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In support of Educational Travel with Ecology Project International:

Travel has always been an important part of my life and sharing the experience of going to a foreign land to learn about its culture, geography, geology, and especially its flora and fauna has been a highlight for me. I had the good fortune of being in a supportive school district in Southern Oregon, which allowed me to travel abroad with high school students. Initially I traveled with established student tour groups but, after a few disappointments, I decided to go it alone—lots and lots of work to plan and execute, but I was happier with the trips.

Now in the Portland area, I am once again traveling with students. This time, it is a hassle-free experience and the support I get from Ecology Project International is amazing. When I met the people who run EPI and heard about their programs, I really felt a need to give them a try. Their programs sounded exciting, both educational and challenging, and having taken a break from international travel for a decade, I was ready to take a chance. Plus, EPI was offering experiences not typically available to the public. From the beginning planning stages through the trip's homecoming and debriefing, each experience has been wonderful. EPI's online information is thorough and easily understood. They provide complete support during all stages. I have to admit I feel a bit guilty with how little I need to do before and even during each trip but, as busy as I get during the year, it is a relief to have all the tough work done for me.

The folks at EPI are professionals. The Missoula staff is organized and ready to respond quickly to any inquiry made by, the travelers, their parents and me. Also, I was duly impressed with the educators and support people on site during our travels. They were full of energy and knowledge, patience and understanding, and took total control of all situations asking for very little assistance from me. Students had full respect for all of the people who were responsible for each facet of the trip, because it was clear that everyone had given 100% to make sure that our experience was phenomenal.

My students and I have participated in their courses in Costa Rica and the Galapagos Islands. The trips were truly amazing! The impact on students' thoughts and perceptions is life changing. For most travelers, it has been the highlight of their time in high school. I look forward to a repeat adventure in both places. Hope you will be able to experience a trip with Ecology Project International.



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