Galapagos
Turtles & Tortoises
Expedition
Welcome to the SEE Turtles Galapagos Turtles & Tortoises Expedition! On this volunteer vacation to one of the world’s most fascinating destinations, you will spend 7 days exploring one of the world’s most fascinating destinations. You’ll work with both sea turtles and Galapagos Tortoises, see sea lions and marine iguanas, blue footed boobies and pink flamingos, and much more. We’ll also explore the city of Guayaquil on the way to and from the islands.

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 local 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 $1 million for turtle conservation and local communities and have helped to save more than 2 million baby turtles at important nesting beaches. For these efforts, we received the prestigious Changemakers Award from the World Travel & Tourism Council in 2019.

Please join us on this action-packed volunteer trip. We hope to SEE you in Ecuador!

Brad Nahill
President & Co-Founder
brad@seeturtles.org
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trip Information</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed Itinerary</td>
<td>2 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turtle Research Information</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background Information</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodations</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequently Asked Questions</td>
<td>8 - 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-Friendly Travel</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Insurance</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packing List</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About SEE Turtles</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terms &amp; Conditions</td>
<td>14 - 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Photos: IOI
Trip Information

Join us for our first ever trip to the legendary Galapagos Islands. This will be an exploratory trip led by SEE Turtles President Brad Nahill. Each morning and evening, the group will share duties working on a green turtle nesting beach, patrolling at night looking for nesting turtles and checking each morning for nests and hatchlings.

Each day will include different activities, including seeing tortoises in captivity and in the wild, checking out the diverse wildlife including birds like blue footed boobies and flamingoes, marine animals like sea lions and iguanas, and of course, looking for green turtles while snorkeling. We will also visit the islands’ exotic landscapes including wetlands, volcanoes, lava caves, and the Santa Cruz Island highlands.

On the way to and from the islands, we will stop in the city of Guayaquil in mainland Ecuador. The country’s largest city and primary port, Guayaquil is a fascinating city and we will explore its beautiful malecon and wonderful restaurants and museums.

Is This Trip Right For Me?
This will be an active trip that requires good physical fitness. Both the city of Guayaquil and the Galapagos are safe destinations, receiving more than 200,000 visitors per year. We will be staying at mid-level hotels in safe neighborhoods in both places. Be prepared for a lot of time in and on the water, snorkeling with wild animals including white tipped reef sharks, a docile shark that is not aggressive or dangerous.

Date: Feb 6 - 14, 2021
Price: $3,595 pp
Discounts:
• $75 discount for paying by check

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

Excludes:
Airfare to Ecuador and Galapagos, personal items, and tips for the guide and driver.

Notes:
• Minimum recommended age is 12 years old, under 18 needs to be accompanied by an adult.
• Group size is limited to 16 people maximum.
DAY 1: ARRIVE TO GUAYAQUIL
Fly into Guayaquil International Airport (GYE) and transfer to the UniPark Guayaquil hotel, where the group will meet for dinner and orientation. We will head out early to fly to the islands. Meals: D.

DAY 2: TRANSFER TO SANTA CRUZ ISLAND
We will depart early for the airport to fly to the island of Baltra (1 hour flight). From there, we will transfer to the town of Puerto Ayora, where we will meet our bilingual naturalist guide for a welcome lunch. While there, we will visit the famous Charles Darwin Research Station, which for decades has led conservation and restoration efforts on the island. We will spend the night at a mid-level hotel in Puerto Ayora and have dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight at the Hotel Santa Fe (1 night). Meals: BLD.

DAY 3: SANTA CRUZ HIGHLANDS AND TRANSFER
Heading up into the highlands of Santa Cruz you will enter into the agricultural sector. Just beyond the small town of Bellavista you will enter into one of a locally owned ranch. Wandering around these farmlands, we will take a guided walk to see the famous massive giant tortoises. After a snack of local fruit, we head up the road to a 300 meter long lava tunnel. While we recommend long pants and a flashlight, the tunnel is large enough and artificially lit so that you would be fine without one.

After departing the farm property we will head further upland to stop at a set of twin sinkholes known as “Los Gemelos” (the twins). Located on either side of the road, there are short interpretive trails which give you a unique opportunity to appreciate the endemic scalesia forest while looking out for birds like the Galapagos rock dove, the vermillion fly-catcher, tree finches and others. After our tour, we will transfer to the island of Isabela, where we have an orientation. The group will stay in a local mid-level hotel, double occupancy. Dinner and all meals will be together, family-style.

Starting this evening, the group will divide up into small groups of 2 and 3 to do evening and morning sea turtle nesting beach patrols. Evening patrols will look for nesting turtles, collecting data when found. Overnight at Hotel Cally (5 nights). Meals: BLD.
DAY 4: WALL OF TEARS, WETLANDS, & TORTOISES
The Wall of Tears is a historic ruin surrounded by dry, desert-like vegetation. On the trip back, walk down any/all of the numerous trails to various sites of interest, including the Estero (estuary); the lava tunnel and the ponds. On the trip back, we will walk down the numerous trails to the Estero (estuary), the lava tunnel, and the ponds.

Humedales Ramsar Wetland Site:
We will explore this extensive area to appreciate the unique flora and fauna. Walking along the salt marsh trail towards the giant tortoise breeding center we will pass mangrove-lined lagoons where migratory (black-necked stilts, gallinules, whimbrels) and resident (flamingos, white-cheek pintail ducks) birds feed and socialize throughout the day. When entering the arid zone, look out across the scattering of lava rocks and cacti to spot lava lizards running about. After lunch, we will visit a tortoise breeding and education center, run in partnership with Galapagos National Park. This center is helping to breed these amazing reptiles to restore local populations and educate travelers. Meals: BLD.

DAY 5: HIGHLAND VISIT, CAVE EXPLORATION, & TURTLE RESEARCH
We will travel into the agricultural sector of Isabela to see an area rarely visited by tourists, a small subset of the population that makes its living off the agricultural sector in the highlands of this island. Visit several farms and learn about these families’ experiences working hard to produce relatively little. You will have the chance to learn about what kinds of fruits and vegetables can be grown successfully here as well as in what seasons they are harvested. See how they make local, organic coffee; taste the differences in their fruits and vegetables from those we have at home; hear their stories of building up their farms literally by hand.

After lunch, we will visit the Cueva de Sucre. The cave has an easy to follow trail through it, so getting lost is not a risk, however it is not lighted so we will use flashlights! After exploring the main chambers, follow the trail into the furthest point where there is a small ante-chamber. If the group is willing, take a seat and have everyone turn off their lights to see how dark it can become when absolutely no light is able to penetrate. On your return - again, if the group is willing – explore some of the holes, tunnels and crevices. The group will be conducting morning and evening activities on the turtle nesting beach, broken up into small groups and rotating each day.
DAY 6: TINTORERAS & CALERA
Today we take a short, ten minute boat ride from Puerto Villamil to visit Tintoreras, a rocky outcropping that is home to sea lions, iguanas, and penguins on land, and green turtles and white tipped reef sharks in the water (which are not aggressive or dangerous). We begin with a short hike over the lava rocks, stopping to take pictures of the sea lion populations that have colonized the two sandy beaches. Obey signs to keep off the Lobo breeding areas, as the populations are extremely susceptible to human interference.

There is also a colony of marine iguanas breeding and nesting on these beaches which you might be able to observe. Back on the boat, you will also have a chance to visit the point of this rocky outcropping where a small colony of Galapagos penguins reside. While snorkeling we will spend time swimming with the penguins, sea lions, and possibly white tip reef sharks. Green sea turtles who feed in the nearby seagrass beds are also often seen at this spot. After that, we take a short boat ride to La Calera. This spot is best at low tide to see the marine iguanas feeding and crossing along the channel. Here you can also find a group of green sea turtles resting along the sandy bottoms. This calm crystal clear channel is home to many fish species and even some resident shrimp. Later, we return to our hotel for dinner. Morning and nightly turtle work continues. Meals: BLD.

DAY 7: TUNELES & TURTLE RESEARCH
Originally an advantageous and fruitful site for fishing, the Tuneles is now protected and preserved by the fishermen who have converted it for tourism use. An amazing and exciting site to visit, this spot has above water and underwater lava bridges, tunnels, and arches. You will be able to disembark to explore some of these formations up-close. Take time to wander around and look for the turtles and sharks which can be regularly seen passing through. During the ride to and from the site, look for turtles and manta rays which will be actively mating near shore. In the water, you can dive through underwater tunnels or swim beneath the extensive, sharp lava bridges. Outside of the site, you can swim with penguins, see rays, fish and possibly turtles and sharks; all the while being closely observed by blue footed boobies gathered on the rocks. Morning and evening turtle beach activities continue. Meals: BLD.

DAY 8: RETURN TO GUAYAQUIL
This morning, the group will take a charter boat back to the Baltra Airport to fly to Guayaquil. We will likely arrive to the city late morning, so we will have free time to explore the city including the malecon along the Rio Guayas (Guayas River), which has museums, parks, shops, restaurants, and more. Overnight at UniPark Hotel. Meals: BLD.

DAY 9: RETURN HOME OR EXTEND YOUR STAY
Have breakfast at the hotel before taking the airport shuttle to fly home. Meals: B.
For this trip, we will be working with Intercultural Outreach Initiative (IOI), a non-profit that works with communities in the Galapagos, Costa Rica, and Cuba to support education, conservation, and social development. For this project, IOI is working with the National Park Service to monitor the beach at Puerto Villamil, where the group will be staying. This is a relatively small green turtle nesting beach that has been patrolled for the past couple of years with volunteer help from IOI. They had an estimated 20 nests last season.

Participants will be split into groups of 2 and rotate between morning and evening patrols. The patrols take about 2 hours each. In the morning, patrollers will walk from about 6:30 to 8:30 am and record any missed nests and look to see if any nests have hatched. Evening patrols are from 6:30 to 8 pm and include looking for nesting turtles and nests with hatchlings. When nesting turtles are found, with the help of researchers, participants will collect data including their length, width, number of eggs, and other information. When there are hatchlings, they will be released under cover of darkness, either the same evening or waiting until the next evening if found in the daytime.
Green Sea Turtles

The green turtle is the second largest after the leatherback. They can weigh up to 500 lbs (225 kg) and reach four feet (1.2 m) in length. The adult is an herbivore, dining on sea grasses, seaweeds, algae and other forms of marine plant life. Their beak is sharp and finely serrated, perfectly adapted for grazing in seagrass beds and scraping algae off of hard surfaces. This species can be found in the subtropics and tropics worldwide, with major nesting beaches in Tortuguero (Costa Rica), Oman, Florida, and Raine Island (Australia) where thousands of turtles nest each night during peak nesting season.

The green turtles you find in the Pacific are also known as black turtles due to their darker shells. Most scientists believe that black turtles are a subspecies of green turtles but some believe they are a different species.

Learn more about green turtles on our website.

Galapagos Tortoises

According to the Galapagos Science Center, tortoises arrived to these islands at least 2 million years ago, and over that time, have evolved into 15 distinct species. There are currently 10 surviving species of these tortoises on the islands today with a total estimated population of 20,000. They all share some characteristics common to all tortoises but these species can be differentiated into two groups based on the shape of their shells, either “saddle-backed”, which has an upward facing lip at the front of the carapace, or “dome-shelled,” which lacks that lip.

These tortoises rest for up to 16 hours a day and spend the rest of their time looking for food, which includes grass, fruit, and cactus. They primarily breed from January to May but that can take place any time of the year. Once they mate, the female, like their sea turtle cousins, will dig a hole in the sand and lay anywhere from 2 to 16 eggs, which are roughly tennis ball shaped. The tortoise hatchlings are born a little more than 2 months later. They can live to more than 100 years; the longest captive one on record was at least 170 years old!
Accommodations

UniPark Hotel - Guayaquil
Providing an ideal mix of value, comfort and convenience, this hotel offers a family-friendly setting close to some of Guayaquil’s most popular landmarks, such as Iglesia San Francisco and Captain Morgan’s Pirate Ship. The hotel offers air conditioning and free wifi plus a fitness center and a lounge. This hotel is in the top 10 (#9) in Guayaquil out of 67 hotels according to Trip Advisor.

Hotel Santa Fe - Puerto Ayora
The Hotel Santa Fe is a comfortable lodging with 8 rooms located in Santa Cruz Island at Charles Binford Avenue and Juan Montalvo Street, nearby the main streets of the city. All accommodations have air conditioning, private bathroom with hot water, local cable TV, Wi-Fi and amenities. Guests can also enjoy the facilities including a swimming pool and terraces for sunbathing or just relaxing. This hotel is currently ranked #23 out of 62 hotels in Puerto Ayora.

Hotel Cally - Puerto Villamil, Isla Isabela
The Cally Hotel is located in the Province of Galapagos, Isabela Island, in the central district, with easy access to the main tourist attractions. We put at your disposal a quality service, we have 16 new rooms, comfortable and spacious, in single, double, triple and quadruple distribution; our rooms have a modern and cozy style, which makes your stay rewarding. This hotel is currently ranked #11 of 27 hotels in Puerto Villamil.
Turtle Issues

Am I guaranteed to see a sea turtle?
As with most wild animals, there is never a guarantee to see a sea turtle (they are endangered of course). This beach is a relatively small nesting beach and the group will be rotating between night and day work, so seeing one nesting will be the luck of the draw. We have a much higher chance of seeing them in the water while snorkeling.

How about the tortoises?
Yes, our group will see tortoises, both in the wild and in captivity.

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, IOI, which helps to cover the costs of the conservation and research efforts. Finally, every tour saves at least 500 hatchlings through a donation to local conservation organizations 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). This beach does not have a large number of nests, so we cannot guarantee that everyone will see one on the nesting beach and be able to work with them or their eggs or hatchlings.

If there is one specific job you really want to do, let your guide know and they will do his best to accommodate your request. Check out the Turtle Research section to learn more.
Logistical/Travel Issues

Can I call home or get online while in Ecuador & the Galapagos?
All of the hotels where we will be staying have good wifi, as well as at IOI’s campus if needed. Calling home from the Galapagos can be expensive. 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 use 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 Ecuador 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 (like a laptop), you will need to bring an adapter.

Can I go to an ATM in the Guayaquil or the Galapagos?
There will be ATMs available in Guayaquil and Santa Cruz Island but not on Isabela, so be sure to have enough dollars while on Isabela. Ecuador uses US currency so no need to exchange money.

How should I handle medications I need to bring?
If you plan to bring personal medicine to Ecuador, 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 his/her 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. According to the CDC, malaria is not present in the Galapagos or Guayaqui. You can also check the CDC website for Ecuador for the most up-to-date information.

What is the weather like in the Galapagos?
Being along the Equator, the temperature here remains warm year round. February is during what is considered the warm / rainy season, with daytime temperatures ranging from the 80’s to mid-90’s Fahrenheit during the day. The weather is generally sunny even during this time of year but downpours are possible, so come prepared for some rain. The water tends to be warmer this time of year, generally in the mid-70’s, which is ideal for snorkeling, so no wetsuits are needed (though there are some available to use if preferred.)
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. Learn more at TooRareToWear.org.

**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. 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 its 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 off 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.

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**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 turtle shell products.

**IMITATION PLASTIC**
- Uniform pattern with markings

**COCONUT**
- Brown on top, beige underneath

**HORN**
- Heavy with black/white coloring

**TURTLE SHELL**
- Color
  - Browns, oranges, amber, yellow
- Pattern
  - Assymetric and irregular shapes
- Surface
  - Color pattern visible throughout
Travel Insurance...

That Saves Baby Turtles!

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.

* Indicates required items.

Clothing
- Bathing suit and beach towel
- Water shoes or sandals
- 3-4 Pairs socks
- 3-4 Pairs shorts
- 5-6 T-shirts or short sleeve shirts
- Rain gear or poncho
- Sun hat for the beach
- Underwear, pajamas or sleepwear
- Sandals for beach walking
- Wetsuit for snorkeling
- Warmer clothes for evenings (long pants, light jacket, etc)

Toiletries
- Comb/brush
- Biodegradable shampoo/soap
- Sunscreen 30+ (waterproof and reef-friendly)
- Insect repellent & after-bite stick
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste/toothbrush
- Washcloth & beach towel
- Hand Sanitizer (small bottle)

Other Stuff
- Prescription medications (in carry on baggage)
- Refillable bottle for water (clean water will be provided)
- Passport and a photocopy of passport (kept separately)
- Money for souvenirs and personal items
- Camera & spare battery
- Binoculars (your guide may also have a pair)
- Games, cards, things to do at night 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 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 1,300 people to visit turtle projects, generated more than US $1 million for turtle conservation and local communities, saved more than 2 million turtle hatchlings at more than 20 projects around the world, and reached more than 10,000 students with our educational programs. SEE Turtles is an independent 501c3 organization based in Oregon. We received the 2019 Changemakers Award from the World Travel & Tourism Council for our work to protect wildlife through travel. SEE Turtles is an independent 501c3 organization based in Oregon.

www.SEEturtles.org
info@SEEturtles.org
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.