

# Antipodeans



## **EXPEDITION PROPOSAL**

Extraordinary, student-led  
journeys for secondary schools



# ABOUT ANTIPODEANS

Antipodeans is a pioneer in the field of educational travel and experiential learning programs.

Our dedicated team of educators, personal development specialists and travel experts have been creating extraordinary travel experiences for Australian and New Zealand students for over 25 years.

We empower young people to uncover their unique identity, develop life skills and embrace the world beyond their own borders through a combination of adventure, cultural immersion and learning opportunities.

We are very proud to be locally owned and operated, and deeply understand the needs and wants of our school communities. Our personal one-on-one approach ensures each and every Expedition is an incredible learning experience for students, teachers and schools – from the very first planning meeting, to final touch down when students return.

“ We had the same single Antipodeans contact from the kick off meeting through to the end of the Expedition, so it was easy to get answers and feel comfortable that everything was running smoothly and safely. ”

DAVID (parent) Expedition





# OUR ETHOS

## MINDFULNESS, RESILIENCE & LEADERSHIP

In today's hi-tech society, it's becoming difficult for young people to truly disconnect and be present in their surroundings. It's even more challenging for students to embrace a new and foreign experience that doesn't involve their phone, tablet or laptop.

An Antipodeans Expedition is a chance for students to switch off from technology, expand their life experiences and shift their perspective – on the world and themselves. We prepare young people for life outside of the classroom as they develop resilience, mindfulness and vital leadership skills on a three-week journey through a developing country.

Unlike your usual pre-packaged tour, our students actively make decisions; from helping plan their itinerary and managing the team's travel budget, to organising the team transport, accommodation and food. Our Expeditions are truly student-led, giving teams the opportunity to flourish under the close supervision of an experienced and highly qualified Antipodeans Leader.

Each Expedition encompasses a rewarding community project, breathtaking trek and deep cultural immersion. These core elements can be tailored to meet individual school curriculum requirements and can also complement the following programs.

- Duke of Edinburgh Award – Australia
- Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award – NZ
- International Baccalaureate Diploma





# WHAT IS AN EXPEDITION?

An Expedition is a life-changing 2-4 week journey that encompasses a rewarding community project, scenic trekking and true cultural immersion.

Supervised by an Antipodeans Expedition Leader, Expedition team members take on leadership roles and are actively involved in all decision-making – from the itinerary; budget and transport; to where the group stays – even where they will get their next meal.

## THE PROJECT

Rewarding community projects are a central focus of every Expedition. The opportunity to work closely with a local community provides students with real cultural insights and a better understanding of the world. The 2-6 day project is carefully developed by Antipodeans with local community members to ensure students are making a sustainable and genuine contribution.

Often considered a highlight of the Expedition, the community project has a profound impact on the global perspective of each and every student.

Projects can include:

- Light construction, renovation and painting projects in village schools.
- Teaching children basic English, improving math and reading skills.
- Assisting with solar hot water and heating installation projects.
- Environmental or conservation projects.

## THE TREK

Teams discover the natural beauty of their destination on an adventurous trek. From mountain tops to dense jungles, teams trek through extraordinary landscapes for up to 10 days. They will prepare for and overcome challenges, grow in confidence and experience a sense of achievement as a team.

Students carry their own daily essentials and are accompanied by the Antipodeans Expedition Leader and in-country guides. Our experienced guides provide local knowledge and organise travel logistics such as transporting team food, extra bags, cooking equipment and tents.

## EXPLORATION

The pure essence of travelling overseas is experiencing the unique beauty and character of each destination. Expedition teams visit sites of historic, cultural and geographic importance, putting students in the midst of some of the most jaw dropping locations on earth. Through travel students gain the opportunity to make decisions in a new and exciting environment.



# EXPERT LEADERS & PREPARATION

## ANTIPODEANS LEADERS

Every Expedition team operates under the professional supervision of an experienced Antipodeans Expedition Leader. Our Leaders facilitate the learning process and assist the students to overcome challenges, develop resilience and promote teamwork.

The Leader is responsible for the team's safety and welfare. They understand when to give direction and when to allow students to develop as leaders, playing the role of educator, guide and mentor.

Our experienced and professional Leaders are selected and trained to ensure a safe and memorable Expedition. All Leaders are over 25 years old and are highly qualified outdoor educators with Wilderness First Aid qualifications. They have thorough travel experience throughout the developing world and are expert facilitators with a passion for working with young people.

Leaders are local (from Australia and New Zealand) and undergo a careful and rigorous selection process to ensure their suitability and fit with your group and its requirements. Being locally based also means they will meet with the group six months prior to departure to facilitate good rapport, trust and group dynamics. This is an important and distinct feature of our Program compared to other providers in the market.

## PLANNING & PREPARATION

The journey begins well before the bags are packed. Antipodeans provide extensive pre-departure planning and preparation that ensures student input and responsibility from the outset. Students will participate in comprehensive training courses starting 18 months before departure. They develop leadership and organisational skills to become active, confident members of the team, ready to face new and challenging situations as a traveller.

As part of the pre-departure preparation, all students, teachers and parents are thoroughly briefed on health and safety issues, destination information, equipment, language and climate via regular Information Meetings, Training Courses, Travel Simulation Days and a comprehensive Team Handbook.

Antipodeans also assists with fundraising through our Fundraising Guide, which encourages students to take real financial ownership of their Expedition. Additionally, Antipodeans has formed an alliance with Woolworths enabling students to gain first priority on jobs within the Woolworths group of companies as they save and fundraise towards their trip.



# THE ANTIPODEANS DIFFERENCE

## AUSTRALIAN OWNED & RUN

- Owned and operated in Australia.
- Head office in Australia.
- 25 years experience organising student-led school expeditions.
- All Operations and emergency procedures coordinated in Australia - you will never be passed onto unknown Antipodeans staff based overseas.

## HIGHLY QUALIFIED & MATURE EXPEDITION LEADERS

- Expeditions supervised by highly qualified and professional Australian based leaders.
- We do not employ 'drop-in' foreign leaders that meet your Expedition team in-country or at the airport.
- Leaders are a minimum of 25 years old with extensive experience.
- Leader can be appointed in consultation with teachers and Principal six months before departure, (schools can see leader profile before the first meeting).
- Teachers will meet the leader on at least three occasions before departure to build professional relationships (teachers briefing day, training weekend and travel simulation day).
- Students will meet the leader on at least two occasions before departure to develop positive team dynamics (training weekend and travel simulation day).
- All training courses involve the Antipodeans leader to ensure common working practices are agreed.

## ONE CONSISTENT POINT OF CONTACT

- You will have ONE Expedition Manager assigned to the team(s) for all meetings, planning and communication with students, parents and teachers.
- Expedition Manager on call for all stakeholders while the team is in country.
- Ensure the experience in country matches stakeholders expectations.
- Ensures teachers, parents and students deal with one known person for any enquiry.
- N.B. Schools will not be passed from one person to another in the preparation stage or whilst teams are overseas as is the case with other suppliers in the industry.

## CAREFULLY DEVELOPED COMMUNITY PROJECTS

- We thoroughly research and develop our projects with in-country partners and local full-time Antipodeans employees to ensure on-going and sustainable projects and relationships are upheld. We endeavour to renovate/build/paint/create with the focus of helping the local communities and their quality of life.
- You will find out about your particular project six months prior to departure.





## UNRIVALLED SAFETY RECORD

- 25 years experience managing risk for Australian and New Zealand students.
- Highly experienced Senior Management Team overseeing safety procedures.
- Unrivalled safety record – no major incidents in 25 years.
- 24-hour operations room/emergency back up based in Australia.
- Expedition Manager assigned to each school for all planning, communications and logistics therefore providing continuity for risk management.
- Insurance is linked to Australian government DFAT travel advice.

## SUPPORTIVE FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

- Antipodeans provides a comprehensive Fundraising guide at first team meetings.
- Antipodeans Expedition Manager encourages and supports students to raise money to offset the cost to parents.
- A pre-departure program of 12-18 months allows students to plan fundraising activities and gain casual employment.
- Antipodeans has an alliance with Woolworths (Big W, Home Hardware + more) to help students gain employment by giving them priority over other applicants.

## LINK TO CURRICULUM

- Antipodeans can link the Expedition preparation and itinerary to AUSVELS, VCE or VCAL curriculum.
- During the planning stage of the Expedition, team members will be given research tasks and planning opportunities to build upon skills learned at school. While in country - the team's activities and the places they go can all be tailored to the School's desired student learning outcomes.

“ When you have a loved one overseas, you are relying on professional and competent staff, and we are most grateful for the outstanding work of the Antipodeans team. When Antipodeans take the next school group abroad, my other child will definitely be attending. ”

PHILL CASTLE (parent) Expedition



# EXPEDITION SUMMARY



**SCHOOL:** South Coast Community Expedition  
**COUNTRY:** Borneo  
**DATE:** September 2019  
**COST:** \$6490 based on 1:8 ratio FOC travelling adult to participant ratio + Antipodeans Leader  
**LENGTH:** 2.5 weeks

## WHAT PARTICIPANTS GAIN:

- Hands on, sustainable community projects with social justice focus.
- Experiential and service learning opportunities that are student-led.
- Real-world leadership training that can incorporate Duke of Edinburgh.
- Personal & social skill development through personal challenge and real-world decision making.
- Global Citizenship through cultural immersion and awareness.
- Personal fundraising by participants to off-set costs to parents.

## INCLUSIONS:

- Return Airfares ex Sydney
- Airport departure taxes
- All food, water, accommodation and transport for the entirety of the Expedition
- Project sourcing and trek arrangements
- Sightseeing activities
- DFAT linked comprehensive Travel Insurance
- Administration support
- Professional supervision by an Antipodeans Leader
- Extensive destination specific risk management and assessments
- 24-hour Australian based support & back-up while team is in country
- Pre-departure support, briefings and planning meetings for participants and parents
- Travelling Adult and Leader Risk Management Workshop – medical/emergency procedures and scenarios
- Trek and Travel day for participants and travelling adults accompanied by your Antipodeans Leader
- Training Course for participants and travelling adults accompanied by your Antipodeans Leader
- All group equipment including extensive medical supplies
- Parental & participant advice for visas, vaccinations, equipment and fundraising
- Fundraising Booklet and advice to help participants off-set costs to parents
- Corporate link to the TMVC for vaccinations and medical advice
- Corporate link to Offtrack outdoor equipment supplies
- Relationship with Woolworths to help with participant employment

## EXCLUSIONS:

- Vaccinations
- Visas
- Individual kit
- Tips and gratuities





# EXPEDITION SUMMARY



**SCHOOL:** South Coast Community Expedition  
**COUNTRY:** Cambodia  
**DATE:** September 2019  
**COST:** \$6290 based on 1:8 ratio FOC travelling adult to participant ratio + Antipodeans Leader  
**LENGTH:** 2.5 weeks

## WHAT PARTICIPANTS GAIN:

- Hands on, sustainable community projects with social justice focus.
- Experiential and service learning opportunities that are student-led.
- Real-world leadership training that can incorporate Duke of Edinburgh.
- Personal & social skill development through personal challenge and real-world decision making.
- Global Citizenship through cultural immersion and awareness.
- Personal fundraising by participants to off-set costs to parents.

## INCLUSIONS:

- Return Airfares ex Sydney
- Airport departure taxes
- All food, water, accommodation and transport for the entirety of the Expedition
- Project sourcing and trek arrangements
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- Fundraising Booklet and advice to help participants off-set costs to parents
- Corporate link to the TMVC for vaccinations and medical advice
- Corporate link to Offtrack outdoor equipment supplies
- Relationship with Woolworths to help with participant employment

## EXCLUSIONS:

- Vaccinations
- Visas
- Individual kit
- Tips and gratuities



# EXPEDITION SUMMARY



**SCHOOL:** South Coast Community Expedition  
**COUNTRY:** Vietnam  
**DATE:** September 2019  
**COST:** \$6190 based on 1:8 ratio FOC travelling adult to participant ratio + Antipodeans Leader  
**LENGTH:** 2.5 weeks

## WHAT PARTICIPANTS GAIN:

- Hands on, sustainable community projects with social justice focus.
- Experiential and service learning opportunities that are student-led.
- Real-world leadership training that can incorporate Duke of Edinburgh.
- Personal & social skill development through personal challenge and real-world decision making.
- Global Citizenship through cultural immersion and awareness.
- Personal fundraising by participants to off-set costs to parents.

## INCLUSIONS:

- Return Airfares ex Sydney
- Airport departure taxes
- All food, water, accommodation and transport for the entirety of the Expedition
- Project sourcing and trek arrangements
- Sightseeing activities
- DFAT linked comprehensive Travel Insurance
- Administration support
- Professional supervision by an Antipodeans Leader
- Extensive destination specific risk management and assessments
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## EXCLUSIONS:

- Vaccinations
- Visas
- Individual kit
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# TESTIMONIALS

"We had the same single Antipodeans contact from the kick off meeting through to the end of the Expedition so it was easy to get answers and feel comfortable that everything was running smoothly and safely."

**DAVID BROWN (Parent) Nepal Expedition**

"I have gained so much...leadership skills, team skills, new friends, confidence in travelling and being independent and self sufficient...thank you guys, you did an excellent job-congratulations. I had the time of my life." **ADELE SMITH (Student) Nepal Expedition**

"When you have a loved one overseas, you are relying on professional and competent staff, and we are most grateful for the outstanding work of the Antipodeans team. When Antipodeans take the next school group abroad, my other child will definitely be attending. Your staff are your best asset – thanks Antipodeans!"

**PHIL CASTLE (Parent) St Lukes Grammar School Tanzania Expedition**

"The students really got on well with our Leader, which is very important. He knew what to do in each situation no matter how difficult. He was inspiring and enthusing to the girls, which was very useful on several occasions during the trip." **ROSS MILLAR (Teacher) Wenona School Peru Expedition**

"The most beneficial thing about going with Antipodeans was that they were very professional. It was obvious there was a lot of pre-planning that went on before departure as everything ran very smoothly and the local staff knew exactly what was required of them. And I'd definitely recommend travelling with Antipodeans as it is a safe, organised and well-planned way to travel to remote countries.

**KATE BARNEWELL (Lecturer) Griffith University Laos Placement**

"Adam the team Leader always put the needs of the group (students and staff) ahead of his own, even when he was unwell himself from altitude. He made an effort with all students and allowed the girls to make decisions based on what they wanted to get out of the trip. Adam allowed the girls to always have fun, in a safe environment. Being able to speak Spanish fluently and knowing Peru and its culture well, was a definite advantage." **CATHERINE MINIFIE (Teacher) Wenona School Peru Expedition**

"Lee's (the team Leader) manner on the trip was exceptional. He related very well to the students plus quickly gained their respect. Lee was able to have heaps of fun with the students yet at the same time had their safety as his number one priority. Lee also quickly developed an excellent working rapport with myself and the other accompanying teacher. Most impressed."

**ADELE HARDY (Teacher) Walford Anglican School for Girls Laos Expedition**



# THANK YOU

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH US!

### SYDNEY HQ

Level 3/182 Blues Point Rd McMahon's Point NSW 2060

T: 1800 502 014

E: [explore@antipodeans.com.au](mailto:explore@antipodeans.com.au)

### MELBOURNE HQ

Suite 1.09 (Level 1) 9-11 Claremont St, South Yarra VIC 3141

T: 03 9827 9541

E: [explore@antipodeans.com.au](mailto:explore@antipodeans.com.au)

## CONTACT



**1800 502 014**

[explore@antipodeans.com.au](mailto:explore@antipodeans.com.au)

[antipodeans.com.au](http://antipodeans.com.au)



**0800 268 477**

[explore@antips.co.nz](mailto:explore@antips.co.nz)

[antips.co.nz](http://antips.co.nz)



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