





Travel Experiences Enhanced through Service Learning

**Presented by
Denis Simond, CEO**



To be the premier not-for-profit educational travel provider through which mature adults can gain access to educational, high quality travel programs throughout Australia, New Zealand and the world.

To enhance travel experiences through learning for fun.

Mission Statement



Established in 1983, Odyssey Travel is a not-for-profit organisation specialising in educational travel programs.

Odyssey is made up of 25 member universities and colleges located throughout Australia, New Zealand & Hong Kong

Background



What is Service Learning?

Service learning is a method of teaching and learning that combines community service with instruction to enrich the learning experience and add worthwhile service within a community.



Experiential Education

As a teaching methodology, it falls under the category of experiential education, or learning by doing.





Travel & Service Learning

In travel, service learning is combined with learning objectives by combining tasks with structured activities that are linked to community service projects or specific organizational needs.

Service Learning

Guidelines

- A community need must be addressed.
- The development of the Service Learning project must involve the community in which the service and experiential learning will occur. The recipients must want/need what is proposed and agree to accept/use the resultant
- Preferably the service should be in communities where volunteer resources are scarce or non-existent.
- Use the skills of volunteers. (Australian and New Zealand university students could teach elementary English).

Service Learning Guidelines

- There should be demonstrated learning outcomes at the conclusion of the program.
- Each program must involve learning, doing and interaction with a community or organization.
- The program must be of measurable value to the organization or community.



Some Considerations

- Cost and expenses for participants.
- Transportation to site and return.
- Security.
- Cultural differences/ briefing needs.
- Food and special dietary needs.
- Accommodation & bathroom facilities.
- What are the desired educational outcomes.....learning as a consequence of service provision?
- Number of participants needed and able to be accommodated.

Some Considerations

- Are Sponsors needed/available?
- Do the “Service Learners” possess the relevant skills, will and equipment/materials to perform the required tasks?
- Who will lead the learners/volunteers?
- What training is required for the leaders/service learners?
- How long should the program run? What is its life cycle?
Can it be sustained?
- How is the project evaluated?
- Who and what is evaluated? By whom?
- Have Quality Adult Educational/Learning Standards been applied to Service Learning Programs?

Odyssey & Service Learning

For each research program, participants are offered the opportunity to become involved as research/service assistants under the supervision of a research/ study or community leader.



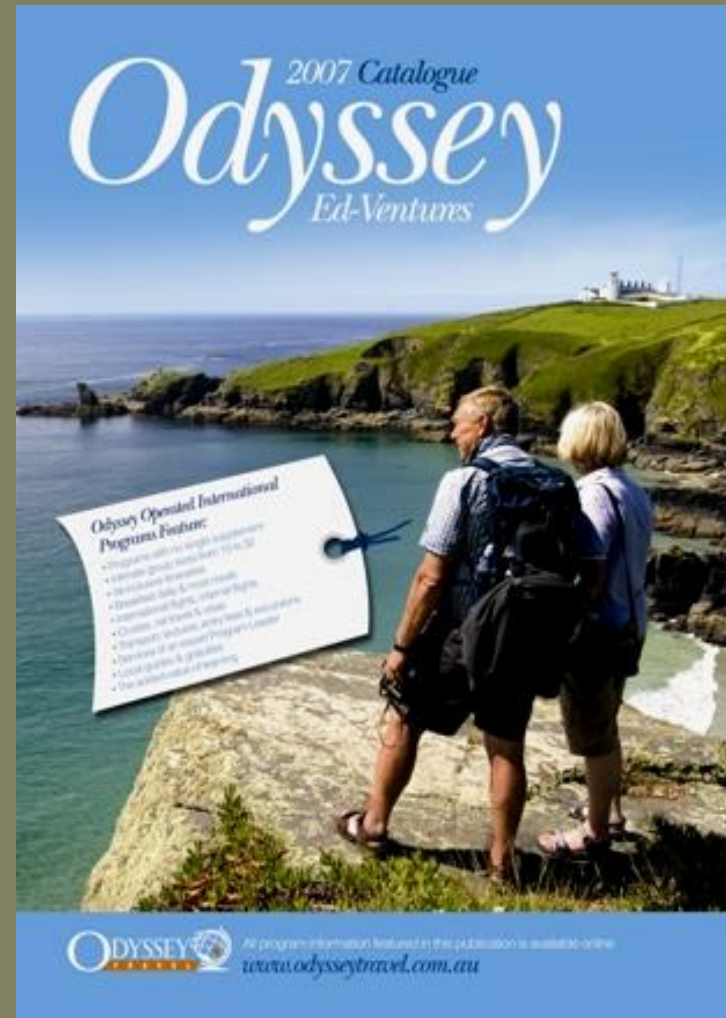
Structure

Assistance to the Research/

Study/Community Leader could be in the form of collecting data through identifying and counting, collecting specimens, entering data, sorting, measuring, classifying, cataloguing, surveying, cleaning or any other task that the leader deems appropriate and in which the learners are willing to participate.



Examples of Odyssey's Service Learning Programs



Bare Sand Island Turtle Research

This project, in conjunction with Charles Darwin University, involves patrolling the beach during the night to monitor nesting female flatback turtles. Data will be recorded including tag numbers, length and nesting success.

During the day volunteers will assist in catching juvenile turtles using nets and by hand, tagging and measuring turtles, helping with specific studies on blood chemistry, diet analysis, and movements (using tracking equipment).





Tagging Manta Rays, Lady Elliot Island

This research study will combine photo-identification project of individual animals as part of a long-term population study together with an underwater tracking program. Sonic tags will be fitted to three manta rays and their location constantly monitored over a period of 12 months .

Odyssey Research Assistants will be given the opportunity to participate in the research program through behavioural observations of mantas.



Archaeology in Central Asia

In collaboration with the Karakalpak Academy of Sciences, the University of Sydney has established a long-term archaeological program in Chorasmia to study the earliest city states.

Volunteers to work alongside professional archaeologists and learn at first hand about the history of this remote and fascinating region.

Volunteers will assist in the excavation of the two sites. They will carry out tasks such as drawing, planning, cleaning

A close-up photograph of a green tree frog sitting on a bed of moss. The frog is facing right, with its head slightly turned towards the viewer. Its skin is a vibrant green with some darker, mottled patterns on its back and sides. The moss is a bright, yellowish-green color, and there are some small, brown, dried leaves scattered around. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a forest floor or a stream bed.

Wonders of Wildlife

This research project aims to record as many species of wildlife as possible in an area called Haunted Stream in Victoria. As well as collecting general wildlife records on each visit, the project collects data on some specific target species.

An additional naturalist will join the group to ensure volunteers have access to comprehensive knowledge in local flora and fauna

Volunteers have the opportunity to learn about native wildlife, how they survive in the harsh alpine environment and how they recover from bushfires.

Fauna surveys conducted at Forlorn Hope Plain have increased the total number of species recorded from 5 (in 1995) to 92 species. Now regular visits concentrate on ongoing monitoring and observing the recovery process after the 2003 Alpine Bushfire. In addition to the target species, we continue

to record the full range of

wildlife that occur at Forlorn Hope Plain.

Wildlife





Any Questions?

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