

Expedition leader profiles

Personal info -

Name Phil Longbottom.

Position Freelance Expedition Leader.

Responsibilities of position To ensure the safety of groups of young people embarking on expeditions to developing countries as well as helping them to take ownership of the trip.

Destinations led to Morocco (x2), Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

Current qualifications Summer ML, Winter ML (Training), SPA, BCU Level 2 Canoe & Kayak.

Experience working with young people prior to going on expedition Working at various outdoor centres in the Lake District and North Wales.

Developing world travel experience Travelled independently in Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa and North and South America.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever had? Leave your options open and always accept an invitation to eat!

Favourite piece of kit? My all in one cooking pot/eating bowl/kettle/mug.



The position -

Why did you apply for the role?

To give me the opportunity to get paid to do something I love – adventurous travel in weird and wonderful places.

Employment situation prior to expedition?

Working full time at an outdoor education centre, before that I was a nightclub manager.

Current employment?

Freelance Outdoor Instructor and Overseas Expedition Leader.

Favourite moment on expedition?

Taking part in a traditional Scottish Ceilidh with bagpipes and tin whistles at a school on the slopes of Kilimanjaro.

Most challenging moment on expedition?!

Meeting a corrupt policeman on a routine road check in Kenya.

In your opinion what attributes make a successful Expedition Leader? Ability to think on your feet, get along with all kinds of people and enjoy what you're doing.

What do you think (if anything) you gained personally from the position? More confidence, reaching the top of big mountain peaks, good friends, adventures with open minded young people, a suntan and some cool stuff to put in my house!

Where would you most like to go next and why? Always somewhere mountainous and unusual, perhaps Kyrgyzstan?

Personal info -

Name Chris Rhodes

Position Expedition Leader / Instructor

Responsibilities of position Welfare of teams on overseas expeditions, challenger training, potential leader assessment

Destination led to Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Uganda, Belize, India, Tanzania, Nepal, Morocco, Thailand, Cambodia.

Current qualifications Summer and winter ML, SPA, Level 1 caving, PADI Dive Master, Far away from help Medical Certificate.

Current first aid certificate

Experience working with young people prior to going on expedition Several years working as free lance outdoor instructor with all age groups.

Developing world travel experience Travelled in Africa, Asia, Central and South America.

Favourite places – Himalaya: Nepal and India

What's the best piece of advice you've ever had? Stay Cool

Favourite piece of kit? Old Marmot down jacket



The position -

Why did you apply for the role?

To pass on my enthusiasm and love of adventure and other cultures to young people.

Employment situation prior to expedition?

Freelance Outdoor instructor

Current employment?

Employed at Queen Katherine School, Kendal, Cumbria developing their outdoor programme, Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and overseas expeditions with World Challenge.

Favourite moment on expedition?

Watching the amazement on a Challengers face as she reached Gillmans point on Killi at dawn.

Most challenging moment on expedition?!

A pony falling on my tent in India whilst I was asleep!

In your opinion what attributes make a successful Expedition Leader? A person that has the ability to get the best from young people and inspires them to perform and achieve well outside of their comfort zone. A person that has a real love for the outdoors and travel with young people in the developing world.

What do you think (if anything) you gained personally from the position? Are you kidding? The past 10 years of leading expeditions all over the globe has been almost a privileged existence. I have met so many interesting people and seen so many interesting things that it cannot help but advance your understanding of life and people.

Where would you most like to go next and why?

The Himalaya of course because its so fantastic.