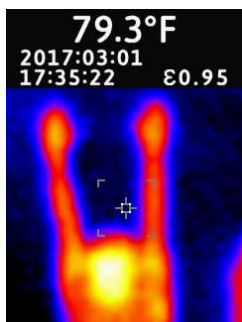
- To engage students with the use 21st century technology
- To develop students' inquiry skills using the scientific method
- To improve students' environmental literacy
- To help student make local and global connection regarding environmental issues and conservation efforts.
- To help students improve their communication skills via the translation of their research into authentic results using various media platforms



Contents of the DOT5 kits

The use of Digital Observation Technology Skills (DOTS) kits provides a hands-on approach to scientific rigor through a variety of measurement tools. Using digital microscopes, remote sensors, cameras, thermal imagers and trail cameras, this program will explore hidden environments, such as habitats, nocturnal wildlife movements, microscopic soil features, and thermodynamics of living organisms. Comparison of microclimates, basic understanding of scientific rigor and benefits of technology become easily accessible topics through the use of these kits. This program allows learners, of all ages, to become familiar with tools that are being used out in the field to answer a wide range of questions. Each participant is given a role to gather information for the benefit of the whole class. Depending on length of session each student will have the opportunity to teach their tool to another member, ideally everyone getting a chance to explore with each tool. Additionally, we will look at programs that use mobile technology tools to enable deep observation and investigation of natural environments, making the 'invisible' both visible and accessible to exploration and study.

With these tools, students and teachers will become generators, not just consumers, of knowledge by thinking and behaving as scientists, problem solvers, and contributors to field research investigations



FLIR Thermal Imager



Digital Microscope Image

1-2 Group SKYPE Sessions that will introduce the destination and principle research project to the participants. Participants will identify as a group or in small groups, a question or questions that they will investigate using scientific inquiry.

At the Destination:

Daily observations and data collection using DOTS kits, and writing a narrative for a blog that would serve as a diary/trip journal. Supplemental educational programming by governmental, non-profit university scientists who are overseeing/participating in ongoing research. Field excursions and day-trips.

Post-Trip

1-2 Post Trip Skype Sessions for Conclusions

An optional teacher led, participant-designed multimedia product at the end...collect video and images throughout the week that would build towards the final story.

Teachers are eligible to receive continuing education or graduate credit through the University of Wisconsin. An additional fee applies.

Expedition Team Fees

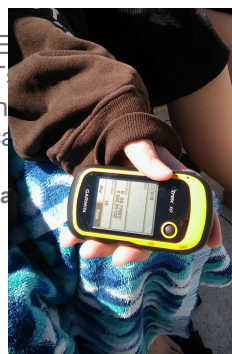
\$299 extra per participant. College credit available for teachers and student for an additional fee.

For More Information

Please contact

The B... program (DOTS) is with these Internet technology in Education

1. Create



GPS

knowledge to products, or work as a means of expression. simulations to systems and issues. forecast

2. Communication & Collaboration

- Interact, collaborate, and publish with peers, experts, or others employing a variety of digital environments and media.
- Communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.
- Develop cultural understanding and global awareness by engaging with learners of different cultures.
- Contribute to project teams to produce original works or solve problems.

3: Research & Information Fluency

- Plan strategies for guide inquiry.
- Locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and ethically use information from a variety of sources and media.
- Evaluate and select information sources and digital tools based on the appropriateness to the specific tasks.
- Process data and report results.

4. Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, & Decision Making.

- Identify and define authentic problems and significant questions for investigation.
- Plan and manage activities to develop a solution or complete a project.
- Collect and analyze data to identify solutions and/or make informed decisions.
- Use multiple processes and diverse perspectives to explore alternative solutions.

Tara Short

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