



INTERNATIONAL EXPEDITIONS

World Leader in Nature Travel

INTERNATIONAL EXPEDITIONS: A PIONEER AND WORLD LEADER IN EXPEDITION TRAVEL

Investing In Adventure Travel, with Big Dividends in Personal Growth

Offering enriching journeys to far-flung locales is only half the story of International Expeditions; the rest comes from creating a deeper understanding for and richer appreciation of the world's natural and cultural wonders. Established in 1980 by passionate explorers dedicated to conservation and education, IE found its market very quickly among adventurous, curious individuals for whom learning was a key component of travel and to whom a connection with other cultures was vitally important.

Over the years, IE has developed a unique formula, applied to each of its programs around the globe, that provides travelers with intensely memorable, exhilarating experiences:

- In-depth itineraries that discover the heart and soul of a region, with privileged behind-the-scenes access
- Group leaders who are superb naturalists or historians, sometimes both, whose deep understanding of the destination is matched only by their infectious enthusiasm
- Small groups of like-minded people, with a high expedition staff-to-guest ratio
- Outstanding accommodations in lodges and expedition ships that reflect IE's commitment to combining cultural and environmental authenticity with impeccable comfort and service

IE's first forays in 1980 were to Peru's Upper Amazon, a region that is still featured prominently among the company's offerings. Over the years, International Expeditions has grown into a major tour operator with programs worldwide, serving not only the Amazon, but the Galapagos, Costa Rica, Belize, Panama, Brazil's Pantanal, Tanzania, Kenya, Southern Africa, Egypt, India, Jordan, Papua New Guinea; Laos and Vietnam.

A series of journeys take small groups to some of the world's most remarkable and less-traveled locales, including the Patagonian region of Chile. For 30 years, the company has offered elements that would be next to impossible to do otherwise; IE goes deeper into the Amazon's wetland reserves than anyone else, allowing opportunities for exceptional sightings.

As a pioneer of environmentally responsible travel, IE is committed to preserving natural habitats and improving the welfare of the people and communities it visits. Supporting conservation projects across the globe even before the word "ecotourism" was coined, the company brought some of the very first leisure travelers to the interior of Belize and the heart of the Amazon, which led to the development of sustainable tourism infrastructures.

Not only did IE help design the riverboat that explores the upper reaches of the Amazonian rainforest, but IE brought in Brazilian workers to teach boat construction to the local Peruvians, bringing both a valuable new craft and revenue to the region. The company has worked in the Amazon for 30 years, through on-the-ground programming, charitable organizations and of course with its tourism itineraries. IE also supported the First International Rainforest Workshop in the region, raising funds for a research center and the treetop Canopy Walkway System used by visitors, scientists and researchers today. Recently, IE constructed water treatment plants that provide 2,200 liters of clean water everyday to communities along the Amazon and Napo Rivers. Additionally, IE funds the Las Malvinas Garden in Peru, a working vegetable garden and outdoor classroom that promotes environmental education as well as the Adopt-a-School program, which donates school supplies to over 75 separate communities in the area.

A founding member of The International Ecotourism Society and the International Galapagos Tour Operators Association (which protects the area's fragile reserves), IE also created the First African Savannah Workshop, enabling travelers to enjoy hands-on learning with renowned researchers and local naturalists.

In addition to IE's expedition leaders, journeys are led by guides who are accomplished local experts with an uncanny ability to spot wildlife and a facility for educating guests about the context and meaning of what they see. Guides are thoroughly versed in the animals, plants, history, and culture encountered on expeditions. Groups are kept small, with ample opportunity for access to guides so that travelers never feel like they are just part of a crowd. As a result of this individualized approach, guests take home a deeper understanding of a region, and more than just photographs.

IE offers a staggering diversity of experiences in the natural world — from spotting red-backed squirrel monkeys in Costa Rica to the "Big Five" (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and

rhinoceros) on safari in East Africa. Yet, no matter how remote the destination, comfortable accommodations are a guaranteed feature. The company's ships and lodges are exceptional and often luxurious, but always in harmony with their surroundings.

The company's achievements have been recognized with a number of awards and accolades, including a ranking among *Travel + Leisure* and *National Geographic ADVENTURE's* "World's Best" listings in the tour operator category. Without a doubt, with its established reputation for exceptional, innovative programs for discerning travelers accompanied by top guides and expedition leaders, International Expeditions is unique among tour operators.

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