

Journey of a Lifetime Award

Royal
Geographical
Society
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

● £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 will be in **November**. A date will be announced later this summer.

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, Romania and India in 2016, and Tajikistan in 2017). For further details please see our website 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 2018.
- 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:



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