Nicaragua Sea Turtle Volunteer Expedition
Welcome to the SEE Turtles Nicaragua Sea Turtle Volunteer Expedition! On this unique volunteer vacation, you will spend four nights with researchers helping to research and protect hawksbill sea turtles Nicaragua’s Padre Ramos Estuary, along the northern Pacific coast. By joining this trip, you will be directly supporting community-based conservation of these turtles by providing alternative income to poaching and generating funds to expand their efforts.

We started SEE Turtles in 2008 to encourage travelers to visit turtle conservation projects where their visit will make a difference in efforts to protect these endangered creatures. With the help of travelers like you, we have generated more than $900,000 for turtle conservation and local communities and have helped to save more than 900,000 baby turtles at important nesting beaches.

Please join us on this action-packed volunteer trip. We will meet and interact with the dedicated people working to protect their natural resources and learn much about the biology and threats facing Nicaragua’s wildlife, all while enjoying one of the most beautiful parts of the country.

We hope to SEE you in Nicaragua!

Brad Nahill
President & Co-Founder
brad@seeturtles.org

Photo: Neil Osborne
Nicaragua Sea Turtle Volunteer Expedition

Join us for a unique volunteer vacation to a beautiful remote corner of Nicaragua. Spend a week working to help the critically endangered hawksbill sea turtle while exploring a beautiful mangrove estuary.

Notes:
- Private dates available for groups of 4 or more from July through October.
- Minimum recommended age is 12 years old, under 18 needs to be accompanied by an adult.
- Group size is limited to 12 people maximum.

Is This Trip Right For Me?
This Nicaragua trip goes off the beaten path for 5 nights at a rustic and remote research station (see accommodations for additional information). While some areas of the country currently have safety issues, this is a quiet and safe corner of the country and our groups have had no issues with safety or security.

This is an active trip that requires a level of physical fitness and an ability to manage sometimes challenging conditions including weather and heat, bugs, and a schedule that can affect sleeping patterns. Electricity at the station is limited (solar panels) which means no air conditioning or hot water, there is no access to wifi or cell phone service, and meals are simple and basic.

Trip Information

2018 Date: Aug 5 - 12
Price: $1,495 pp

(Deposit of $300 to reserve your spot)

Discounts:
- $60 discount for paying by check
- Discount available for private groups of 10 or more

Includes:
In-country transport, meals, lodging, activities, guides, and a donation to turtle conservation.

Excludes:
Airfare to Nicaragua, personal items, airport tourist visa, and tips for the guide and driver.
DAY 1 - ARRIVE TO NICARAGUA
Arrive anytime the first day of the trip; our guide pick you up at Sandino International Airport near Managua and take you by private transport to a simple guesthouse in a safe part of the city. Dinner at the guesthouse is included.

DAY 2 - TO PADRE RAMOS ESTUARY
After breakfast, hop on the private van and head to the northwest corner of the country to the small town of Padre Ramos (4-5 hour drive), home to one of the most important hawksbill turtle nesting beaches in the America’s. Along the way, stop and have lunch in beautiful colonial Leon.

Once there, settle in to the shared rooms at the research station near the beach, where you will stay during the trip. Our partners at Fauna & Flora Nicaragua will give an orientation. There will be time to take a swim in the beautiful estuary to cool off. That evening, head out with researchers for your first night to the beach to look for turtles, primarily hawksbills and occasionally olive ridleys.

DAY 3 - TURTLE DAY
This morning, head out by boat into the estuary to capture and study juvenile hawksbills and then release them. Later, you’ll meet with local researchers to learn about the project and be trained how to do the data collection.

Next, visit one of the hawksbill hatcheries; with luck there will be some hatchlings to release to the water. That evening, you will head out with researchers to patrol the nesting beaches.

DAY 4 - MANGROVE DAY
A local guide will take you out for an optional kayaking tour this morning around the estuary to look for birds, flying fish, and turtle heads popping up out of the water (* tour cost of $25 pp not included in trip price). After lunch, you’ll attend a presentation on mangroves and participate in a reforestation project. That evening, you’ll head out again to patrol the beaches.
DAY 5 - TURTLE THREATS
Learn about the threats facing sea turtles on this day. First you’ll see a presentation about how plastic affects turtles and a workshop on how to recycle plastic bags into souvenirs.

Later, you’ll participate in a beach clean-up to clear the beach turtles and hatchlings and keep plastic waste out of the estuary. Tonight’s turtle patrol will be optional, to allow a break for those who need it (though feel free to participate if you have the energy).

DAY 6 - FINAL DAY
In the morning, our partners will organize a community volunteer activity (specific activity TBD depending on the current needs of the community). The afternoon will be free to explore, swim in the estuary, or relax and get ready to head home.

Following a final celebratory dinner, you’ll head out for your final night patrol to look for hawksbills.

DAY 7 - MANAGUA
After breakfast, the group will board the van for the five hour drive back to Managua. Enjoy a final dinner with your group and then head to the guesthouse for a good night’s sleep before your journey home.

DAY 8 - DEPARTURE
Head to the airport in plenty of time for your flight. You’ll return home with a new appreciation for the hard work of conservation and to share your experiences.
The hawksbill turtles of the Eastern Pacific are considered one of the most endangered sea turtle populations in the world. Padre Ramos is home to one of two known nesting areas, comprising roughly 50% of the nesting for this population in the entire region. Volunteer support is critical to the success of this project and you will be working hands-on with researchers to study and protect these turtles.

**Volunteer duties and activities include:**
- Beach patrols to encounter, measure and tag nesting hawksbill turtles.
- Egg collection for relocation to project hatcheries.
- Monitoring of project hatcheries: nest burial, temperature measurements, hatchling release and post-hatching nest excavations.
- Community Interaction (optional): English lessons, environmental education, Art programs, local tours, etc.
- Turtle hatchery and patrol structure maintenance.

**Night Patrols**
A group of volunteers, led by an experienced patrol leader, walks one of the sectors of the beach in the estuary searching for nesting females. An average night patrol will take 4 hours but can last longer in case of sea turtle encounters. Some beaches require a boat ride to reach and volunteers may need to take a boat to reach a nesting turtle when called in from the people who patrol the smaller beaches.

Once a turtle is encountered on a night patrol, the volunteers work directly with it, taking carapace and nest dimension measurements, collecting eggs and taking data. The collected eggs will be relocated on the beach or taken to the hatchery where the volunteers on shift will build a new nest (according to measurements that were taken) and rebury the eggs. The number of eggs, nest location and turtle identification information (tag number) are then recorded by the hatchery attendant for further data analysis, for example hatchling survival rate.
Background Information

Hawksbill Sea Turtles
Considered by many to be the most beautiful of sea turtles for their colorful shells, the hawksbill is found in tropical waters around the world. They spend their time in coral reefs, rocky areas, lagoons, mangroves, oceanic islands, and shallow coastal areas. Named for its narrow head and sharp, bird-like beak, hawksbills can reach into cracks and crevices of coral reefs looking for food. Their diet is very specialized, feeding almost exclusively on sponges. One of the smaller turtles, adults weigh between 100-200 pounds (45 - 90 kg) and reach 2-3 feet (roughly .5 to 1 meter) in length. Learn more about their diet.

This species inhabits tropical and some subtropical regions in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. This population is different from other hawksbill populations in that they live primarily in mangrove ecosystems as opposed to coral reefs.

Learn more about hawksbill turtles on our website.

Padre Ramos Estuary
Padre Ramos is a mangrove estuary located on the Northwest Pacific coast of Nicaragua. An area of intense natural beauty, it has been protected as a nature reserve since 1983. The reserve consists of more than 28,000 hectares of mangrove, beaches, coral reefs, and coastal areas. This beach is one of the last two major nesting beaches for the Eastern Pacific population of hawksbill turtles. This nesting area was only recently discovered by scientists and comprises almost half of all known hawksbill nesting in the region.

The conservation program at Padre Ramos is managed by a partnership between Flora & Fauna International, ICAPO, and local community organizations. The turtle eggs are protected through an innovative program that pays local residents to collect the eggs and bring them to a protected hatchery. Our Billion Baby Turtles project has helped to save more than 20,000 hatchlings at this project since 2011.
Fauna & Flora International (Nicaragua program)

Fauna & Flora International (FFI) has been active in Nicaragua since 1998, contributing to biodiversity conservation and strengthening local and national partners. The FFI programme in Nicaragua works together with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, local NGOs and communities to support the management of protected areas. The projects use locally appropriate solutions to conserve endangered habitats such as dry forest, the island of Ometepe and threatened species such as sea turtles.

Poachers are a serious threat to leatherback, hawksbill and olive ridley turtles on Nicaragua’s Pacific coast. They illegally harvest the turtle eggs along beaches and kill hawksbills to use their shell for jewelry. FFI has trained over 80 community members in turtle protection and hatchery management, achieving an impressive rise in hatching success on key nesting beaches, and protecting over 90% of leatherbacks nesting in Nicaragua and an estimated 50% of the known nesting hawksbill population in the Eastern Pacific. In addition, FFI has helped communities to find other ways of making a living (such as making handbags from recycled plastic bags) and has raised national awareness to reduce demand for turtle eggs.
Accommodations

Fauna & Flora Nicaragua Research Station

At the turtle station, there is electricity and running water, but local living conditions are simple and volunteers should be prepared to live under these same conditions. Power is generated by a generator that is run several hours a day in the late afternoon. We are hoping solar panels will be installed by 2016 but we cannot guarantee that at this point.

Rooms are shared dormitory style, split between men and women (4 people per room maximum). The bathroom and shower are shared by all volunteers and do not have hot water. Luckily, due to the warm climate it means the cool water is not really a problem.

The cuisine at the projects offers you basic local dishes provided daily by local program cooks. Typical dishes include rice, beans, plantains, fish, chicken and fresh-squeezed juices. Purified water, coffee and tea are always available at the kitchen. Vegetarian and vegan diets are available, as well as meals that accommodate various allergies.
Frequently Asked Questions

Turtle Issues

Am I guaranteed to see a sea turtle or hatchling?
As with most wild animals, there is never a guarantee to see a sea turtle (they are endangered of course). However, if you plan to go during the peak of the hawksbill nesting season (mid-June to mid-August), you have a very good chance of seeing multiple turtles. There are fewer nesting turtles early in the season (May) and late in the season (September). Hatchlings start arriving in mid-July and from early August through September, you have a very good chance of seeing hatchlings then.

Is walking on the beach at night safe?
Yes. We do not take people to any unsafe beaches and have never had a safety concern on any of our tours. You will be walking with local researchers and guides who know how to handle any situations that might arise but few people are on the beach and there haven’t been any confrontations.

How does this trip benefit turtle conservation?
SEE Turtles runs sea turtle trips as a way to help save these incredible animals. To participate in the work and stay at the research station, we pay a fee to the local partner which helps to cover the costs of the conservation and research efforts. In addition, the volunteer help provided by travelers helps to ensure that the beach is patrolled (no volunteers means the beach is open to poachers to take every nest). Finally, every tour saves at least 100 hatchlings through a donation to the conservation organization through our Billion Baby Turtles Initiative.

Will I get to do every volunteer job on the trip?
As we can’t guarantee that you will see a sea turtle, we also can’t guarantee you’ll get to do every job in the volunteer program. We hope to give every participant the opportunity to do each job but it depends on the number of participants, the number of turtles encountered, and the individual circumstances with each turtle (sometimes more complicated situations require the researchers to do specific jobs). Generally the tagging is done only by research staff. If there is one specific job you really want to do, let your guide know and he will do his best to accommodate your request. Check out the page “Daily Life on a Volunteer Project” for details about the tasks involved in sea turtle research.
Logistical/Travel Issues

How much money should I bring?
We recommend that each participant bring at least $200 in cash for tipping and spending money. US bills of $20 and less are widely accepted in Nicaragua (change given in dollars or Nicaraguan cordobas). Many shop owners are wary of accepting torn or “old-looking” bills – so please bring crisp newer bills if possible! Small bills ($1’s and $5’s) are useful at the turtle projects where there are no banks and people have a harder time finding change for larger bills.

How much should I tip?
Tipping guides isn’t mandatory, but it is customary. We recommend tipping $8 to $10 dollars per day per participant to divide between your guide and driver. (That would be $70 to $100 per participant depending on the length of the trip). Participants will not need to tip anyone else along the way.

Can I call home or check my email while in Nicaragua?
Calling home from Nicaragua can be expensive. For email, you should not rely on or expect to be able to get online while on the trip. Cell phones from the US or Canada often do not work or automatically switch you to a local service which activates international roaming fees. If you plan to bring a cell phone, please check with your provider about coverage and cost.

Are the electrical outlets the same as in the US?
The voltage in Nicaragua is the same as the states. However, most outlets are 2-prong instead of 3-prong, so if you are bringing something that needs 3 prongs you need to bring an adapter. And remember, depending on which turtle project you go to, there may only be solar power, and outlets may not be available during those days.

Can I go to an ATM in Nicaragua?
Although there are ATMs in Nicaragua, much of the time you will be in places where they are not available. You can to go to one in Managua and in emergencies, there is a city about 30 min from Padre Ramos with ATMs. And in places where they do have ATMs, they don’t always work. The bottom line – while you may be able to get cash from ATMs, don’t count on it.

How should I handle medications I need to bring?
If you plan to bring personal medicine to Costa Rica, please consider the following:
- Carry just the necessary quantity, which is the quantity normally used by a person having your health problem.
- Bring a prescription or a written statement from your doctor, specifying that the medicine is being used under their control and that you need it for your physical health.
- Have the medicines labeled or properly identified.

Do I need any vaccinations before going?
Since we are not doctors, we cannot give you advice on vaccinations. We recommend speaking with your doctor or visiting a travel clinic. You can also check the CDC website for Nicaragua for the most up-to-date information.

What is the weather like on Nicaragua’s Pacific coast?
Generally, it’s pretty warm (low to mid-80’s F) and rain is possible though difficult to predict. The dry season is from January to June so most of the nesting season is during the rainy season. However, rainy season does not usually mean rain all day, every day, tropical downpours are more common with plenty of sun as well. Be sure to come ready for the rain.
Eco-Friendly Travel

SEE Turtles strives to reduce the environmental impact of our trips wherever possible. Sometimes we need help from you, the traveler, so here are some ways that we (and you) can help.

Tortoiseshell Jewelry
Did you know that tortoiseshell is actually hawksbill sea turtle shell? This is a major threat to hawksbills, which are critically endangered. Souvenirs made from their shells include bracelets, earrings, guitar picks, and combs. Below is a photo to recognizing these items and we encourage our travelers not only to not purchase these items but also to refuse to purchase from stores that offer them and to alert your guide when you see these items for sale.

Reducing Plastic Use
Another major threat to sea turtles is plastic in the ocean, which can be confused for jellyfish. SEE Turtles is a member of “Travelers Against Plastic,” an organization that reduces plastic waste created on vacation. We encourage travelers to bring reusable water bottles to refill; you can go through as many as 15-20 bottles on one trip per person, so we offer our steel water bottles at cost ($10) for all travelers. Another suggestion is to ask for no straws with your drinks. Souvenirs can be stored in day packs instead of disposable plastic bags.

Reef-Friendly Sunscreen
Did you know that sunscreen can damage coral reefs? The ingredient “oxybenzone” has been found to cause harm in even very small quantities and an estimated 4,000 - 6,000 tons per year. Look for sunscreen without this ingredient (zinc oxide or titanium oxide are both safe), or wear a shirt while swimming to reduce the need for sunscreen.

Reducing Carbon Emissions
Travel by it’s nature is very carbon-intensive. Some ways you can reduce your emissions include leaving electronic devices at home, using fans instead of AC, by turning of AC, fans, and lights when not at hotels or cabins, and by using public transportation when possible. For sites with limited electricity, you can purchase a solar powered charger to recharge small electronics. You can also purchase carbon offsets. One we recommend is “Seagrass Grow” a program with our former organization The Ocean Foundation. The offsets are used to restore important seagrass beds, which are important habitat for green sea turtles.

HOW TO IDENTIFY & AVOID HAWKSBILL TURTLE SHELL

Endangered hawksbill turtles are hunted for their shells to make souvenirs. Help save this turtle by avoiding vendors selling tortoiseshell products.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Imitation Plastic</th>
<th>Turtleshell</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uniform pattern with markings</td>
<td>Color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown on top, beige underneath</td>
<td>Browns, oranges, amber, yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy with black/white coloring</td>
<td>Pattern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assymetric and irregular shapes</td>
<td>Surface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color pattern visible throughout</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Page 10
Testimonials
SEE Turtles partners with World Nomads to offer world-class travel insurance for your next trip. World Nomads is a socially responsible travel insurance company that has a great record of customer service. When you use World Nomads insurance, they will donate 10% of the cost of the policy to help save baby sea turtles through our Billion Baby Turtles program. Through their Footprints Network, they have helped to save more than 20,000 baby turtles in Cuba, El Salvador, and elsewhere!

World Nomads covers a wide range of activities and helps with trip cancellation, lost baggage, medical bills, theft, and more. No matter whether you travel with us, another operator, or on your own, this insurance will have you covered and have a real impact on conservation efforts. Click here to get a fast free quote for a policy for your next trip.
Recommended Packing List

Pack in a duffel bag/suitcase/backpack that you can carry yourself and a day pack. If you have a suitcase with wheels, please realize there may be times when you will need to carry it short distances - wheels don’t work well in sand, gravel or mud. * Indicates required items.

Clothing
- Sturdy sneakers or lightweight hiking boots
- Close-toed sandals for beach walks*
- 3-4 Pairs socks
- 2 Pairs of dark colored lightweight pants (nylon is better than cotton)*
- 2 Pairs of long sleeve dark colored lightweight shirts
- 3-4 Pairs shorts
- 5-6 T-shirts or short sleeve shirts
- Lightweight jacket for cool evenings
- Rain gear or poncho (dark color for turtle patrols)*
- Sun hat for the beach
- Underwear—lots
- Pajamas or sleepwear

Toiletries
- Comb/brush
- Shampoo/bath soap (ideally biodegradable)
- Sunscreen 30+ (waterproof and reef-friendly)
- Insect repellent & after-bite stick
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste/toothbrush
- Washcloth
- Beach towel
- Hand Sanitizer (small bottle)
- Prescription medications (bring in carry on baggage)
- Personal items

Other Stuff
- Refillable bottle for water (clean water will be provided)*
- Passport and a photocopy
- Money
- Clean bills for tips and souvenirs
- Camera
- Binoculars (your guide may also have a pair)
- Games, cards, things to do during down time and on the bus
- Small flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries*
- Large ziplock bags for wet clothes & shoes
- Ziplock bags for electronics
- Sunglasses*
SEE Turtles
SEE Turtles was launched in 2008 as the world’s first effort to protect these species through ecotourism. Since then, we have expanded to include educational programs and our Billion Baby Turtles project. To date, we have brought more than 1,200 people to visit turtle projects, generated more than $900,000 for turtle conservation and local communities, saved more than 900,000 turtle hatchlings at more than 10 projects around Latin America, and reached more than 10,000 students with our educational programs. SEE Turtles is an independent 501c3 organization based in Oregon.

www.SEEturtles.org
info@SEEturtles.org
(800) 215-0378, M-F, 9-5 PST
Terms & Conditions

Payment Policies:
Full payment of the total price of the expedition is due no later than 60 days (2 months) before departure. Travelers can choose to do monthly payments (the balance of the trip cost after deposit, divided evenly between the remaining months before the final payment is due) or pay 50% of the balance at 120 days before the trip with the remaining balance due 60 days before the trip. Monthly payment plans are unavailable within 4 months of trip departure. We reserve the right to cancel a reservation if payment is not made on time. In such cases, all payments are non-refundable.

Late Bookings: A late fee of $50 may apply to bookings received within 30 days of trip date.

Cancellation Policy:
If you cancel your space, it must be in writing and is effective the day we receive it in our office. Your cancellation will entitle you to a refund of any deposit or payment made to us, less a cancellation fee, according to the following schedule:

- 180 days or more prior to departure: $100.00
- 120 to 179 days prior to departure: $300.00
- 60 to 119 days prior to departure: 50% of expedition fee
- 59 days or less prior to departure: 100% of expedition fee

* Some costs are occasionally recoverable from the supplier

Transfers:
Depending on availability, you may transfer from one trip to another four months prior to departure at no charge. If you transfer less than four months prior to departure, you may be subject to the cancellation fees. Registration fees paid may be transferred to another traveler up until 2 months before departure with prior notice provided. In some cases, transfers may be made less than 2 months before departure.

Cancelled Trips:
We reserve the right to cancel any trip prior to scheduled departure due to not meeting our minimum number required or logistical problems (vessel breakdown, strikes, etc.). You may transfer to another expedition or we will refund all payments made to SEE Turtles in full. In no event, however, shall our liability exceed the obligation to refund the amount you paid to us. Trip cancellation due to too few registrations normally occurs at a minimum of two months prior to departure. Refunds will not be given for individual hotel rooms, meals, sightseeing trips, or expedition arrangements for any reason. Expedition costs are quoted as a package; credits are not given for services not used.

Trip Cost Includes:
Accommodations, airport transfers as specified in the trip itinerary, excursions, entrance fees, local guides, most permits, and meals, unless otherwise indicated in the itinerary. SEE Turtles reserves the right to make any changes in the itinerary or to substitute hotels, modes of transport, or guides, for those mentioned in the literature if circumstances require it.

Trip Cost Does Not Include:
The cost of international air to the tour starting point (unless otherwise indicated in the itinerary) airport taxes, passport and visa fees, immunizations, insurance of any kind, alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, laundry, gratuities, excess baggage, items of a personal nature, medical costs, costs of hospitalization, additional expenses arising from the delay or extension of a trip due to weather, political disputes, illness, failure of transportation, or other causes beyond our control.

Children on Trips:
Some SEE Turtles trips are suitable for children, depending on the child’s age and experience. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please call before sending a trip deposit for anyone under 18 years of age.
Unexpected Trip Costs: We reserve the right to raise the trip fee if there are cost increases beyond our control. These cases are extremely rare and would only occur where unforeseen cost increases from suppliers would result in a financial loss for the organization. In these cases, registered clients are given the option to transfer or cancel with no penalties.

Transfers: Depending on availability, you may transfer from one trip to another four months prior to departure at no charge. If you transfer less than four months prior to departure, you may be subject to the cancellation fees. Registration fees paid may be transferred to another traveler up until 2 months before departure with prior notice provided. In some cases, transfers may be made less than 2 months before departure.

Travel Protection Policy: We require all participants to obtain individual travel insurance to protect yourself and your equipment. Travel insurance may reimburse you for non-refundable air and expedition costs should you need to cancel or interrupt your trip. The carrier can be any insurance provider but we can provide recommendations. Proof of insurance is required before participating on the trip.

Accommodations: Land accommodations are based on double occupancy unless otherwise indicated in the trip description. We can try to match single travelers of the same sex but some trips require a single supplement if single rooms are preferred to there is no match available.

Single Travelers: If you are a single traveler wishing to share accommodations, we will try to match you with a roommate. If no roommate becomes available, you may be required to pay the Single Supplement Fee listed in the trip description if applicable. If you request a single, private room you must pay the Single Supplement Fee listed in the trip description regardless of sign-up date. Please note that single accommodations are not always available.

Budget Airfare Caution: We recommend against buying non-refundable airline tickets until your trip departure has been confirmed (usually a minimum of 90 days before departure). Budget air tickets often carry restrictions and you risk penalties in the event of itinerary or date changes or trip cancellation. Please await confirmation of the trip before purchasing non-refundable airfare.

Withdrawal: SEE Turtles reserves the right to require any participant to withdraw from an expedition at any time if the expedition director deems his/her acts or conduct to be detrimental to or incompatible with the interest, harmony, comfort, or welfare of the expedition. In such cases, no refunds will be given.

Medical Issues: Although SEE Turtles trips are not generally very physically demanding, you must be in general good health to participate. It is the passengers’ responsibility to judge the appropriateness of their physical capabilities to these travel activities. Anyone with medical problems or restrictions must make them known to us well in advance of the trip and should have a personal supply of any special medications they may need. The trip leader has the right to disqualify any member from the group at any time if considered medically necessary; no refund will be made under such circumstances. SEE Turtles and its affiliates take no responsibility for special arrangements required by passengers physically unable to complete a trip and assume no liability regarding provision of medical care or medical evacuation.

Release Forms: On some trips you may need to sign an additional tour operator release form by our local partners and/or tour operators.

Suppliers of Services: SEE Turtles is performing a non-profit service by informing potential participants of worthwhile expeditions. However, SEE Turtles is acting independently and has no business association as partner or joint venture with any boat owner, resort, hotel, carrier, SCUBA operation, or other services. Any claims for inadequate performance or non-performance of services may be made against the supplier of those services but shall not be made against SEE Turtles.

SCUBA Diving: SEE Turtles does not offer SCUBA diving as part of any of our trips. Participants may participate in diving while on a trip but acknowledges that SEE Turtles has no responsibility for the actions, performance, or equipment of any SCUBA services offered by hotels or dive shops. We recommend that any travelers planning to dive while on a SEE Turtles trip research the safety record of the operators and obtain additional divers insurance.