

Sri Lanka Expedition – July 2025

Safari and Surf

Dear Blaise Families

At Blaise High School we recognise the importance of children working hard to climb their own personal mountains to the very best universities in the country, or careers of their choosing.

Following our successful trip to Borneo this summer with 51 students, I am writing to introduce you to a proposed 15/16-day expedition to Sri Lanka in July 2025 that we are offering to our current Year 9 and 10 students.

This expedition, run by STC expeditions, will provide students with a thrilling journey into the many highlights of the remarkable island. Students will get the opportunity to cycle through magnificent national parks, climb Sigiriya rock, trek through the Knuckle Mountains, white water raft, surf, see Elephants in the wild and complete a community project. A provisional itinerary for the expedition is available to view <u>here</u>.

<u>Costs</u>

We expect the cost of the trip to be around **£3460** with the exact cost being confirmed once the international flights and group size have been secured. This includes all travel, accommodation, meals and guides throughout the trip.

There are limited places on the expedition, and these will be issued through an application process if applicants exceed places.

The initial deposit is **£400** which will be due late October/early November with subsequent payments being made in the 18 months running up to departure. This equates to about £170 a month. The full payment schedule will be sent once places are confirmed.

Please do contact me if you feel that your child would be very interested in this opportunity, but financing it would be a barrier on <u>wallism@blaisehighschool.co.uk</u>.

Fundraising

We appreciate that the expense of this expedition is a big consideration. With this in mind we will endeavour to support students in bringing down the personal contribution as much as possible. The lead teacher will support the students in thinking and planning fundraising events, help them with small business ideas and provide information on local grants and organisations that may help towards the costs. This will bring the cost of the trip to parents down, however, by how much is dependent on the effort they put in. Are they up for the challenge? With the determination and ambition of our students at Blaise High School they could raise the whole amount. We had a number of students who attended our expedition to Borneo this summer that managed to raise the whole amount themselves



Aspiration – Integrity - Pride

We as a school, and the wider Greenshaw Learning Trust will also hold as many fundraising events as possible, with the first one planned for this Christmas. These fundraisers will also bring down the cost.

Students who are accepted on the trip will be expected to support fundraising events and attend as many as possible. Bringing friends and family to fundraisers is really beneficial. Building a community of students, friends and family who engage in fundraising is key to raising as much money as possible.

If you are interested in the trip, but may require some financial assistance, please add this to the comments sections in the google form below. We can look into any help available once we know who is interested.

Next Steps

At this moment we are looking for an 'expression of interest' in the expedition. If you think your child would like to take part, please complete the google form <u>here</u>. The deadline for completing the google form is **Sunday 24th September**.

There will be a virtual parent/carer information evening in which our travel provider STC will explain the trip in a lot more detail on **Thursday 28th September**. Parents will have the opportunity to ask any questions they might have and we will also share how some of the students who went to Borneo this year raised all the money themselves. The link for this meeting will be shared with all those who complete the google form.

If you would like to get an idea of how amazing these expeditions are please take a look at our Outdoor Ed account, which documents our trip to Borneo this year at <u>@glt_sw.</u>

If you have any questions or queries at this early stage, please contact me by email.

Yours sincerely,

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