



Going Places with Geography



Travel, Tourism and Leisure

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**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

I've always had a fascination with the world around me, from reading as a child and discovering far-off wonders and different cultures and ways of life. I studied geography throughout school and then went on to study a BSc in Geography at Queens University in Belfast. I studied both physical and human geography and the latter is where my interest really lay. A big part of the attraction of a geography degree was the fieldtrips and being already interested in travelling abroad, this appealed to me greatly. I also travelled when I was in school and university to Kenya, America, India and Canada.

What does your role entail?

Trailfinders is a multi-award winning independent travel company that specialises in tailor-made holidays. To date we have arranged travel for more than 12.5 million people. My role involves talking with people about their travel plans and helping them turn their ideas into reality; it feels like getting paid to do my hobby! I started in our worldwide department in our Belfast travel centre and then moved to join our specialist Bespoke Touring Department. As an Assistant Supervisor the majority of my day is spent with clients assisting them with their travel plans but I also run training and development with my colleagues as well as doing admin to ensure everything runs smoothly. Of course there's the toughest part of the job where I have to go to our destinations and inspect our hotels!

How does geography help you in your everyday work?

A good geographical knowledge is useful in my job to ensure trips are planned in a logistically sensible way. My extensive experience of overseas geography and my resulting knowledge, enthusiasm and passion for travel and different parts of the world is always appreciated by clients. The love for travel and geography tend to go hand in hand and the organisational and analytical skills you learn during a geography degree will certainly be put to good use in a career in travel.

Other geographers working in this sector include

Conservation Projects Coordinator, Zoological Society of London, Indonesia
Educational Travel Consultant
Expedition Manager, Wilderness Expertise
Head of Centre, Field Studies Council
Incident Response Manager, World Challenge
Managing Director, MyDestination Galicia
Travel Writer and Broadcaster

Further support

Details of undergraduate courses: For more details of the range of geography courses offered by universities and how you can enhance your application to higher education see www.rgs.org/studygeography.

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