

Learning through travel

People join the RGS-IBG for a variety of reasons, but a passion for learning through visiting new places is shared by the majority of its 15,000 members and Fellows, not to mention the thousands of others who take part in its expanding public programme of travel activities each year

Drawing on the wealth of knowledge in its extraordinary geographical collections, and on that of the fascinating individuals connected to it, the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) is uniquely placed to promote the relevance and enjoyment of learning about the world through informed travel.

Trailfinders, one of the UK's leading independent travel organisers, has been helping to support the Society's work in this area since 2005. This year, to celebrate its 40th anniversary, the company has generously offered to contribute one per cent of the total cost of any travel bookings made by RGS-IBG members (with a minimum value of £250) to the President's Appeal to conserve and improve the Society's landmark London home.

Although travel can mean different things to the different people who visit Lowther Lodge, most are looking for reliable, unbiased information to help them plan an eye-opening experience safely and thoughtfully. To this end, the Society offers a variety of activities that cater to a range of interests, from talks and lectures, Hidden... days and Discovering Places evenings to fieldwork and expedition training events and country-themed showcases.

Offering specialist advice, mentoring and training, the Society's Geography Outdoors centre is an essential stop for anyone preparing for an expedition or research field trip overseas.

Regular courses and conferences include Land Rover driver training, wilderness medical training and the popular annual Explore weekend in November.

Discovering Places evenings, aimed especially at first-time travellers to an area, are opportunities to get first-hand guidance from the experts. Libya is this month's featured destination. Author, documentary maker and photographer Chris Bradley and Amelia Stewart, founder of Simoon Travel, a specialist Libyan tour operator, will answer questions and share tips for making the most of a trip to this North African nation.

Anyone wondering how they might use the Society's collections to enhance their own travel planning can attend a Be Inspired talk in the Foyle Reading Room. Again, Libya is the focus for June, with Nicola Thomas from the University of Exeter investigating the culture of desert travel through the archives of the late explorer and author WJ Harding-King.

For those with a little more time, the Society's day-long Hidden... events offer high-quality talks, recommendations and practical advice on everything from trekking and train journeys to adventure and local culture. Including special

offers on books, maps and kit, Hidden... days go beyond the guidebook to offer a rare insight into a country or region.

Closer to home, the Society's forthcoming national street exhibition Britain from the Air, in partnership with WeCommunic8, combines breathtaking aerial photography of the British Isles with supporting material from the collections. Designed to encourage people of all ages to discover their amazing country for themselves, it's a glorious celebration of the UK's built and natural environments in the run-up to the 2012 Olympic Games.

Part of the Society's continuing work to engage with wider audiences, Britain from the Air is one of two major projects under way this year. The second is Hidden Journeys, a new interactive online application that allows visitors to explore the peoples, places and environments that exist beneath three popular international flight paths. People are invited to contribute their photographs to the project at www.rgs.org/hiddenjourneys.

Whether you're venturing into the planet's most remote and inhospitable environments, taking on little-known territories, or getting out and about locally, the Society offers something to satisfy the curiosity of the most independent traveller.

- For information on any of these travel events and more, visit www.rgs.org/travel
- Society members and Fellows making individual travel bookings of £250 or more with Trailfinders, which is donating one per cent of the value of bookings to the President's Appeal, should email anniversary@rgs.org with their name, the value of their booking and their booking reference

SELECTION OF EVENTS



JUNE 2010

7 JUNE

AGM AND CELEBRATIONS

(Members' event, London)
This year, the Society's Annual General Meeting and associated celebrations take a new format. Members are invited to attend an open afternoon (1.30pm–4.30pm; tickets free, please book) to learn more about the Society. This will be followed by the AGM (4.30pm; no ticket required), medals and awards celebration (6.15–7.30pm; tickets free, please book), and annual reception (7.30pm–9.15pm; tickets £16).

Further details are available from www.rgs.org/whatson

14 JUNE, 2.30PM

BE INSPIRED... KNOWING THE LIBYAN DESERT THROUGH THE ARCHIVES OF WJ HARDING-KING

(Afternoon talk, London)
Dr Nicola Thomas of the University of Exeter will talk about desert exploration to inspire people to use items from the Society's collections to inform their own travel planning and projects.

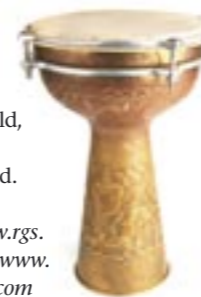
Tickets: free to RGS-IBG members and educational users; non-members, £5 payable in advance. Pre-booking required: contact 020 7591 3044 or showcase@rgs.org

20 JUNE

EXHIBITION ROAD MUSIC DAY

(Event, London)
Join the Society and its neighbours for a series of free performances and activities in this annual celebration of music from around the world, on and around Exhibition Road.

For further details, see www.rgs.org/whatson or www.exhibitionroad.com



9 JUNE, 7PM

DISCOVERING PLACES: LIBYA

(Travel evening, London)
Author, photographer and documentary maker Chris Bradley joins Amelia Stewart, founder of specialist Libyan tour operator Simoon Travel, to speak at this informative evening aimed especially at travellers wishing to visit this part of North Africa for the first time.

Tickets: RGS-IBG members £10; non-members £15. Price includes wine and an information pack. To book, please contact the Events Office on events@rgs.org or 020 7591 3100, or book online at www.rgs.org/travel

18–20 JUNE

THREE FIELD DAYS IN WEST CORNWALL

(Residential event, Helston)
A series of talks and guided tours of Porthcurno Telegraph Museum, Lizard Lighthouse, Levant (National Trust) and Geevor Mines. Attend one, two or three events with self-catering accommodation. First come, first served at Chyvarloe, a National Trust converted barn near Helston. Cost will depend on number of days' attendance.

For further details, contact the Events Office on events@rgs.org or 020 7591 3100

23 JUNE, 7.45PM

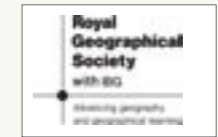
JOURNEY TO THE SINKING LANDS

(Lecture, Taunton)
Last year's Journey of a Lifetime Award recipient, Dan Box, recounts his time with the environmental refugees of the Carteret Islands, Papua New Guinea. Venue: The Brevhouse Theatre, Coal Orchard, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 1JL.

For details, contact the Box Office on 01823 283 244



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The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) is a leading world centre for geographers and geographical learning. One of our aims is to stimulate the awareness and enjoyment of the subject to a diverse range of people.

Geography is about the understanding of the people, places and environments of our world, the processes by which they are changing, and the interconnections between them – both locally and globally.

The Society carries out a wide range of activities to support these aims. We support research groups; promote geography within the national curriculum; produce scholarly publications; provide training in scientific field techniques and expeditions; offer information through our large map collection, library and picture library, and engage the wider public through our popular national lecture series.

TO FIND OUT ABOUT JOINING THE SOCIETY, PLEASE CONTACT US ON +44 (0)20 7591 3080 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.rgs.org/joinus

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The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) promotes enjoyment and understanding of our world. Membership is open to all. You may use geography in your profession, have a thirst for geographical knowledge or a passion for travel. *Geographical* is the Society's magazine and is available as part of membership. To find out more, call the Membership Office on 020 7591 3080

