

Global Learning & International Partnerships



The STC was established in 2006 after identifying the need for a dedicated service to help teachers and group leaders with the planning and arranging of educational tours, adventures and expeditions for their students. As agents, services to our clients are free and we offer a service of integrity and honesty based on the following guiding principles:

- That we remain wholly independent from the 35 or so travel companies we deal with, continually providing a balanced, impartial and value for money solution to our clients' travel needs.
- That party leaders should receive first class support and guidance at every stage, from planning and preparation through to the return.
- That all travellers should receive a quality travel experience that stretches their horizons and encourages understanding and respect for foreign cultures, the environment and each other.

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Exploring beyond the Link

Student visits to Link Schools are becoming more frequent, providing students with opportunities beyond the high-impact educational experience of the School Partnership.

A visit to a Link School combined with an additional tour of the country enriches understanding by potentially immersing the individual in the history, culture, religion, politics, geography, economics, biology and environment whilst bringing practical relevance to school curriculum. As a tourist important questions become evident with regard to standards of living, responsible tourism, the possible value of tourism, conservation, sustainability and fair trade.

Foreign travel and adventurous expeditions provide perfect learning platforms for young people to gain valuable life skills and to become confident individuals and responsible global citizens.

Learning outcomes will be affected by the style of travel. For

example, expeditions create an environment in which team-working skills, friendships and maturity develop naturally. They offer the chance to experience different cultures, adventure and traditional lifestyles, as well as challenging pre-conceptions and testing participants (including teachers!) physically, emotionally and mentally. Whereas, cultural, curriculum-based and sightseeing tours educate, enlighten and bring life and understanding to diversity, knowledge and theory.

Whatever the purpose of the trip there will be many ways to reach the objective and many factors will affect how best to approach things. Factors to consider include the destination, style of travel, the qualifications and experience of staff, budget, destination climates, learning objectives and the length of time planned away. No two trips are the same: it is our role to help educational establishments create the one that is right for them.



Talks & Support

We provide talks and seminars at conferences, training courses and institutions, offering an impartial and balanced overview on choosing and arranging educational overseas tours. We understand the unique and varied needs of schools and colleges taking groups of students to inspiring destinations and the importance of safety management, exact planning and documentation. Our service removes a significant amount of the work from the shoulders of hard-working group leaders. As an agent, rather than a tour operator, our services are free throughout.

Bringing the Destination to Life:

We specialise in creating imaginative itineraries that enable a school/college to really get "under the skin" of their destination. Itineraries that inspire, challenge and develop young people's understanding of our natural and human world and can be tailored to curriculum interests. We can arrange trips in over 140 countries and across all seven continents. For anyone needing inspiration we will be pleased to offer friendly advice from well-travelled staff.



Responsible Tourism & Carbon Offsetting:

We believe we have a duty to arrange tours and expeditions that have minimal impact on a destination, while at the same time maximising the positive benefit to the economy and people. We encourage our clients to travel responsibly and many of the tour operators we deal with are recognised leaders in responsible tourism. We will also contribute 50% of the cost to offset the emissions from flights, if the group agrees to pay the other 50%.

"I rate the services of The Specialist Travel Consultancy as excellent and would highly recommend them to anyone trying to organise a group trip. Every concern, inquiry, etc. was handled with great care, professionalism and expediency. I will certainly use their services for any future trips. Thank you very much for all your hard work!"

Alan Hammons - Graveney School, Wandsworth

