

Belize Ocean Wildlife Expedition



Welcome Letter

Welcome to the SEE Turtles Belize Ocean Wildlife Expedition! On this unique volunteer vacation, you will spend three days in the Mesoamerican Reef with researchers helping to study sea turtles, manatees, dolphins, and more. By joining this trip, you will be directly supporting conservation and research of ocean wildlife.

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 and this has been our most popular tour. 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 millions of 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 Belize's wildlife, all while enjoying one of the most beautiful parts of the country, St. George's Caye and the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef.

We hope to SEE you in Belize!



Brad Nahill
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Cover photo: Linda Searle / ECOMAR
Right: Neil Osborne



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Trip Information

The Belize Barrier Reef is an extraordinary ocean wildlife hotspot. Bottlenose dolphins, manatees, several species of sea turtles, and more than 500 species of fish and 100 species of coral populate these crystal blue waters. Despite this diversity, these species face a variety of threats including boat strikes, climate change, and entanglement in fishing gear. The island of St. George's Caye, home of our partner EcoMar's research station, is a great base to explore from and has a unique spot in the rich history of Belize.

Join us for this unique wildlife trip to Belize. Spend 5 nights at the EcoMar field station on St. George's Caye, a small island near Belize City. You'll have opportunities to observe bottlenose dolphins, sea turtles, manatees, Queen conchs, and more. You'll also explore coral reefs and marine protected areas including the beautiful Hol Chan Marine Reserve. A 2 night optional extension offers the opportunity to explore the incredible Mayan ruins of Tikal in nearby Guatemala, as well as tubing through caves and rainforest hiking.

Is This Trip Right For Me?

Belize is a safe and beautiful country and tourism is its top industry. This trip is based at a simple but comfortable research station on St. George's Caye, a small island about a 30 min. boat ride from Belize City. We will spend a lot of time in boats and swimming in the water, so those who get seasick may have issues (though most of the time the water is very calm). Previous snorkeling experience is helpful though not required but participants should be able to swim and feel comfortable in the water. Be prepared for tropical heat and possible bad weather, which can affect which activities are available each day. Meals are simple and home cooked (vegetarian options available). Most rooms have private bath with cold water showers and fans. Electricity is available from 5:30 pm until 8:30 am.

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:** \$720 of the trip price supports turtle and wildlife conservation programs of our local partner.
- **Local Communities:** \$670 of the price supports communities around turtle hotspots.
- **Travel Costs:** \$905 of the price pays for accommodations, activities, food, insurance, and other costs.

[Register Here](#)

2024 Dates:

- **July 13-18 (extension July 18-20)**
- **Aug 3-8 (extension Aug 8-10)**

Price: \$2,295 pp

Ext price: \$595 pp

Discounts & Notes:

- **\$100 off for kids under 18 years.**
- **Maximum group size of 12, minimum of 8.**
- **Minimum recommended age is 8 years old, under 18 needs to be accompanied by an adult.**

Includes:

In-country transport, airport pick-up, meals, lodging, activities, guides, and a donation to turtle conservation.

Excludes:

Airfare to Belize City, personal items, tips, and travel insurance.

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. Check out our terms and conditions for full details.

Detailed Itinerary

DAY 1: ARRIVAL & TRANSFER TO ST GEORGE'S CAYE

The group will be picked up at the airport in the early afternoon and transferred to the Belize City, to board a boat to head to the EcoMar Research Station on St. George's Caye, located about 10 miles from Belize City near the Belize Barrier Reef (30 min boat ride). At the transfer location you'll have an opportunity to rent snorkeling equipment if needed. Once all participants have arrived, we'll head out to St George's Caye. Upon arrival, there will be an orientation to the facility and then we'll head out by boat to the Sand Bar, a shallow area to test out snorkeling gear and explore the seagrass beds. If time allows in the afternoon, participants can swim or kayak near the station.

The waters around St. George's Caye provides important habitat for endangered green, loggerhead, and hawksbill sea turtles, Atlantic bottlenose dolphins, and Antillean manatees, among other species. One of ECOMAR's missions is to assist in documenting the diverse marine life in the area, in efforts to create a marine protected area. The data you help collect will be used to establish the baseline data set for the area. As a participant on this program, you will work side-by-side with researchers to observe and record sea turtle, dolphin, and manatee behavior, and document other types of marine life. You will use various research methods that will be described in detailed during the presentations. The Research Station has rooms with private baths with bunk beds (2-4 people per room). Each room has fans but there is no air conditioning or hot water. Dinner is served buffet-style and vegetarians are easily accommodated.

DAYS 2 - 4: OCEAN WILDLIFE SURVEYS & SNORKELING

Start your exploration of the Belize Barrier Reef after breakfast. Each day you will be out on or in the water, looking for wildlife and snorkeling in coral reefs. Over the next 3 days, the group will do a minimum of two activities per day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon with some down time around meals and late afternoon. In some cases, the group will split up and rotate activities. Which activities are done each day will be decided on site based on the weather, ocean conditions, and group preferences.

There are also several kayaks that can be used to explore the shallow waters around the caye during down time, usually before breakfast, or at the end of the day after we return to the island before dinner. One of the staff assist you with the kayaks and will be available to guide you around the island where you can look for manatees, dolphins, and tropical birds. The evenings will include talks on ocean wildlife, the rich history of St. George's Caye, and more. (B, L, D)

Sea Turtle Surveys

EcoMar has been conducting surveys to assess sea turtle abundance and diversity in Belize Barrier Reef for more than two decades. This research will be observational, recording any turtles that are seen during snorkels surveys including their species (hawksbill, green, or loggerhead), their behavior, size, and any distinguishing characteristics. This data will be used to identify resident turtles and the species that utilize the seagrass meadows and coral reefs.



Manatee Surveys

The Antillean manatee is an endangered sub-species of the West Indian Manatee. Belize is home to the largest population of Antillean manatees in the world, but there are less than 1,000 of the estimated total of 2,500 mature individuals of this subspecies. We will observe manatees from the boat at the mouth of the Belize River where they congregate and to drink fresh water and look for them around the shallow reefs at Gallow's Point while snorkeling. We will record their behavior, size, and any distinguishing characteristics, and carefully take pictures to document individuals that use the reefs. With our past support, new speed limit signs have been installed to help reduce collisions between boats and these giants.

Dolphin Surveys

Researchers have been studying Atlantic bottlenose dolphins in this area since the early 90s with the goal of documenting their abundance, distribution, and behavioral ecology in Belize. Dolphin surveys will be done opportunistically while enroute to other activities during the day. Participants can assist by taking pictures of the dorsal fins to be used in the identification of individual dolphins. We will record the location and behavior of any dolphins we observe.

Conch Surveys

Queen conch is a popular seafood in Belize and also an important export. EcoMar is studying juvenile conch populations at an important nursery ground to monitor changes over time and to ensure the fishery isn't depleting the population. Participants swim transects in shallow water looking for conch and measuring them when found and recording data. Adult conchs observed while snorkeling the reef sites will also be recorded.

DAY 5: HOL CHAN MARINE RESERVE

You will spend a day visiting the famous Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Shark Ray Alley, located off the southern tip of Ambergris Caye. Due to its protected status, what was once a depleted fishing area has now been allowed to regenerate, providing a fantastic snorkeling experience for visitors and an important refuge for ocean life. We'll encounter large schools of fish and numerous nurse sharks and rays swimming by. We may also encounter one of the resident green turtles that feed on the turtle grass. More than 160 species of fish have been identified in the reserve, along with nearly 40 species of corals, 5 sponges, 8 algae, 2 seagrasses, 2 marine mammals, and 3 species of sea turtle. This will be a great day to capture many photos of the amazing ocean life! (B, L, D)

DAY 6: DEPART OR EXTENSION

After breakfast at the station, you will take a boat back to Belize City. Head to the airport in plenty of time for your return flight home or join our extension. (B)

OPTIONAL EXTENSION:

DAY 6: CAVE TUBING & ZIPLINES

You will be picked up in Belize City and transferred inland by private van to the Nooch Chen cave (about 1 hour drive) and go cave tubing. Start with an easy 45 minute guided jungle walk, learning about rainforest plants and animals along the way. Swim in the cool clear water and hop on the tube for a fun ride through two beautiful caves, checking out beautiful stalactites and jungle views along the way. You'll have a picnic lunch at the cave and then transfer to the Green Valley Inn near the town of San Ignacio. (L, D)

DAY 7: TIKAL NATIONAL PARK

After an early breakfast, the group will head across the nearby border with Guatemala to visit the extraordinary Tikal National Park, one of the most prominent Mayan sites in the world (1.5 - 2 hour drive). Spend all day walking through the park with a local guide, learning about the Mayan culture and seeing the impressive thousand year old structures. You will have a picnic lunch and return to the resort in the late afternoon. (B, L, D)

DAY 8: RETURN HOME

Head to the airport after breakfast in plenty of time for your return flight home or extend your stay (B).

Background Information

Loggerhead Sea Turtles

One of the larger species of sea turtles, the loggerhead turtle ranges from 200-400 pounds (90 - 180 kg) and up to 4 feet in length (1.2 meters). They occur throughout temperate and tropical regions of the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans. They are named for their large head and strong crushing jaw which enables them to eat hard-shelled prey such as crabs, conchs, and whelks. Loggerheads are found in every ocean around the world. The largest concentration of nesting occurs on Masirah Island off the coast of Oman in the Middle East. In the Pacific, their main nesting grounds include Japan and Australia. In the Atlantic, the main concentration occurs in Florida. They are the most common species in the Mediterranean, nesting on beaches in Greece, Turkey, and Israel.



Mesoamerican Barrier Reef

The world's second largest coastal coral reef system, the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef is more than 500 miles long, stretching from Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula to Honduras. The reef is home to dozens of marine protected areas, more than 60 species of coral, 350 species of mollusks, and 500 species of fish. Several species of sea turtles and dolphins and one of the world's largest population of manatees, with more than 1,000 living in the region. The Belize Barrier Reef is a series of coral reefs along the entire coast of the country, part of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef. Roughly 1/3 of the Mesoamerican reef can be found in Belize, nearly 200 miles long and covers 370 square miles. The reef is hugely important to the country, being the number one tourist attraction, the source of seafood for many fishermen, and as habitat for an huge diversity of marine life.



Our Conservation Partner

EcoMar

EcoMar coordinates marine conservation projects that focus on conserving the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System World Heritage Site, associated marine ecosystems and the diverse marine life that is so important to the people that live near the coast and those that come to visit and explore the marine realm that has made Belize famous. EcoMar encourages stakeholders to learn more about the marine ecosystems that support their livelihoods.

When resources users are more knowledgeable about the ecosystem processes they take ownership of the environment and become involved in protecting these valuable natural resources.

“Conservation through Education” is the underlying impetus for each of our projects which engage a diverse group of stakeholders including marine guides, fishermen, business owners, tourism associations, fishing associations, NGOs and educational institutions. Stakeholders that become volunteers help monitor conditions on the Belize Barrier Reef in a changing climate.

[Learn more about EcoMar on their website here.](#)



Accommodations

St. George's Caye Research Station

The Western Caribbean Sea washes up on the coast in Belize. The climate is tropical with prevailing winds from the southeast during the summer months and northeast during the winter months. The Field Station is located on Historic St George's Caye, Belize's first capital from the 1700s. In 1798, the Battle of St George's Caye took place at this site and has become known as a unique maritime confrontation that resulted in the early English settlers defeating the Spanish armada. Little has changed on the island in 200 years since all residents must generate their own electricity and catch rainwater. The comfortable Creole Colonial architecture takes visitors back to a less complicated time. The facility provides clean, comfortable rooms and delicious homecooked meals served three times daily.

St. George's Caye is less than 10 miles from Belize City and one mile from the Belize Barrier Reef, making it an ideal location for getting to and from the mainland and reef ecosystems. The Research Station offers comfortable accommodations for groups and offers bunk rooms or rooms with double beds, depending on your group size and specific requests. Each room has a private bathroom and dresser with four drawers. Most rooms also have nightstands. All rooms have multiple fans. There is no hot water or air conditioning. Electricity is provided by generators and is available from 5:30 pm to 8:30 am.



Frequently Asked Questions

Turtle Issues

Am I guaranteed to see a sea turtle, dolphin, and manatee?

We can't guarantee that you'll see a sea turtle, manatee, or dolphin (they are wild animals after all) but we are going to look for them in spots where they are frequently found and studied. You are likely to see sea turtles in the water while snorkeling but catching them to study can be challenging. Dolphins and manatees are common in the area but finding them in the large areas of ocean at times can be difficult. Most groups have seen all three but it is not guaranteed.

How does this trip benefit turtle conservation?

SEE Turtles runs sea turtle trips as a way to help save these incredible animals. As part of the trip cost, we pay fees to our local partners to help support their conservation programs and we support local businesses and communities to show that tourism can be more valuable than eating sea turtles or their eggs. For this trip, of the total cost, \$720 of the trip price goes to sea turtle and wildlife conservation and research, including EcoMar's research and a contribution to our Billion Baby Turtles, Sea Turtles & Plastic, and Too Rare To Wear programs. \$670 of the price stays in the local community, helping residents and businesses. The balance of the trip (\$905) covers transportation, activities, insurance, credit card fees, and other costs.



Logistical/Travel Questions

Can I bring my kids to Belize?

Yes! Though if only one parent is traveling with a child, be sure to bring a notarized authorization letter from the other parent, Belize is very strict about this requirement and won't let you board a plane without it. We recommend ages 8 and up.

How much money should I bring?

We recommend that each participant bring \$200 in cash for tipping and spending money.

How much should I tip?

EcoMar and Green Valley both have a large number of staff that work hard to serve the groups, including cooks, boat drivers, guides, and others. The recommended tip for the staff is US \$15 per day per person at EcoMar, which would come out to \$75 for the 5 days at the station, and \$10 per day at Crystal Paradise (\$20). Tips can be made in US dollars.

Are the electrical outlets the same as in the US?

The voltage in Belize is the same as the states, no adapter is needed.

Is their electricity available all day?

Electricity at the research station is provided by generator and is not available all day. The generators run from 5:30 pm until 8:30 am, so be sure to charge any electronic devices during that time.

Can I go to an ATM in Belize?

Although there are ATMs in Belize, much of the time you will be places where they are not available. You would be able to go to one in Belize City before we head to the research station. In places where they do have ATMs, they don't always work. The bottom line, 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, please consider the following:

- Carry just the necessary quantity, which is the quantity normally used by a person having your health issue.
- 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 Belize for the most up-to-date information.

What is the weather like in Belize?

Belize in early August is generally warm (ranging from the mid-80's to low 90's Fahrenheit (29-32 Celsius with occasional rainshowers in the afternoons.

Do I need to have snorkeling experience?

No, you are not required to have previous snorkeling experience though the more comfortable you are with the gear in the water, the more you will get out of the trip. We recommend visiting a pool with your gear to practice and [you can watch this video for a short tutorial.](#)

Testimonials

"This was an incredible opportunity to see so much of Belize. Staying on the small St. George's Key was rustic, but delightful. There was so much to see and do, it all went by way too fast. The turtle research was hands-on and helps build our understanding of these magnificent animals. We had plenty of time to snorkel the reefs in calm, warm water. We had informative lectures every night and were able to work side-by-side with a variety of researchers work on dolphins, manatees, turtles, and conch. I would highly recommend this trip as a great entrée to Belize. By all means, do take the optional extension inland for amazing birding, ruins, and jungle hikes."

-Gregg B.

"This was one of my all time favourite trips. Started by visiting Tikal in Guatemala and then cane tubing which was loads of fun. We then headed to St George's caye and it was stunning. We stayed in a converted wooden house which was very comfortable and had everything you needed. There were many storms in the evening and watching he thunderstorms in the dark was very therapeutic. The snorkelling and Work that the staff do has a great impact on the research of marine life and was so interesting. The snorkelling and dolphin/ manatee watching parts were amazing and so many different marine creatures were seen. The staff were so nice, the island was peaceful and steeped in history and my fellow travellers were real friends! Belize is a must see destination on those bucket lists!!!"

-Julia H.

I went on the SEE Turtles adventure to Belize in July 2017. It was a fantastic experience, with ALOT of contact with nature, animals and conducting actual conversation work. Everyday we were out on the boat, following dolphins, snorkeling with sea turtles, coral reefs, sting ray and many other marine animals. The staff were highly knowledgeable, and there were no end to the number of activities to do. If you are the type of person that can't sit still on vacation and enjoys exercise and nature experiences I can highly recommend this! Beyond this, it really feels like you are contributing to the protect of species and doing something 'productive' with your vacation while not losing the relaxation and fun.

"This trip was wonderful. We saw lots of sea life at the Hol Chan Marine Reserve observing turtles, sting rays, nurse sharks, and lots of fish. The divers for St. George Caye were very informative and wonderful people. Brad Nahill is a great organizer of the trip and very knowledgeable about the sea turtles and very experienced in his field. I also enjoyed going inner tubing into the caves and going to the Ruins in Guatemala. It was an exciting trip with lots of good people to experience it with. I recommend it highly."

-Beverly O.



Conservation 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 SEEturtles.org/TooRareToWear and [download our SEE Shell App to identify these products here](#).

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. [Check out this great resource from our friends at Oceanic Society to learn more](#).

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 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 TURTLESHELL

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

IMITATION		TURTLESHELL	
	PLASTIC Uniform pattern with markings		COLOR Browns, oranges, amber, yellow
	COCONUT Brown on top, beige underneath		PATTERN Assymetric and irregular shapes
	HORN Heavy with black/white coloring		SURFACE Color pattern visible throughout

Download our SEE Shell App



Apple



Android

Conservation Impact Pricing

We believe in transparency and that travelers should know how much their trips are helping, so we now list the impact of every trip on our conservation partners and local communities. Your participation on these trips makes a big difference to the work on the ground and in the water.

We break up the impact into three categories:

- **Conservation:** For this trip, an estimated \$720 of the trip cost supports conservation efforts. This includes funds that go to local partners to protect nesting beaches and conduct in-water research, as well as support for our Billion Baby Turtles, Sea Turtles & Plastic, and Too Rare To Wear programs and general operations. We also list the amount of volunteer opportunities in each trip. Since our launch, we have generated more than US \$1 million for conservation and our 1,000+ travelers have completed nearly 5,000 volunteer shifts for an additional \$50,000 in in-kind benefits.
- **Local Communities:** For this trip, an estimated \$670 of the trip cost is spent in local communities. We believe that money spent communities around turtle hotspots is as important as direct funding. When communities benefit from turtle watching, they are more likely to support protecting sea turtles and less likely to participate in activities like illegal egg harvesting. This category includes tour costs going towards staying in local accommodations, eating in local restaurants, and paying local staff (including local guides for tourist activities.) We have pumped more than US \$300,000 into coastal communities near sea turtle sites since our launch.
- **Travel Costs:** For this trip, an estimated \$905 goes towards travel costs. Every tour involves costs to get you to places to see the sea turtles, hiring a guide and driver to get you there safely, airport transfers, as well as profits and administrative costs of our local operators and partners.



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**
- **Sneakers for walks (extension)**
- 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
- Swim shirt for snorkeling

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)
- Medication for sea sickness (if applicable)

Other Stuff

- **Refillable bottle for water (clean water will be provided)***
- Passport and a photocopy
- Money (recommend US \$200-\$250 clean bills for tips and souvenirs)
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Games, cards, things to do during down time
- Small flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries
- Large ziplock bags for wet clothes & shoes and for electronics (to keep dry and protect from humidity)
- Polarized sunglasses
- Prescription medications (bring in carry on baggage in original packaging)
- Snorkel and fins (these can be rented for an extra cost)



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 our Billion Baby Turtles, Too Rare To Wear, Sea Turtle Inclusivity Fund, and Sea Turtles & Plastic programs. To date, we have brought more than 1,500 people to visit turtle projects around the world, generated more than US \$1 million for turtle conservation and local communities, saved more than 10 million turtle hatchlings at 60+ nesting beaches, and reached millions of people with our educational programs. SEE Turtles is an independent 501c3 organization based in Portland, Oregon.



www.SEEturtles.org
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Photo: Juan Ma Gonzalez

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 not available 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 (email is acceptable) 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:

- 120 days or more prior to departure: \$300 per person (or whatever the specific trip deposit is)
- 60 to 119 days prior to departure: 50% of expedition fee per person
- 59 days or less prior to departure: 100% of expedition fee per person

Cancellation fees can be used towards one future SEE Turtles trip with no penalties or expiration except in the case of cancellations within 60 days prior to departure, when payments to local providers has already been completed. Any fees paid can be deducted from a future trip, based on available dates for cancellations made before 60 days prior to departure. Trip credits can be transferred one time only, if a second trip is cancelled by the traveler, all fees will be forfeited with the exception of extreme circumstances, which is up to the discretion of SEE Turtles staff.

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, laundry, tips, 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.

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.

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 gender but some trips require a single supplement if single rooms are preferred or 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 their 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 nonprofit 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.