

Pre-Rendezvous for Earthwatch Teen Teams Information for Parents and Guardians

What is a 'Pre-Rendezvous'?

A Pre-Rendezvous is a service that is available to teenage volunteers joining Earthwatch Teen Teams. Earthwatch uses a Pre-Rendezvous when (due to flight schedules and time zone differences) it may not be possible to travel from your home country to the expedition Rendezvous in a single day or overnight journey in time for the designated Rendezvous times. It allows the teen volunteer to be met by the expedition facilitator after some or all of their travel.

What will happen on a Pre-Rendezvous?

Teen volunteers will be met on arrival at a specified airport at or after a specified time by the Teen Team facilitator. Volunteers will be taken to a designated hotel where they will be able to get a meal and stay overnight before travelling on to the official Rendezvous and then on to the project site together the next day. The Earthwatch Teen Team facilitator stays with the team through the expedition until the departure point.

How do I know if I need a Pre-Rendezvous?

Earthwatch works hard to arrange Rendezvous points and times that can be reached in a single day or overnight journey by all volunteers no matter where in the world they are coming from. However, in a few instances this simply is not possible. This is where we offer a Pre-Rendezvous service.

When you enquire about or register for a Teen Team where a Pre-Rendezvous service is available you will be informed by Earthwatch.

Which Teen Teams have a Pre-Rendezvous?

For 2012, eight Teen Teams have a Pre-Rendezvous service available.

They are:

- Shark Conservation in Belize*
- Climate Change at the Arctic's Edge*
- Mangroves and Reefs of the Bahamas*
- Costa Rican Coffee from Community to Cup*
- Puerto Rico's Rainforest*
- Before and After in Belize: Testing a Marine Reserve*
- Conserving Grevy's Zebra in the Samburu District

Every other Teen Team Rendezvous can be reached by the designated time in a single day through a single journey when travelling from North America or Europe. Once you are signed up for a Teen Team, you will be sent an up-to-date 2012 Expedition Briefing which will clearly document the Rendezvous and Departure times so that you can book travel accordingly.

** The Pre-Rendezvous service for these Teen Teams carries a charge in addition to accommodation, food etc. See below. This service must be booked and paid for a minimum of 45 days in advance of the expedition start date.*

More information on the next page

What are the costs of the Pre-Rendezvous service?

For every Pre-Rendezvous service the teen volunteer is responsible for covering the costs of their hotel accommodation, food, and any transportation (e.g. taxis) prior to the official Rendezvous. These costs are in addition to any flat-rate charge. More detail of these costs will be available closer to the expedition but are not likely to exceed US\$200. These will need to be covered in cash locally.

For some Teen Teams there is a flat-rate charge for using this service of \$200/£135 per teen volunteer. For others there is no charge for the Pre-Rendezvous service. The Teen Teams for which the Pre-Rendezvous carries an additional charge are asterisked above.

Why is there a charge for some Pre-Rendezvous services but not others?

Teen Teams where a minority of the teen volunteers are likely to need to use the service are the ones which carry an additional charge as special arrangements must be made to accommodate this extra service.

Can Earthwatch help me plan travel?

Earthwatch can advise on whether teen volunteers will need to make use of the Pre-Rendezvous or not. We can provide information on times at which teen volunteers will need to arrive either for a Rendezvous or Pre-Rendezvous. We can also put you in contact with our travel partners who can organise travel quotes that will get teen volunteers to the Rendezvous or Pre-Rendezvous on time. Earthwatch cannot book travel for you.

Note: Many accommodations do not allow volunteers under the age of 18 to book a room without a supervising adult. Should you encounter the need to book travel with any stopovers requiring this, please contact Earthwatch before you confirm your travel arrangements.

What do I need to book and what will Earthwatch book?

You will need to book travel for the teen volunteer to the designated Rendezvous or Pre-Rendezvous point and time. If the Pre-Rendezvous city requires onward travel to the official Rendezvous you will need to book this too. Earthwatch will tell you which flight to book so that the teen volunteer is on the same flight as the facilitator. You also need to book return travel for the teen volunteer. Earthwatch will book the Pre-Rendezvous accommodation which the teen volunteer will need to pay for locally in cash.

What about departure?

The Earthwatch Teen Team facilitator will take teen volunteers to the departure point specified in the Expedition Briefing. You should not book a flight departing prior to or after the times specified in the Expedition Briefing. Teen volunteers will not be accompanied from this point onwards until they reach their destination airport.