



International Expeditions: 30 Years of Adventure Studies around the world

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Capstone Expeditions

International expeditions and field schools have been an integral part of the curriculum in Adventure Studies since its founding at TRU in 1992.

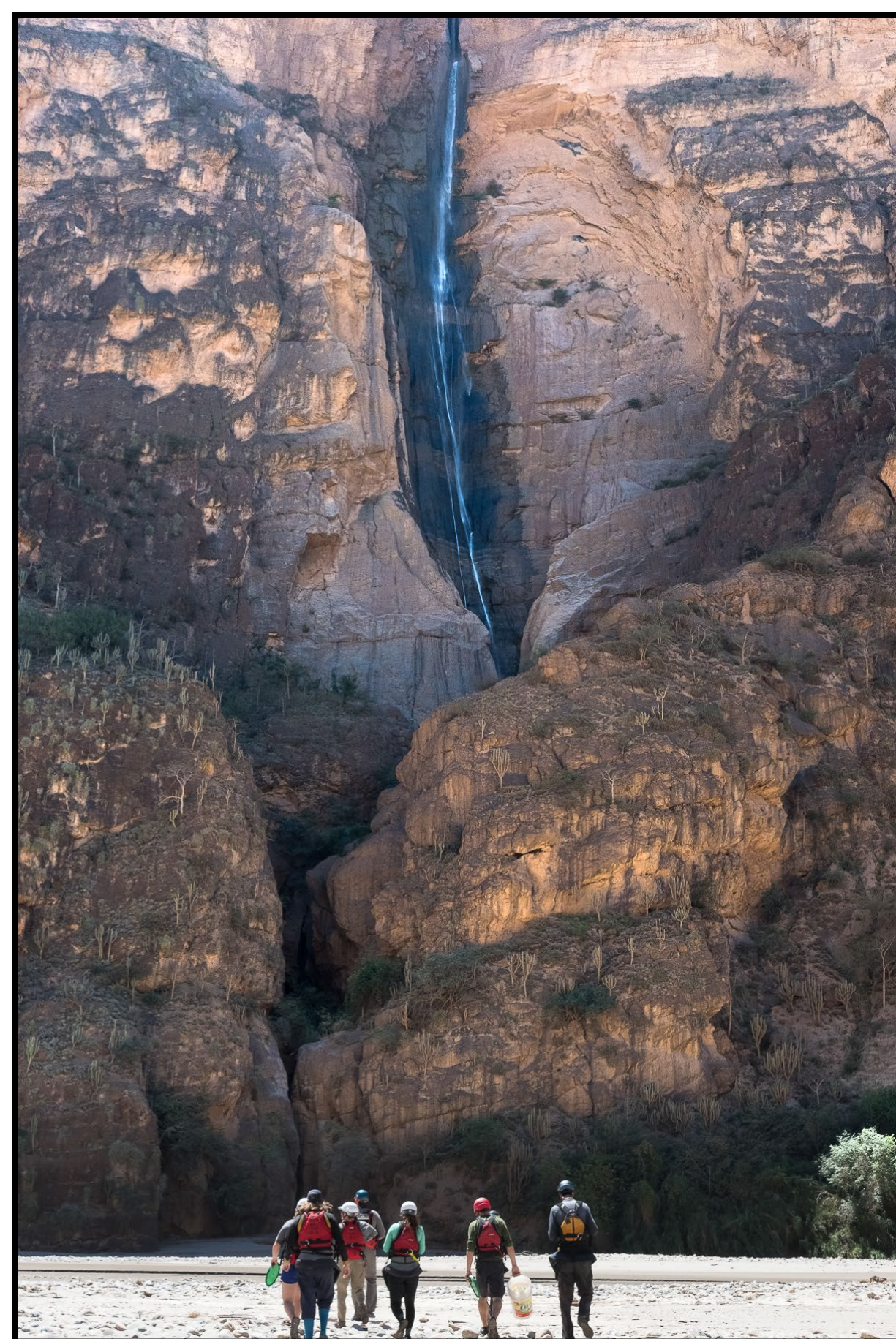
Expedition courses serve as a capstone for the two-year Adventure Guide Diploma and can be domestic or internationally located. Students collaborate with faculty to plan and execute these journeys which are focused on one of the following adventure sports: white water rafting and kayaking, ski touring, sea kayaking, surfing, or rock climbing.

International expeditions have taken place in the United States, Mexico, Belize, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Iceland, France, Nepal, and Tibet.



Authentic Contexts

Authentic learning contexts are essential for effective teaching and learning of adventure guide skills. These capstone expeditions offer students an experience of leading in authentic adventure tourism locations around the globe.



Whitewater Expedition, Marañón River, Peru (2019)

Adventure Studies

Technical Guide Training & Education

The Adventure Guide Certificate and Diploma at TRU are renowned for their technical rigor and hands-on approach. Our students spend approximately 60% of their course time in the field, honing skills in activities like mountaineering, whitewater kayaking, rock climbing, and backcountry skiing.

This extensive field experience ensures our graduates are not only knowledgeable but also highly competent in their chosen specialties.

Our program goes beyond teaching technical skills; we focus on developing critical thinking, risk management, and leadership abilities that are essential for success in the adventure industry.

Our graduates emerge as well-rounded professionals, ready to take on leadership roles and make significant contributions to the field.

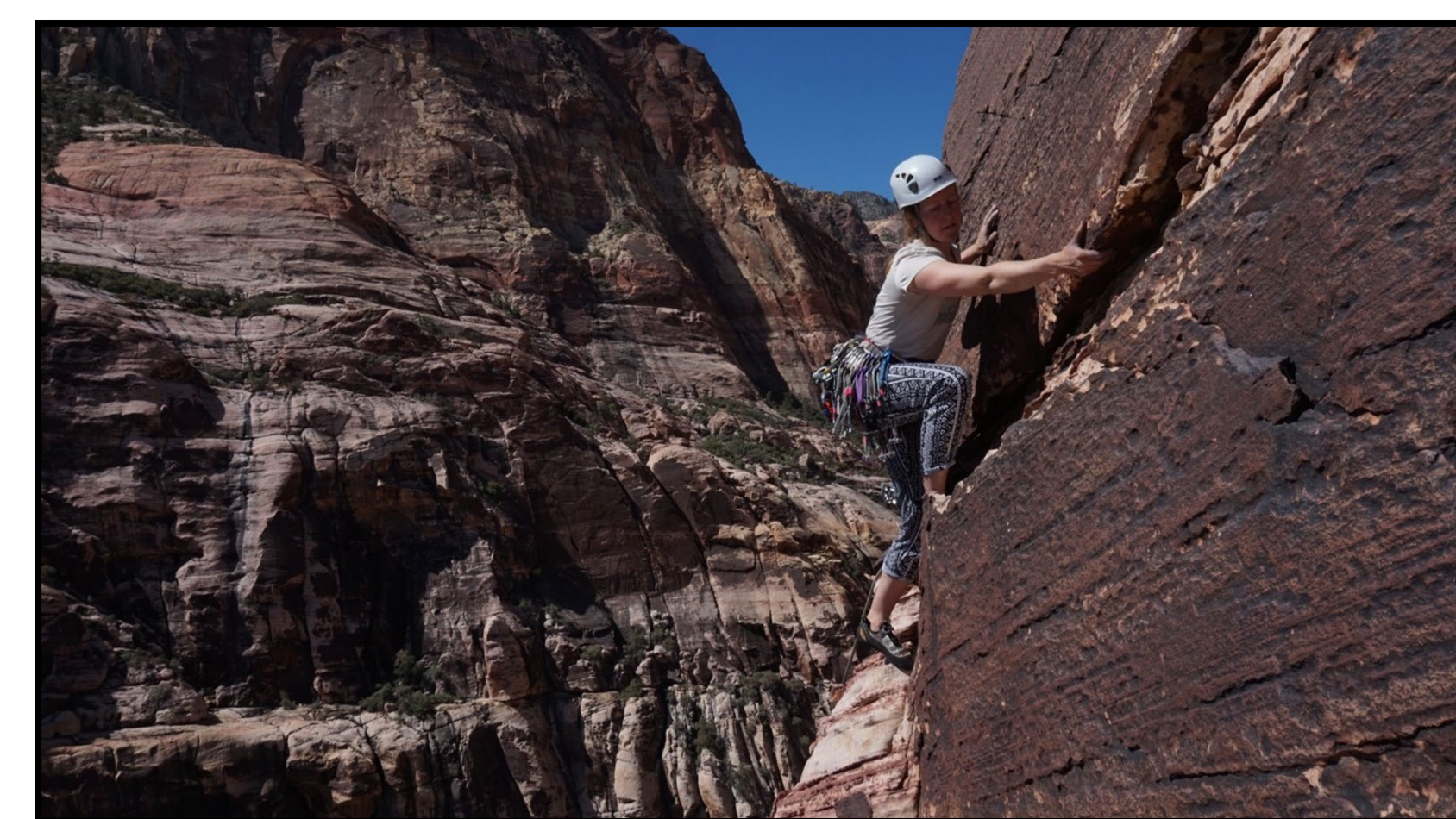
Global Skills Training

Through our international field schools and diverse course offerings, we encourage our students to develop a global perspective on adventure tourism.

This international outlook prepares our graduates to work effectively in various cultural contexts and to understand the global nature of the industry.



Surf Expedition, California, USA (2019)



Rock Climbing Expedition, Nevada, USA (2015)

Pedagogy

Teaching and learning through international expeditions is a process of engaging students in addressing real world challenges in authentic environments.

On Adventure Studies expeditions students take the lead on both the planning and field-experience. Instructors serve primarily as mentors during this capstone experience. Students apply their technical, leadership, and planning skills both during the pre-expedition planning at TRU and while on expedition.

Our faculty consists of accomplished professionals who are not only respected academics but also highly skilled technicians in their respective fields. This rare combination allows us to offer a curriculum that blends theory and practice, providing our students with a comprehensive understanding of the adventure tourism industry.



Whitewater Expedition, Southwest United States (1990s)

Expedition Planning

In preparation for their capstone expeditions in May, all second-year Adventure Studies students complete *ADVG 2830 International Expedition Planning & Leadership* in the fall semester.

This course is concerned with the planning and leadership of complex, remote, multi-week and/or international adventure expeditions.

Aspects of expedition planning include identification and research of previous expeditions; planning timelines and implementation; logistics and scheduling; permit acquisition; sponsorship; socio-political considerations; leadership; training; legal implications; risk management; food and equipment acquisitions; cargo shipping; and local ground handling. Topics include examining and minimizing the cultural impact of expeditions, cultural considerations of foreign guiding, stewardship and global citizenship.



Highlights

Student & Faculty Reflections

"When we visited local villages, we saw red paint on the walls of their homes reading, "Marañón Sin Represas" [Marañón without dams]. We were reminded of the very real and looming threat of hydro electric projects and felt deep gratitude for all those who fought to keep the Marañón free flowing. We won't forget our time on the river and hope that this place will always remain wild and free." Whitewater expedition, Peru 2024.

"This trip is teaching many things, about ourselves, each other, the world and different ways to operate within it. As we paddled to camp, I found myself reflecting on a thriving ecosystem, a welcome change. What can this teach us? How can we implement this level of environmental protection back home?" Sea kayaking expedition, Belize 2025.



"Expeditions, like the one we just completed, are powerful catalysts for learning and growth. They are also milestones in our lives – repositories of memories that bring colour and texture to our lives." Ski touring expedition, Iceland 2024.



Ski Expedition, Troll Peninsula, Iceland (2022)



Whitewater Expedition, Marañón River, Peru (2019)



Rock Climbing Expedition, France (2025)