

# Journey of a Lifetime Award

## ● £5,000 and a BBC Radio 4 documentary for an inspiring and original journey

For those with a genuine curiosity about the world around them, the Journey of a Lifetime is a grant of £5,000 for an original and inspiring journey anywhere in the world. The recipient of the award will receive training in radio broadcasting from the BBC and will record their experiences for a BBC Radio 4 documentary. The aim of the award is to inspire an interest in the people and places of the world and to discover new radio broadcasting talent.

The application deadline is **2 November**.

### About the Award

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), in partnership with BBC Radio 4, offers you the chance to make a journey of a lifetime and to tell the world about it in a memorable piece of radio documentary-making.

Each year the RGS-IBG and the BBC support the best idea for an original, exciting, and exceptional journey. It is important that the project takes you somewhere fresh, different and original. Therefore it is a good idea to bear in mind where the previous winners have been (Egypt in 2006, Kenya in 2007, Mexico in 2008, Carteret Islands in 2009, Dubai and India in 2010, Mali in 2011, Argentina in 2012, Sierra Leone and Liberia in 2013, Mongolia in 2014, Pitcairn Island in 2015, and Romania and India in 2016). For further details please see our website [www.rgs.org/journeyofalifetime](http://www.rgs.org/journeyofalifetime)

Your journey needs really to matter to you: we need to feel your passion and enthusiasm and Radio 4 listeners need to be fascinated. The BBC already broadcasts a lot of documentaries about faraway places. When developing your idea, make sure it is the sort of thing journalists rarely have the time to cover. Most reporters can only afford the time and money to make short visits to meet important people and do not get immersed in the local society.

The programme you will be making needs to tell your story – and that of the journey and the place you will be visiting – in a graphic and attractive way. Think of all the audio potential in the idea – not just indigenous music and sounds, but how you are going to find interesting sounds within the substance of the journey (by keeping an audio-diary, for example). Radio is very good on atmospherics and imaginative pictures, but you need to think about what your journey and your destination offer to create those pictures. In terms of where you choose to go – anywhere you can think of is potentially an interesting destination.

### Eligibility

- You will be travelling between February and July 2017.
- Applicants must be aged 18 or over.
- Those currently employed by the BBC, independent production companies commissioned by the BBC, and RGS-IBG staff and their close relatives are not eligible to apply for Society grants.
- Our preference is for applicants with no or limited broadcast experience.
- The BBC will retain editorial control over any programme it may make. It cannot guarantee that any programme it may make will be broadcast.
- Interviews will be held, in London. You must be able to attend the interview in person.
- Applications from small teams as well as solo travellers are accepted, but please make this clear in your application.
- The award is for independent travel. We will NOT consider any journey joining a commercial expedition or pre-paid tour, including organised charity fundraising tours.
- We do not envisage the award as an additional source of funding for an existing project.

The award consists of: (i) £5,000 grant for the journey; (ii) training in radio broadcasting from the BBC and (iii) the opportunity to record your experiences for a BBC Radio 4 documentary. The award is as stated. There is no cash alternative and it is not transferable.

The entries will be selected based on (i) originality (ii) level of research (as becomes apparent from the submission) about the destination and the logistics regarding the journey; (iii) potential interest to the audience; and (iv) your level of enthusiasm (as becomes apparent from the submission and – where applicable – the interview and the training day).

Please note that all potential journeys are subject to the travel advisories issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and that the Society cannot sanction any journey that involves travel to or through areas where the FCO 'advise against all travel' (red zones). Information on this may be obtained at <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

The BBC, RGS-IBG decision as to the recipient is final. No correspondence relating to the final selection will be entered into. The BBC Code of Conduct for competitions applies to this event and can be found at: [www.bbc.co.uk/competitioncode](http://www.bbc.co.uk/competitioncode).

BBC/ RGS-IBG retain the right to cancel or to adapt the competition at any time if that is deemed an editorial necessity or if changed circumstances beyond their control call for such action. BBC/ RGS-IBG reserve the right to disqualify any contestants who breach these rules or commit fraud. BBC/ RGS-IBG also reserve the right to cancel the competition at any stage, if deemed necessary in their opinion, or if circumstances arise outside their control. The personal information you provide will be processed by RGS-IBG only for the purposes of administering the award. The information will be passed to the BBC for judging purposes and destroyed after shortlisting. Your personal information will not be passed to any other third party or published without your permission.

#### Application process

Applications must be submitted by email. Deadlines will be strictly enforced.

#### Initial Proposal

Applying to the Journey of a Lifetime Award is easy. We are only looking for the 'pitch' of your idea at this stage - the core idea that makes this your Journey of a Lifetime. Your pitch should be no longer than 550 words and should provide:

##### 1. Name and contact details

**2. A Two line summary-** A very brief description of your planned journey. Think of this as what would appear as your headline in the Radio Times.

**3. A 300- 550 word** description of the journey in more detail. You do not have to include everything listed here, but it may help you to consider;

- Why is this a journey of a lifetime?
- Why will this make a good radio broadcast?
- Why is this of interest to the audience?
- How will you achieve the journey?
- What will you get out of it?
- What will the audience get out of it?
- Why you and not somebody else?

Please remember to keep this brief. At this stage we are not looking for detailed route plans and budgets. Please also let us know how you heard about the award.

From the initial proposals, up to ten projects will be shortlisted by a panel of judges. Those selected will be asked to prepare a detailed proposal.

#### Detailed Proposal

Applications should be submitted by email and must contain the following information:

- Title and short abstract (max 100 words)
- Full contact details
- A description of your journey. This might include your motivation for the journey, a description of the aspects of the journey that would make interesting

radio, your aspirations following the journey and your previous travel experience (1,000 words)

- A breakdown of the budget for the different aspects of the journey
  - An outline timetable for the journey.
  - A risk assessment and safety management plan (max 300 words)
  - Please include the latitude and longitude of your destination (These are used by the RGS-IBG to geocode information about our grants programme)
  - Please indicate how you heard about the Award
- From the detailed proposals, up to 5 projects will be shortlisted by a panel of judges. Those selected will be asked to come to interview at the Society.

#### Interviews

- Interviews will be held at the RGS-IBG on **13 January**
- Two of the applicants will be selected at interview to attend a training day at the BBC [transport and any accommodation will be at the entrants' expense]. A final decision regarding the recipient will be made following the training day. The training day will take place during the week beginning **23 January**.

#### Conditions

- The RGS-IBG requires that the projects it funds be conducted in an ethical and responsible manner. Full details of the Society's code of practice for the Grants Programme can be found at [www.rgs.org/grants-ethics](http://www.rgs.org/grants-ethics).
- A full final report must be submitted electronically and in hard copy by **1 September** of the year following the award. The final report must include a 250 word abstract, a description of the journey and its key findings (1000 words minimum), three to five digital images that capture the spirit of the journey, a final budget, and details of presentations, publications and any other outputs.
- The award recipient may be asked to present a lecture on the journey at the RGS-IBG at a mutually convenient date
- The Society's support should be acknowledged in all publications and outputs. Copies of any such publications and outputs should be submitted to the Society
- Award details may be published in the Society's publications and on the website
- Copyright in all text, images, film, audio and other outputs resulting from the award is to be held jointly by the recipient and the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)
- The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) will offer support to the recipient in managing IPR associated with the award

#### Contact/ Applications

Grants Officer - Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)  
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