Costa Rica Turtles, Whales, & Rays
Welcome Letter

Welcome to the SEE Turtles Costa Rica Turtles, Whales & Rays Trip! On this volunteer vacation, you will spend four days exploring the beautiful northwest corner of the country including working with researchers helping to catch and study black and hawksbill sea turtles, walk nesting beaches looking for greens and olive ridleys, go humpback whale watching, and participate in research on rays and parrots. This trip is in partnership with Equipo Tora Carey, a local conservation organization.

By joining this trip, you will be directly supporting community-based conservation of these turtles by providing alternative income to illegal hunting 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 $1 million for turtle conservation and local communities and have helped to save more than 4 million baby turtles at important nesting beaches. For these efforts, we received the prestigious Changemakers Award from the World Travel & Tourism Council.

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 Costa Rica’s wildlife, all while enjoying one of the most beautiful parts of the country.

We hope to SEE you in Costa Rica!

Brad Natilli

Cover photos: Hal Brindley
Right: Neil Osborne
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Photos: Hal Brindley

Photos: Equipo Tora Carey
Trip Information

Visit a spectacular corner of Costa Rica’s Pacific coast to see and study several species of sea turtles, view humpback whales, and participate in research of rays and parrots. We will visit the community of El Jobo, where Equipo Tora Carey studies sea turtles on nearby beaches and in the water to improve the local community. On this trip, we will look for green turtles and olive ridleys on the beach in the evening and catch green and hawksbill turtles in the water to study and release. We will also help study rays and parrots, observe humpback whales, and interact with the welcoming members of this coastal community. **Profits from this trip will help to save at least 500 hatchlings at a turtle nesting beach per participant.**

Is This Trip Right For Me?
Costa Rica is a safe and beautiful country that receives more than 1 million international tourists annually. This is a fairly active trip that requires some physical fitness and an ability to manage sometimes challenging conditions including weather and heat, bugs, and long bus rides. The accommodations are comfortable but plan to spend significant time on boats and in the water.

Conservation Impact Pricing:
SEE Turtles is the first and only operator to provide transparent pricing that shows the economic impact of each trip on turtle and wildlife conservation and benefits to local communities.

- **Turtle Conservation:** $825 of the trip price goes to local partners working to protect sea turtles.
- **Local Communities:** $425 of the tour price stays in communities around turtle conservation programs.
- **Travel Costs:** $720 of the price pays for the guide, transportation, accommodations, insurance, credit card fees, and other costs.

Register Here

Dates: August 14 - 20, 2022
Price: $1,995 pp

Discounts:
- $100 discount for kids under 18
- $50 discount for paying by check

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

Excludes:
Airfare to Costa Rica, personal items, and tips for the guide and driver (average $100-120 pp total).

Notes:
- Minimum recommended age is 8 years, under 18 needs to be accompanied by an adult.
- Group size is limited to 12 people maximum.

Worry-Free Cancellation Policy
Book with us and you’ll have peace of mind about your booking. If we cancel a trip, we’ll refund 100% of the money paid or put it towards a future trip, your choice. If you cancel, all cancellation fees are usable for future trips with no penalty, except in the cases of cancellations within 60 days of travel, when we will have already paid local providers. Check out our terms and conditions for full details.
Day 1: Arrive to Liberia
Fly Into Liberia International Airport (LIR) and we will pick you up with our private bus. Once the group has arrived, we will transfer by bus to the community of El Jobo (about an hour and a half drive) and settle in to a locally-owned bed and breakfast. We will have dinner at a local home where we will have all our meals and an introductory meeting to meet the local Equipo Tora Carey (ETC) staff.
Meals: D

Day 2: In-Water Turtle Monitoring
After breakfast, the group will head out by boat across the Santa Elena Gulf to do in-water monitoring, where turtles are caught by net or hand to study and release. We could see three types of turtles here, hawksbills, green turtles, and black turtles (a sub-species of green turtle). When the turtles are caught, we will bring them into the boat to collect data on them, including length and width, weight, and tag numbers. We will have a picnic lunch on the boat.

After we get back to El Jobo, there will be some downtime to rest and then the group will split into two for different activities. One group will head up around dusk the hill above the BnB to participate in a parrot survey, counting them as they fly back to their island for the evening. The other group will rest up to visit the area’s nesting beaches that evening to look for nesting turtles.
Meals: B, L, D

Day 3: Ray Research
After breakfast, we will head to Punta Manzanillo to do a survey for rays. Several species of rays can be found in this area (including spotted eagle rays) and we will look for them and help catch them with nets. Once caught, we will bring the rays ashore to measure and then release. We may also spot sea turtles swimming around this area. Lunch will be at a local home and in the afternoon, ETC staff will give a presentation on the research they are doing in the area. The group will then split up to do beach walks or parrot surveys.
Meals: B, L, D
Day 4: Community Activities
Today will be a day off the water to get to know the community of El Jobo. We will have a cooking class, learning how to make ceviche made fresh from fish caught nearby. We will also have a workshop on soap making from women in the local community. After lunch will be some free time to swim or explore the area and optional parrot surveys and beach patrols.
Meals: B, L, D

Day 5: Humpback Whales
The Gulf of Santa Elena is a great place to spot humpback whales, where they come to mate and have calves. We will head out by boat to observe these whales from a respectable distance. That evening we will have our final round optional parrot surveys and nesting beach walks.
Meals: B, L, D

Day 6: Rincon de la Vieja
After a final breakfast in El Jobo, we will board our private bus to head to the Rincon de la Vieja National Park. This is an active volcano (though not risky) and a beautiful area of rainforest. We will stay at the Blue River Resort, which has hot spring pools, a natural sauna and mudbath. The resort offers a number of optional activities to enjoy the area including hikes, waterfalls, and more (optional activities and meals outside of dinner are not included).
Meals: B

Day 7: Departure
We will depart after breakfast to Liberia (one and a half hour drive), where you can meet your international flight home or extend your stay to visit other parts of this beautiful country.
Meals: B
In-Water Turtle Monitoring

Foraging sea turtles are mainly found in shallow (<100 feet), hard-bottom substrates or seagrass beds in coastal areas and in some cases around coral reefs. By sampling the area's bays, it is possible to gain information on the demographic structure of the population, such as the abundance of immature, adults, male and non-breeding females, and their behavior. Once a sea turtle is caught, they are untangled from the net, taken into the boat, and brought ashore. We check every individual for wounds or anomalies. Then we take data of the biometry of the turtle (length and width of the carapace, weight, and other data) and tag them with metal and PIT tags in case the sea turtle doesn't have any tag, and take tissue samples to examine the mitochondrial DNA to reconstruct the lineage of the females. All the data (size, tag-number, sample numbers) needs to be recorded in a clean and correct manner and research staff is there to help volunteers.

Turtle Nest Monitoring

Volunteers and researchers with Equipo Tora Carey patrol the beach each evening on three different beaches in the area. If a nesting turtle is found, the eggs are collected and relocated to a part of the beach where they are more challenging to find. A team of biologists and researchers trained in conservation techniques carry out the important work and are also responsible for guarding the nests at the hatchery and releasing baby turtles. Volunteers help with tasks including measuring length and width of the turtles, recording information on data sheets, holding the bag that collects the eggs, and other tasks. Participants may be asked to help with beach clean-up activities as well.

Hatchlings

If hatchlings are encountered they are counted and released in the evening to an appropriate location along the high tide line and observed until they reach the sea. Some hatchlings will also be selected for data collection including length and weight. Hatchlings that emerge during the day are held until evening to be released under cover of darkness.
Our Conservation Partner

Equipo Tora Carey

Equipo Tora Carey was created as the result of a successful cooperation between fishermen, local tourism operators and biologists in protecting sea turtles around Punta Descartes. Being a community-based project, we believe in the deep connection between conservation and local communities; conservation cannot be fulfilled without an active local community and vice versa. This is why we want and need to work together with the local community, not without or even against them! Our objective is to mobilize and empower these locals – the most important resource at the project’s disposal – in order to fight coastal-marine destruction!

The founders were mostly local families, fishermen, housewives, local tourism operators and scientists, so since the beginning of ETC, we have been combining local passion with scientific interests! The name ‘Equipo Tora Carey’ emphasises our characterising aspects; the Spanish word ‘Equipo’ translates into ‘team’ and ‘Tora Carey’ is the local name for the endangered Indo Pacific turtle species we protect.

Since our foundation, we have added other conservation and research activities to our portfolio. We started collecting data and conducting research on rays and parrots found around El Jobo. Soon, children also became interested in the marine species living in their waters and the Environmental Protectors were born; they receive classes every week and take active part in the beach cleaning as well as monitoring activities. Tourists, especially foreign students got involved; they come to El Jobo to volunteer and learn about marine life and sustainable tourism. By lodging in houses of the village and participating in activities offered by locals, they also contribute to the local families’ income.

Learn More About Equipo Tora Carey
Olive Ridley Sea Turtles
The second smallest after the Kemp's ridley, the olive ridley turtles weigh between 75-100 pounds (34 - 45 kg) and reach 2-2 ½ feet (roughly .6 m) in length. They are named for their pale green carapace, or shell and are the most abundant of sea turtle species. Like the Kemp's ridley, olive ridleys nest in mass referred to as arribadas, where tens of thousands of turtles nest at one time, several times a year (please note that this is not a beach that has arribadas). Some green turtles found in the Eastern Pacific are known as black turtles due to their darker shells. Most scientists believe that black turtles are a sub-species of green turtles but some believe they are a different species. Learn more about olive ridleys on our website.

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 sub-tropics and tropics worldwide, with major nesting beaches in Tortuguero (Costa Rica), Colola (Mexico), Florida, and Raine Island (Australia) where thousands of turtles nest each night during peak nesting season. Some green turtles found in the Eastern Pacific are known as black turtles due to their darker shells. Most scientists believe that black turtles are a sub-species of green turtles but some believe they are a different species. Learn more about green turtles on our website.

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. This species inhabits tropical and some sub-tropical regions in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. The largest populations occur in the Caribbean Sea, the Seychelles, Indonesia, Mexico, and Australia. Learn more about hawksbill turtles on our website.
Accommodations

Casa Mariquita

Casa Mariquita is a locally-owned bed and breakfast run by one of the leaders of Equipo Tora Carey. There are several rooms to house the group on their property, which offers great views of the area. Wifi is limited but there is electricity and hot water in the bathrooms. Meals are cooked by a local family nearby.

Blue River Resort

Blue River Family Resort is on the north side of the Rincon de la Vieja volcano. The resort has hot spring pools, blue rivers, and majestic volcano views. Soak in 3 hot springs pools, 2 fresh water pools with a water-slide and a blue river. Wander the botanical gardens with 700 varietals, fish, turtle & caiman ponds, hummingbird sanctuary, and more. Indulge in a spa treatment; visit the butterfly gardens; or take a natural mud bath and sauna. The resort also offers a number of optional activities including hikes, waterfall tours, and more.
Frequently Asked Questions

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). However, the research team does catch multiple turtles most of the times they set the nets. The types of turtles we will be looking for in the water are black turtles, Indo Pacific green turtles, and hawksbills. On the beaches we help patrol, we will be looking for olive ridleys and black turtles.

Should I worry about illegal egg collectors?
Nope. This trip does not involve walking a nesting beach so no poachers around here. We do send people to turtle nesting beaches in Costa Rica on other trips, but we are confident of the safety of every place we sent people.

How does this trip benefit turtle conservation?
Of the $1,995 cost, $850 of that (42%) goes to Equipo Tora Carey for in-water and nesting beach monitoring and funds that support our Billion Baby Turtles and Too Rare To Wear programs and general operations. The trip also includes 4 volunteer shifts helping collect data on olive ridley, black, and hawksbill turtles and 3 volunteer shifts researching rays and parrots. Learn more about our Conservation Impact Pricing.

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 and tissue sampling are done only by research staff. 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 Questions

Can I call home or check my email while in Costa Rica?
Calling home from Costa Rica can be expensive. For email, you should not rely on or expect to be able to get online while on the trip. The cabins at this project have WiFi in the main kitchen but it can be very spotty and often does not work. 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 Costa Rica 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.

Can I go to an ATM in Costa Rica?
Although there are ATMs in Costa Rica, much of the time you will be in places where they are not available. 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 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. You can also check the CDC website for Costa Rica for the most up-to-date information.

What is the weather like on Costa Rica’s Pacific coast?
There are two seasons in this part of Costa Rica. The dry season (aka summer) lasts from December to May. The rainy season (aka winter) is from July to November though its generally only October and November where the weather gets bad, otherwise it rains but usually not all day.
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. 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 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 tortoiseshell products.

**Imitation Plastic**
- Uniform pattern with markings

**Tortoiseshell**
- Color: Browns, oranges, amber, yellow
- Pattern: Assymetrical and irregular shapes
- Surface: Color pattern visible throughout

[Images of imitation and authentic tortoiseshell]
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.

Click For A Quote
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)

**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)
- Small flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries
- Large ziplock bags for wet clothes & shoes
- Ziplock bags for electronics
- Sunglasses

Photo: Equipo Tora Carey
About Us

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 4 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
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.

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

Cancellation fees can be used towards future SEE Turtles trips with no penalties or expiration. Any fees paid can be put towards the cost of a future trip, based on available dates, except in the case of cancellations made within 60 days, when payments to local providers will already have been completed and refunds are not available.

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 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.