

# WORLD EXPEDITIONS

## How to choose your ideal adventure company



If you're looking to embark on an adventure overseas, one of the hardest decisions to make (outside of where to go and what to do!) is who to do it with! With literally hundreds of adventure tour operators around the world offering more adventures and itineraries than you know what to do with, how do you go about picking one particular tour operator to provide an adventure holiday experience that is "just right" for you?

While there's no hard and fast formula, there are a number of things you should take into consideration before choosing an adventure tour company. We've narrowed down the top XX things to consider when choosing a small tour adventure tour company!

### Cost

If you're a price conscious traveller, you might think that trips labeled as "budget" or "basic" automatically means "cheaper". But, these "cheaper" versions often cut costs by reducing the quality of their transport, accommodation or types of activities. Other tour operators are able to cut the costs on their tour packages by excluding important additional expenses such as meals, park fees, internal transport etc, and can end up costing a pretty penny by the end of your trip. While you may save a couple of dollars, that cheap tour won't be so cheap if you have to pay for everything while there.

When comparing tour operators and reviewing providers, take note of what inclusions they have on their trips. If you're looking at cycling trips, do they include bicycles and back up vehicles? Are your meals, sightseeing and national park fees included in the trip cost? Having these fees included allows you to better budget for your big adventure and eliminates the risk of having to carry large sums of money around with you on your journey.

### Responsible Tourism

There's a growing trend in the travel industry called ecotourism, which focuses on responsible travel not only towards the environments that we visit, but also towards the locals in an area. When thinking about adventure tour operators, choose a company that has a responsible travel philosophy and has initiatives in place around the world to ensure you minimise your impact and leave behind positive impressions. This could mean using local guides, hotels and restaurants, and minimising your waste and footprint in the local habitat.

World Expeditions is a leading Australian small group company that employs a responsible travel philosophy at the heart of all of their tours. From employing local porters and ensuring porter welfare and using semi-permanent campsites in Nepal to give back to the local community and minimise the impact of deforestation, to partnering with 10 Pieces in Australia, Peru and Nepal and encouraging travellers to pick up 10 pieces of litter each day, to advocating for animal welfare and removing activities from itineraries that harm and endanger wildlife. Travelling with a company that has a responsible travel ethos means you leave behind footprints — not waste.

### Itineraries

If you're going to spend the time travelling overseas on an adventure, you'll want to make sure that the company you choose has a wide range of itineraries that you can choose from, and the travel style that appeals to you most. Think about how the itineraries fill your day. Do they have a lot of activities planned, or do you have a lot of free-time during the day? Do you have a chance to see the off-the-beaten path destinations of a country, or are you being taken along the typical tourist route, don't turn away from itineraries that take you to some of the smaller or lesser known destinations; it's often the unexpected places, the ones you'd never even heard of before, that end up being the most memorable. Spend some time reading the trip notes of the trips before you book, and if you have any questions, contact the company and clarify them before you book on!



### Types of adventures

If you're the type of person who is looking for new and unique experiences to get off the well-trodden tourist trails, align yourself with a company that does just that! Companies such as World Expeditions offer a range of active adventures including trekking, cycling, rafting, kayaking and mountain biking, allowing you to travel under your own steam. Think about whether you want to explore a country from a bus window, or on an active adventure. Although both are fine depending on your interests, the latter is an incredibly rewarding way to explore the hidden gems of the world!

### Expert Guides

Expert guides in the field guides can make your international experiences so special. Travelling with a company that uses local guides often gives you access to their extensive knowledge covering the long and varied history of the region. They may know the local language, understand the tapestry of cultures that occupy the land, the best walking trails and most authentic restaurants to eat at. In a nutshell, local guides can be the difference between a good and an excellent adventure.

Companies such as World Expeditions employ local guides on their trip, however also work with elite adventurers over the world, whether they be world-class photographers, mountaineers or authors. These leaders' passion and experience can take adventure to new heights as they bring their experience and talents to the fore on your trip.

### Target Market

As much as we all feel like we were as fit as we were when we were in our 20's, it's wise to look into what age group and type of people your preferred tour operator has on their trips. Are the tours geared towards older couples, families, or young people? When you're on a trip with others for 10-20 days, the people you travel with can make or break a trip, and booking on a loud Contiki tour when all you wanted was a peaceful exploration of a country can really be a drag. Not to worry - there are enough tour companies out there that there's sure to be one that suits you perfectly. Jump on the Facebook page, website and twitter pages of companies you're thinking about to get an idea of the type of person on their tours.

### Group size

Unless you've been on a large "group trip" before, your best bet is to look at companies that have a small group policy. This is because the small groups allow for flexibility, instill close-knit friendships amongst travellers and importantly, ensure minimum impact travel to the areas in which you visit.

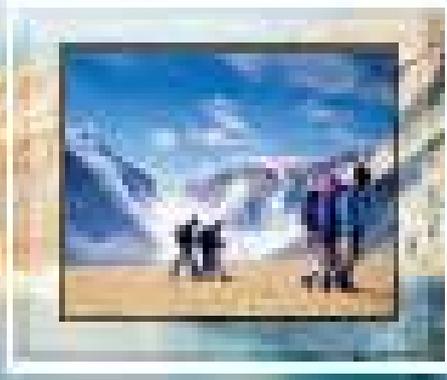
### The Right Fit

Once you find a company that you align with and offers everything you want, ensure the trip you book on is the right fit. Choose adventures that match your fitness level, whether it's an introductory trek or advanced mountaineering expedition. Carefully look at how active the adventure you are planning on taking is, and ensure you train so that you are able to meet the requirements of the trip.

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