

Journey of a Lifetime Award

Royal
Geographical
Society
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

● More information and how to apply

About the award

Each year the RGS-IBG and the BBC support the best idea for an original and exciting journey. We are looking for new storytellers with inspiring ideas. Your journey needs to really matter to you – we need to feel your passion and enthusiasm and Radio 4 listeners need to be fascinated.

Your journey might take you anywhere in the world – whether far away or closer to home. However, we are looking for exciting new destinations not already visited by past recipients of the award:

www.rgs.org/journeyofalifetime

You can listen to previous episodes of Journey of a Lifetime [here](#).

Your journey must be **at least three weeks in duration** and must take place between **March and 30 June**.

The idea for **your journey** should not be a piece of reportage; BBC Radio 4 already have several journalistic programmes such as From Our Own Correspondent and Crossing Continents. What makes Journey of a Lifetime unique is that it is a *personal account of your travels* – as well as telling the story of the place you will be visiting.

We are looking for people who are excited about finding new ways to tell original stories in sound, so it is important to think of all the audio potential in your journey and your destination.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be aged 18 or over.
- Nationals of any country may apply, but must be able to commit to interviews, training and meetings which take place in London.
- 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
- Our preference is for applicants with no or limited broadcast experience.
- Applications from small teams as well as solo travellers are accepted, but please make this clear in your application.
- The award cannot be used as an additional source of funding for an existing project.
- The award is for independent travel. We will NOT consider any journey joining a

commercial expedition or pre-paid tour, including charity fundraising activities.

- The Society cannot support any journey that involves travel to or through areas where the FCO 'advise against all travel' (red zones): www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

How to apply

Initial proposal

Simply make a 60 second audio recording telling us – in your own voice – about the journey you wish to make. Tell us what your journey is, why you want to make it, and why the audience will find it interesting. You can record this any way you like (smartphone is fine).

Email your audio pitch to jolt@rgs.org by **12 November** along with the following information:

1. Your name
2. Address
3. Contact email
4. Contact phone number
5. The title of your Journey of a Lifetime
6. A two-line summary of your journey
7. The country/countries of travel
8. Proposed dates of your journey
9. Details of any experience at a professional level in broadcast presentation and/or production
10. Where you heard about the award

Please note that your audio pitch can be submitted in any format but must be no longer in duration than one minute. The audio file must not exceed 10MB in size.

We are only looking for the 'pitch' of your idea at this stage – the core idea that makes this your Journey of a Lifetime.

Initial proposals will be reviewed by a panel of judges and **shortlisted candidates will be notified by 18 December**.

Unfortunately, due to the large number of applications received each year, we are unable to notify all unsuccessful applicants and unable to provide feedback at the first stage of shortlisting.

Detailed proposal

A shortlist of candidates will be asked to prepare a detailed proposal. This should include:



1. Title and short description of journey (max 100 words)
2. Full contact details
3. A full description of your journey (1000 words).
This might include your motivation for the journey/your particular 'quest', a description of the aspects of the journey that would make interesting radio, your aspirations following the journey, and your previous travel experience.

Make sure there is a **journey** explicit in the proposal and that this is **your journey**. What is the search or quest? What are you trying to unravel or reveal? Is there a structure to it?

Geographical locations and elements should be central to the proposal, but we are interested in **your personal lens** on these locations. Remember this is Journey of a Lifetime not another of the BBC Radio 4 current affairs programmes. This is **your story** and needs to be led by you and you need to be a part of it.

If there are two members of the team, how will that work? If you are going back to find someone, what role will they play in your story?

If your story has a historical basis (e.g. revisiting somewhere important to the family past) how do you make the story feel current?

4. A breakdown of the budget for the different aspects of the journey
5. An outline timetable for the journey
6. A risk assessment (max 300 words) and also, if relevant, how you will gain **access**. What are the risks to you/your story and how will you mitigate and respond to these? How will you be received within the local political context?

From the detailed proposals, up to six candidates will be invited to interview at the RGS-IBG in London.

Interviews

- Interviews will be held at the RGS-IBG in **January**.
- Two finalists will be selected at interview to attend a training day at the BBC [transport and any accommodation will be at the entrants' expense]. The training day will take place in **January or February**.

- A final decision regarding the recipient will be made following the training day.

Please contact grants@rgs.org if you have any questions about the application process.

Conditions

- The award is as stated. There is no cash alternative and it is not transferable.
- The BBC holds copyright of all audio outputs resulting from the award.
- The BBC will retain editorial control over any programme it may make. It cannot guarantee that any programme it may make will be broadcast.
- 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 can be found [here](#).
- 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.

Data protection

In accordance with the latest [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#), applicant information will be treated in the strictest confidence and will only be used in connection with an application. Applicant data will be shared with selected reviewers, but will not be shared with any other third parties. Information about successful applications, including names of participants and affiliated organisations, is published on our website, kept as part of the Society's archive, and is used to promote the Society's grants programme. Information about unsuccessful projects is entered into the Society's archive.