

2020 JUNE NEWSLETTER

AN ECOFIELDTRIPS UPDATE



Adaptation is a common theme when discussing nature in our field trips and a highly pertinent quality to survive the challenges that 2020 has thrown at us. Ecofieldtrips is all about making the natural environment our classroom so when travel is no longer an option, isolation and stay-at-home are the new norms, and planning with no certainty is the only certainty what happens?

With this backdrop, Ecofieldtrips is focused on supporting our clients with whatever means possible to achieve their original field trip objectives through both ecological and service orientated online lessons, virtual field trips, and getting closer to our customers to help them in whatever way we can. We have new offices in Hong Kong and Bali to enhance trip development and better support our customers and enhanced program alignment with UNSDG teaching both online and in the field. We are delivering service projects on behalf of schools so that they could complete their original trips and doing online teaching in our specialty areas of IB and A level subjects. A prime example of this approach is how we have partnered with BIS HCMC to run their IB Geography, ESS, and Biology Internal Assessment field trip.

We plan to finish 2020 with more programs, options, and closer working partnerships with both customers and the communities. The articles below will cover some of these developments with more detailed articles on our News/Blog page (by clicking *read more*) at www.ecofieldtrips.com or contact us at info@ecofieldtrips.com.

GET IN TOUCH

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Ecofieldtrips partners with Loola Adventure Resort, Bintan, Indonesia

Ecofieldtrips has partnered with *Loola Adventure Resort* to provide **trip coordination and trip management** services as an optional overlay to Loola-based school trips. This will provide a stronger educational and organisational umbrella to the Loola-based Environmental, Sustainable Development Goals, and Syllabus focused programs.

Bali-based Community and Cultural Experience

Ecofieldtrips has teamed up with *The Astungkara Way* to deliver **service based community experiences** covering rice ecology, local traditions, sustainable farming, and the Subak system has part of our Bali fieldtrips options.

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OFFICE OPENINGS

Opening of Hong Kong Office and Upgrading of Indonesia Office

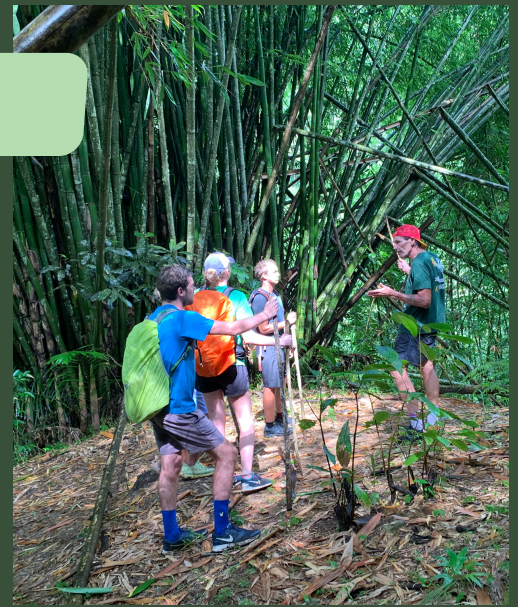
2020 saw the formal opening of our new Hong Kong office. With our Hong Kong customer base growing, Ecofieldtrips has opened an office in Hong Kong to provide a stronger local support, a staff base and local trip development. This will enable us to deliver our popular and specialised IB and A-level trips closer to home for these customers. In addition, the increasing number and variety of trips to Flores, Komodo, Bali and Sulawesi has warranted an upgrading of our Indonesian office to better support our operational base in Bali.



PROGRAM DEVELOPMENTS

New Trekking and Camping Experience for D of E and NYAA trips in Auman Village, Bali

Ecofieldtrips is excited to be offering our student groups a new venue for our Bali trips! BaliTrek, a small boutique hotel, is ideal for group outdoor camping and trekking through forests. Situated in North Ubud, this beautiful location overlooks the spectacular Mt. Agung and is a stone's throw away from a bamboo forest, a freshwater river and Mt. Catur! There are endless opportunities for a variety of both survey and adventure trips.



Hong Kong-based Experiential Trips

With the opening of our Hong Kong Office, our Ecofieldtrips team have been also working hard to develop Hong Kong-based trips. We would like to take this opportunity to share two experiential trips with all of you:

Lantau Island Yoga and Meditation: *A variety of nature inspired trips specifically designed to incorporate wellness through yoga, meditation, outdoor camping, food nutrition with camping cooking classes, and teambuilding.*

Hong Kong Marine Biology: *A number of trips addressing the changes in marine ecosystems, the past, present and future of Hong Kong. With the focus on marine ecology, we offer snorkelling, diving, field surveys, hands on reef reconstruction and conservation projects.*

In-country Fieldwork Trips in Hong Kong and Singapore

With international travel restrictions in place, Ecofieldtrips is pleased to share the development of our new Singapore and Hong Kong-based IA fieldwork trips for our customers who can't travel outbound. These trips will offer Biology and ESS subjects in ecosystems such as intertidal, rainforest, freshwater and mangroves, and also Human Geography for Geographers.

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UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG) Module

Here at Ecofieldtrips, we have been actively adopting the UNSDG in our programs and activities. We aim for all students that have been through our programs to have a better understanding of the SDG. Through our program, we would like the students to also understand that they have a responsibility and should do their part, no matter how small the action may seem.

We have also taken the time over COVID-19 pandemic to develop a 3-level sustainability module for students of different age groups, from 8-year old to university level. Each level increases in difficulty and complexity and ensures progressive learning for our students, who may come back on another program with us on another school year.

We understand the possibility of home-based learning to be a preferred way of education for an extended period of time, so we have also developed online tools allowing us to still be able to teach the SDG to students in a fun and interactive way, some examples include debates and climate change games.

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2020 PROGRAMS

Adapting to a New Method of Environmental Education with BIS HCMC

Travel, health and safety, and logistical restrictions have made IB fieldwork-based IA's a challenge in the current COVID-19 climate but Ecofieldtrips and the *British International School HCMC* (BIS HCMC) have worked together to overcome these challenges making a field trip to Con Dao Islands, Vietnam, possible for their Biology, ESS and Geography cohort.

Ecofieldtrips conducted online classroom sessions covering ecosystems, statistics and research methodology to prepare them for the trip. In addition to that, the students were given one-on-one consultation time with the Ecofieldtrips team mentoring them through the development of their research questions, research approach and background research. This freed teachers up to work with the students doing lab-based IA's so they could run the two streams during class time.

Internal travel in Vietnam is now possible and Ecofieldtrips has delivered their usual trip coordination and planning role. The trip will take place in August with Ecofieldtrips local logistics team and the BIS teachers on the ground. Ecofieldtrips specialist staff will accompany them "virtually" providing fieldwork guidance and evening workshops with post-trip support when they get back to class.

This outcome highlights Ecofieldtrips flexibility and adaptability while providing a quality educational program in the current environment.

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Canadian International School Singapore Service Project in Amed, Bali

At the beginning of the year, *Canadian International School Singapore* (CIS) collaborated with Ecofieldtrips for a service project in Amed Village, Bali. A local village farmer Pak Lana, fell from a coconut tree whilst harvesting coconuts 5 years ago and has been paralyzed ever since. He has been bed bound and confines to a single room since the accident.

The aim of the project was to build a wheelchair ramp from his home to the garden and a path from his house to the temple, located about 50m above the house.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CIS was unable to go ahead with the trip but the project was completed by our Ecofieldtrips team along with Pak Lana's family and friends. Despite our limited manpower, we managed to split the tasks and complete the job over a 3 day period.

It was a challenging project, very hot and tiring but with everyone working together we had a very successful completion. The outcome was fantastic, especially when Pak Lana and his family could go together to the temple to celebrate Galungan, one of the biggest ceremonies in the Balinese calendar, the week following the completion of the path. It was an amazing sight to watch his family beaming with joy, dressed in their beautiful ceremonial clothes as they were finally able to bring him to the family's temple after 5 years!

This experience has trained both the Ecofieldtrips team and local villagers on the important aspects of teamwork and service learning.



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