
World Challenge
IMPACT REPORT
2026


ANNUAL
IMPACT
REPORT
2026



4,609 PARTICIPANTS
24 DESTINATIONS
5 CONTINENTS

I'm pleased to introduce our 2026 Impact Report, which highlights the outcomes of World Challenge expeditions that took place during 2025. This report reflects our impact across three core areas: the personal growth of the students who travelled with us, the strengthening of our partnerships with destination communities, and our continued efforts to reduce our carbon footprint.

2025 was also a year of considered evolution. We took the decision to close our Melbourne office, bringing our operations closer together and allowing us to direct our full focus and resources towards the schools and young people we serve across the UK and international markets, where we see the greatest opportunity to grow our impact.

While I'm proud of our progress reflected across all areas of this report, the impact on the young people who travel with us stands out most clearly. A World Challenge journey is far more than a trip. It is an experience that stays with participants for life. We hear this time and again in the stories they share when they return: how it helped them secure employment, access new courses, or step into opportunities they might never have considered otherwise.

That lasting impact on young people is what makes a World Challenge experience so special.

I hope the insights in this report demonstrate the value of these experiences for students, schools, and the communities we work alongside around the world.

– STU MORRIS

DIRECTOR, WORLD CHALLENGE

STUDENT IMPACT



DELIVERING OUR EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

We continue to prioritise the personal development of the students who travel with us – this is promoted through harnessing opportunities to build skills and reflect on learning, both in the build up to the trip, and once on the ground.

We focus this learning around the adjacent educational outcomes, which feed into the key pillars of Personal Growth, Wellbeing and Global Citizenship.



THREE PILLARS

PERSONAL GROWTH

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

WELLBEING

- Students will gain a greater understanding of how to act for a more sustainable future, at both local and global levels.
- Students will be immersed in different cultures and experiences, growing to understand their role within our global community.
- Students will be challenged to think critically about topical issues that affect our past, present and future around the world.
- Students will be empowered to build on their self-care strategies, enhancing their physical and mental wellbeing.
- Students will experience and reflect on the power of being pushed outside of their comfort zone, allowing the development of initiative, confidence, and resilience.
- Students will build a deeper connection to their own identity & personal values, developing their independence and sense of self.

MEASURING SUCCESS

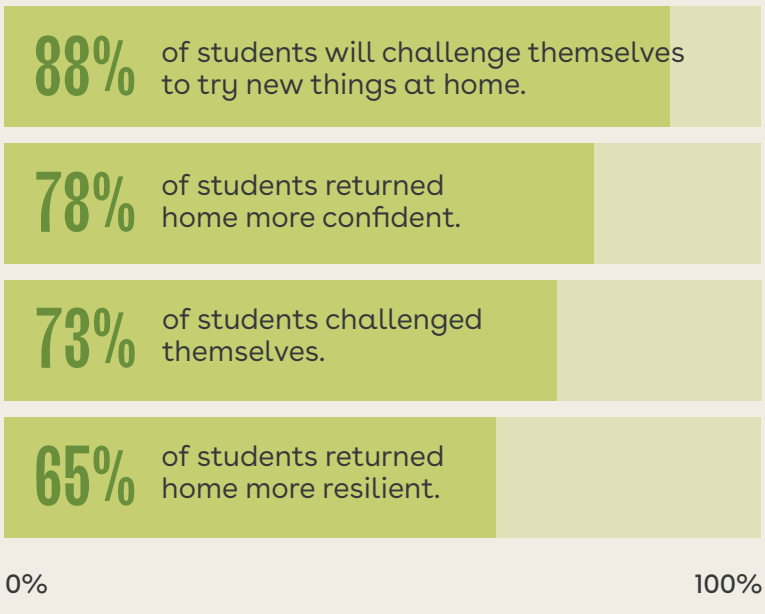
At the end of every trip, we ask students to reflect on their learning and development, demonstrating how their experiences align with our educational outcomes, and providing insights into the growth they have undertaken on their trips. This includes reflections on their on-trip growth and experience, as well as an opportunity to consider how their experiences will continue to influence and shape them as they move into the next stages of their lives – showcasing long-term impact resulting from on-trip learning. This year 801 students completed the survey.

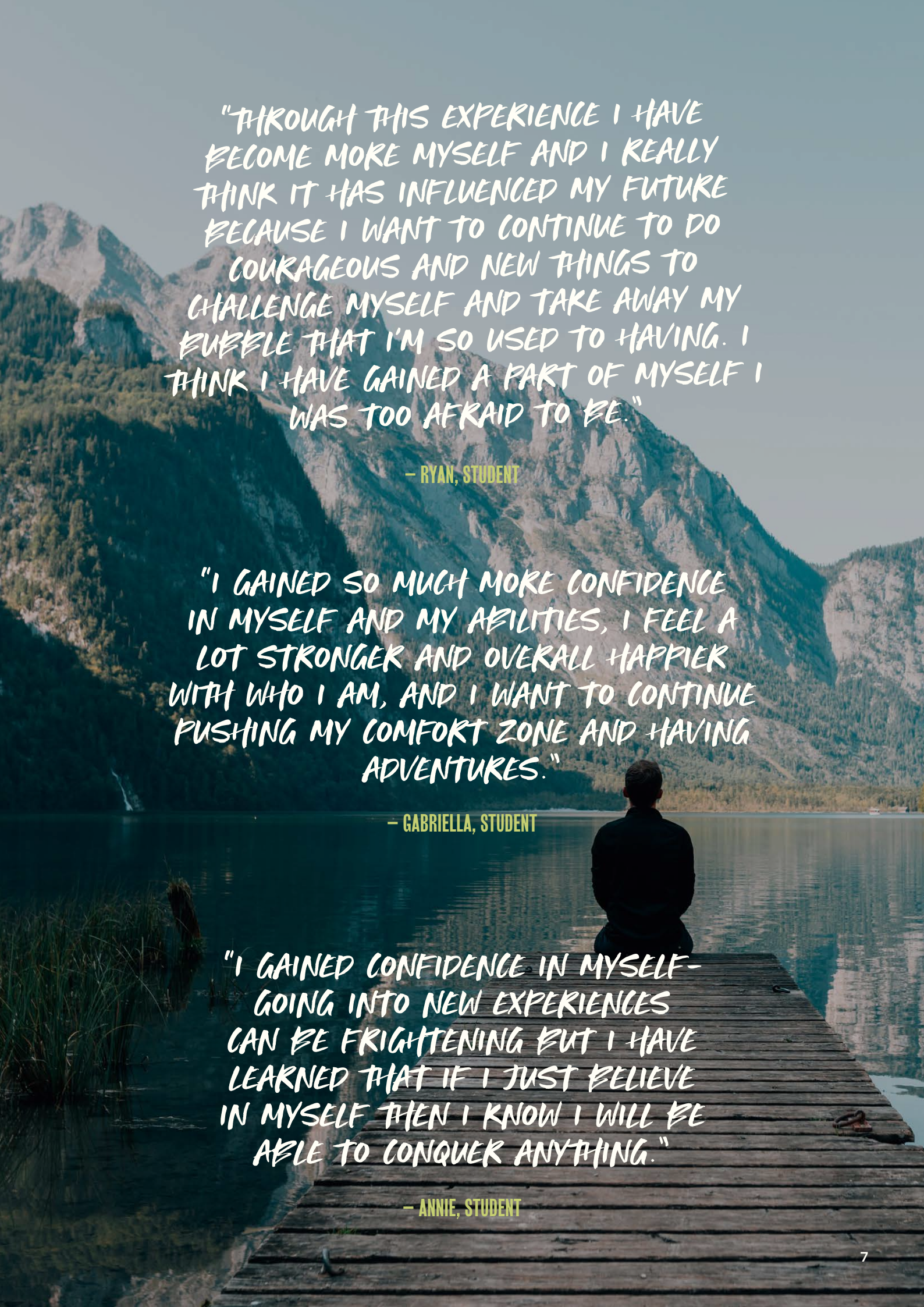
PERSONAL GROWTH

99% OF STUDENTS...

DEVELOPED LEADERSHIP SKILLS, STEPPED OUT OF THEIR COMFORT ZONE, & USED INITIATIVE TO HANDLE UNEXPECTED SITUATIONS ON THE TRIP

RETURNING HOME





"THROUGH THIS EXPERIENCE I HAVE BECOME MORE MYSELF AND I REALLY THINK IT HAS INFLUENCED MY FUTURE BECAUSE I WANT TO CONTINUE TO DO COURAGEOUS AND NEW THINGS TO CHALLENGE MYSELF AND TAKE AWAY MY BUBBLE THAT I'M SO USED TO HAVING. I THINK I HAVE GAINED A PART OF MYSELF I WAS TOO AFRAID TO BE."

– RYAN, STUDENT

"I GAINED SO MUCH MORE CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF AND MY ABILITIES, I FEEL A LOT STRONGER AND OVERALL HAPPIER WITH WHO I AM, AND I WANT TO CONTINUE PUSHING MY COMFORT ZONE AND HAVING ADVENTURES."

– GABRIELLA, STUDENT

"I GAINED CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF- GOING INTO NEW EXPERIENCES CAN BE FRIGHTENING BUT I HAVE LEARNED THAT IF I JUST BELIEVE IN MYSELF THEN I KNOW I WILL BE ABLE TO CONQUER ANYTHING."

– ANNIE, STUDENT

MEASURING SUCCESS

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

98%

OF STUDENTS

TOOK ACTION TO BE MORE SUSTAINABLE WHILE TRAVELLING.

RETURNING HOME



71% of students will increase their efforts to protect nature and the environment.

72% of students will use what they have learned to try to have a positive impact in their community.

68% of students will look for sustainable ways to travel in the future.

0% 100%

"I GAINED A PASSION FOR CULTURAL EXCHANGE- SHARING EXPERIENCES, GETTING INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY, AND UNITY. ALL OF THESE HAVE INSPIRED ME TO DO MORE FOR COMMUNITIES, TO TRAVEL AND GIVE BACK."

– ALAYNA, STUDENT

"I THINK THE BIGGEST THING I HAVE GAINED FROM THIS TRIP IS MORE LOVE AND CARE FOR THE PLANET AND THE PEOPLE IN IT."

– TAMZIN, STUDENT

"FROM THIS EXPERIENCE, I LEARNT THAT SMALL ACTIONS CAN LEAD TO BIGGER THINGS SUCH AS USING TOTE BAGS INSTEAD OF PLASTIC BAGS."

– ERICA, STUDENT

"I GAINED A DEEPER APPRECIATION FOR BIODIVERSITY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVATION, WHICH HAS INSPIRED ME TO ADOPT MORE SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND ADVOCATE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION IN THE FUTURE."

-YUN JUN (VANESSA), STUDENT

MEASURING SUCCESS

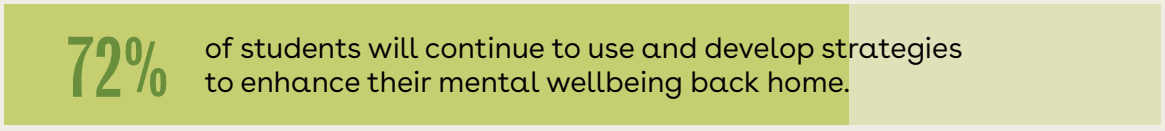
WELLBEING

95%

OF STUDENTS

USED SELF-CARE STRATEGIES TO MAINTAIN THEIR WELLBEING.

RETURNING HOME





"I'VE LEARNT HOW STRONG I AM, MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY."

– NEVE, STUDENT

"BEING MORE OPEN EMOTIONALLY IN A GROUP MAKES THE FRIENDSHIPS STRONGER. HOW TO BE RESILIENT AND POSITIVE WHEN NECESSARY BUT ALSO LISTEN WHEN NEEDED. HOW TO ACT WHEN THERE'S STRESS."

– ALFIE, STUDENT

"THIS EXPEDITION MADE ME REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF LIVING IN THE MOMENT AND INFLUENCED THE WAY IN WHICH I HOPE TO TRAVEL IN THE FUTURE, WHERE I CAN ENGAGE WITH THE LOCAL CULTURES AND CHALLENGE MYSELF OUTSIDE OF MY COMFORT ZONE."

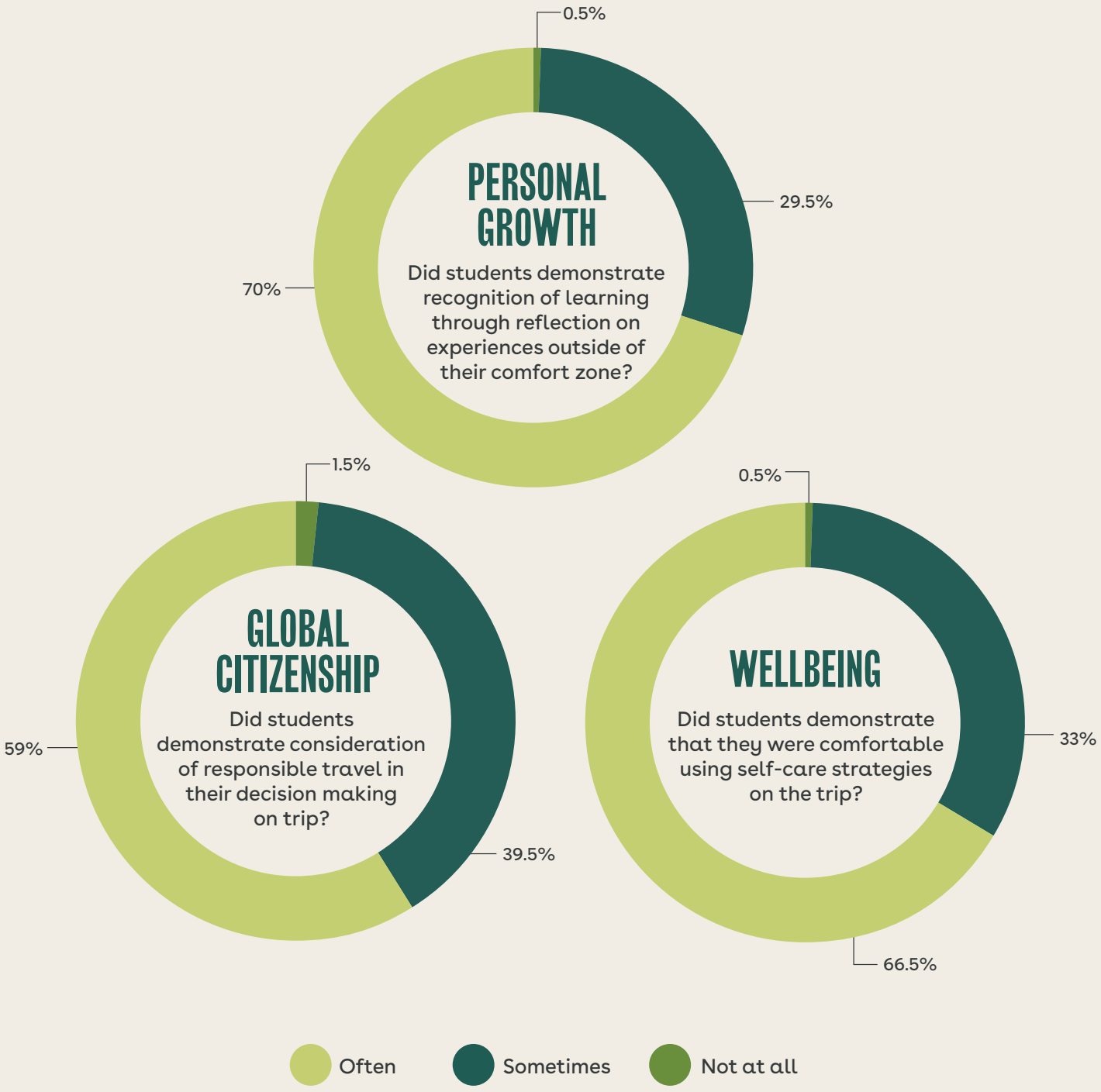
– MAHLIA, STUDENT

MEASURING SUCCESS

WHAT OUR LEADERS SAID

We also ask our Expedition Leaders to feedback on the growth and development of the students that travelled with them in 2025.

Here are the results:



"THE OVERSEAS TRIP HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON THE STUDENTS, OFFERING A UNIQUE BLEND OF COMMUNITY WORK, PHYSICAL CHALLENGE, AND CULTURAL EXPOSURE. THROUGH THE COMMUNITY SERVICE, STUDENTS DEVELOPED EMPATHY, TEAMWORK, AND A SENSE OF GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY. THE TOUGH TREK TESTED THEIR RESILIENCE, PERSEVERANCE, AND LEADERSHIP UNDER PRESSURE, WHILE THE FUN ACTIVITIES PROVIDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR BONDING, CULTURAL LEARNING, AND PERSONAL GROWTH. OVERALL, THE EXPERIENCE BROADENED THEIR WORLDVIEWS, STRENGTHENED THEIR CHARACTER, AND FOSTERED GREATER SELF-CONFIDENCE AND INDEPENDENCE."

– STEVE DAVIS

"Transformative. Many of the students confronted fears and achieved things they never thought they could. They pushed themselves and succeeded. Others grew in confidence and found their voice."

– NAT HAYDEN

"Really wholesome moments for the students to engage with the community and get a sense of perspective about what is really important to have a happy, fulfilling life. Trek: Beautiful, remote, challenging but achievable. Left students feeling proud of their efforts."

– GEORGE DODDS

"Some of my team had never flown or left the UK before, so the expedition was a significant development opportunity. By the end, all the students showed evidence of being more confident, independent, and able to problem solve. By helping them develop constructive practical and psychological habits, they left the expedition much better equipped to deal with future challenges at home."

– STEPHEN TUNSTALL

"Students have a broader understanding of the world, learning about different cultures and what we can do to support them. They have started to develop their awareness of being a responsible traveller and the impact this can have. They have overcome challenges that they didn't think possible and formed lasting relationships with new peers."

– HANNAH TURNBULL

Dan Bradshaw

ALUMNI STORIES

While the statistics and comments that come directly from our travellers tell us a great deal about the personal development of students on the trips and how they expect that to embed when they get home, we also know that the learning and impact continues beyond the end of the trip.

Our alumni stories tell us more about the ways that travelling with World Challenge continues to influence students into the future, and the many positive impacts created beyond the end of an expedition.





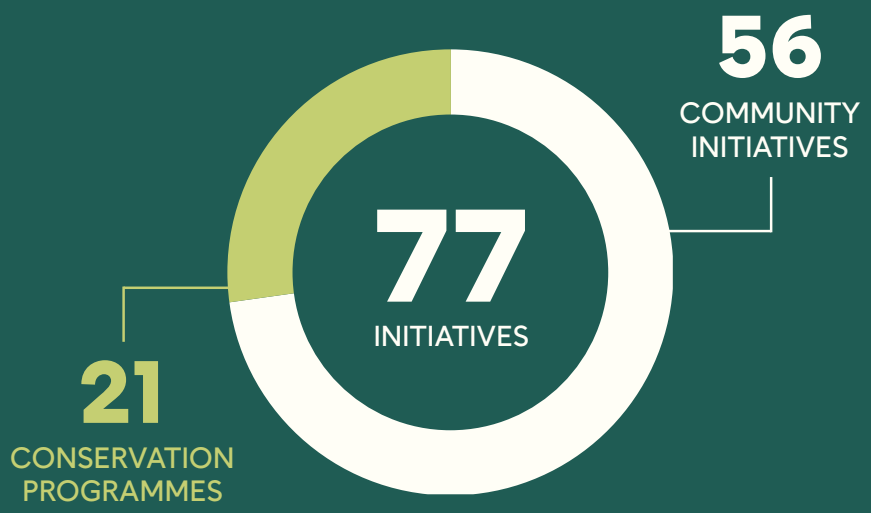
Dan travelled with World Challenge on a month-long expedition to Zambia, assisting on a house construction initiative, trekking through Batoka Gorge and explored from Lusaka to Livingstone. He fondly remembers the freedom and independence of a student-led trip, taking responsibility in a completely different environment. Sixteen years later, he's back in Zambia running his own travel company and now works as Ground Team for World Challenge – a true full-circle moment.

While there were other influences on Dan's decision to create a home in Zambia – family ties being key – his love for the country, fostered on his expedition, helped to seal the deal. Early in his career, Dan tried a few professions, but it was an opportunity to work in travel sales that stuck, and he has continued to focus on roles that allow him to share his love of adventure with others.

Dan's favourite memory from his expedition isn't any of the big stuff, it's a day when things didn't go to plan. With a sick teammate, they opted to curtail the trek and spend a day on a remote beach in Batoka Gorge, where they took time to connect, bought fish from a local fisherman for dinner, and took it all in. When planning trips for others, Dan leans into his experiences, trying to encourage others to get off the beaten track, out of their comfort zones, and critically, to make time to slow down and soak it all up. We're really excited for future teams to meet Dan in Zambia in the coming years.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

In 2025 we visited 77 of our initiative partners around the world, including **56 community and 21 conservation programmes.**



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY
2 ZERO HUNGER
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION
14 LIFE BELOW WATER
15 LIFE ON LAND



Participants spent a total of

18,528

DAYS

contributing, collaborating, and learning with our network of global partners.

1,794

PARTICIPANTS

took part in nature-based initiatives in 2025.

THE IMPACT OF THE INITIATIVES WE VISITED SPANS

15

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

20

SOME OF OUR KE





25

Y ACHIEVEMENTS

21

ERATION AMMES

oss 13 ntries

ctivities planting mangrove saplings

12 environmental clean-up projects

42

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

19 sustainable income generation projects

18 school renovation programmes

2 toilet blocks constructed

3 clean water projects

in 12 countries

1 housing project...

SOME OF OUR KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



The **WORLD CHALLENGE INITIATIVE IMPACT AWARDS** celebrate partners who are making a lasting difference in their communities while creating meaningful, educational experiences for our student teams. These awards celebrate partners who demonstrate a commitment to local impact, continuous improvement, and transparent reporting.

This year, we are proud to present five awards to outstanding partners across four countries:

1 Partner in

MOROCCO

for collaboration on school renovation projects that enhanced learning environments and created safe passageway for children walking to and from school.

1 Partner in

CAMBODIA

for immersing students in a Khmer community, engaging them in meaningful work that sustainably improved local livelihoods.

2 Partners in

MALAYSIA

for significant contributions to turtle protection – including long-term community engagement and hands-on student participation.

1 Partner in

ESWATINI

for delivering critical infrastructure improvements to Gebeni Neighbourhood Care Point, directly benefiting local children and addressing urgent community needs.



WORLD CHALLENGE PARTNER TRAINING

In 2025 we developed a series of online training sessions and additional resources for initiative partners, focusing on key areas to enhance collaboration and impact. We will continue to develop this program in 2026.


SOLAR
LIGHTS









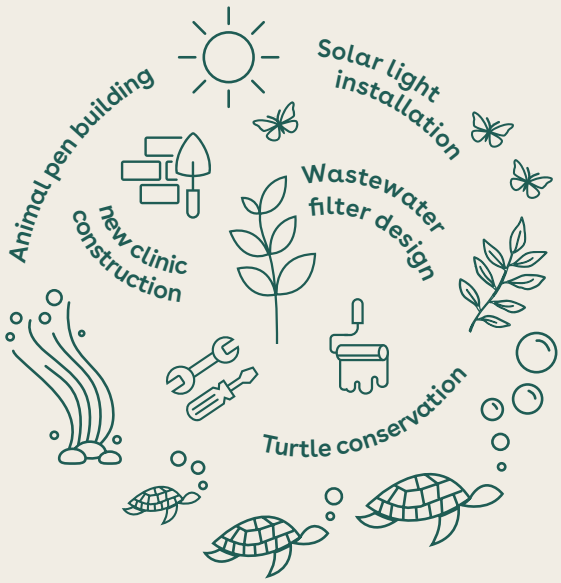












IMPACT STORIES

TANZANIA

In Tanzania, a team joined a community building its very first kindergarten, helping to build the toilet block and plant trees in the area that will become the playground. The first phase of the build is now complete and 37 children were enrolled to start in January 2026. The community hopes to expand the building in the future to accommodate more of the 150 kindergarten-aged children in the village.

BORNEO

In Borneo, teams planted 890 trees with a community-based organisation reforesting the area along the Kinabatangan River. They also participated in cultural activities that support a holistic approach to sustainable development - aligning environmental conservation with economic growth, social equity, and cultural preservation.

NEPAL

In Nepal, teams contributed to the construction of seven cement columns, forming part of a wider project to build 45 in total across a village. These reinforced columns provide the foundation for tap stands along a new pipeline system, which will deliver reliable running water directly to the community. This infrastructure project represents a significant step towards improving access to safe water, reducing the need for long collection journeys, and supporting long-term health and wellbeing in the village.

ECUADOR

In Ecuador, teams supported a long-term mammal survey by monitoring camera traps, contributing to ongoing research into wild feline populations and their ecological role. By collecting and analysing field data, students helped generate insights into local wildlife dynamics, supporting evidence-based conservation decisions grounded in scientific research and strengthening understanding of ecosystem balance.

INTEGRATE MORE CLIMATE ACTION INTO OUR INITIATIVE PROGRAMMES

In 2026, we will deepen our commitment to climate action by embedding more environmental education across our programmes - both for the students we host and for young people in the destinations we visit. The impact of climate change is increasingly visible in many of the communities we work with, making this not only a timely focus but a necessary one.



CLIMATE ACTION

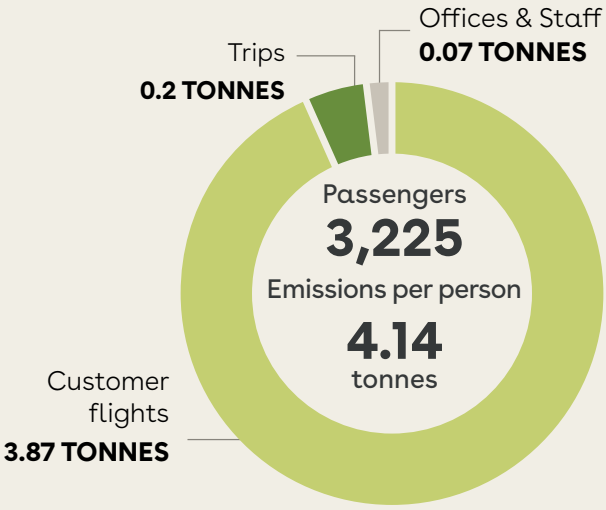
To find out more about how we're working to reduce and mitigate against our impact on the climate crisis, read our climate action plan in **OUR COMMITMENTS TO PEOPLE AND PLANET.**

AN UPDATE TO OUR BASELINE

We're committed to transparent reporting when it comes to our emissions. To track progress towards our targets, we have been using a baseline year of 2019. We have decided to change the baseline to 2023. The pandemic created significant changes to our operations, as well as the global climate picture, and for this reason, 2023, our first 'normal' operational year after the pandemic, feels like a more representative baseline from which to track progress.

Our Carbon Footprint in

2023



Total

13,351 TONNES

of emissions



Per passenger

This metric allows us to compare our annual emissions without the totals being swayed by the number of travellers we take overseas, so we can compare future years to the baseline more accurately.

- Customer flights
- Trips
- Office and staff

READ OUR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

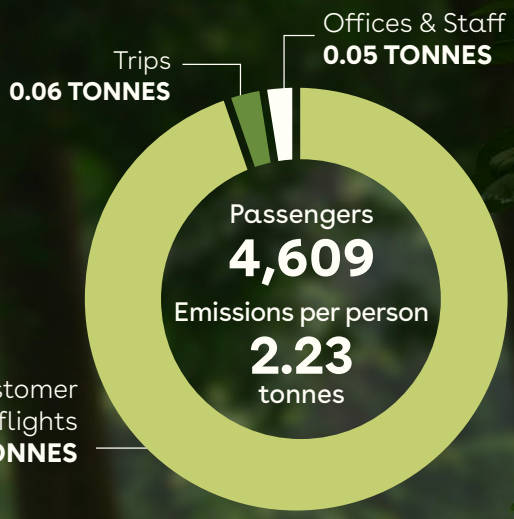


2024



Total
15,384 TONNES
of emissions

2025



Total
10,300 TONNES
of emissions

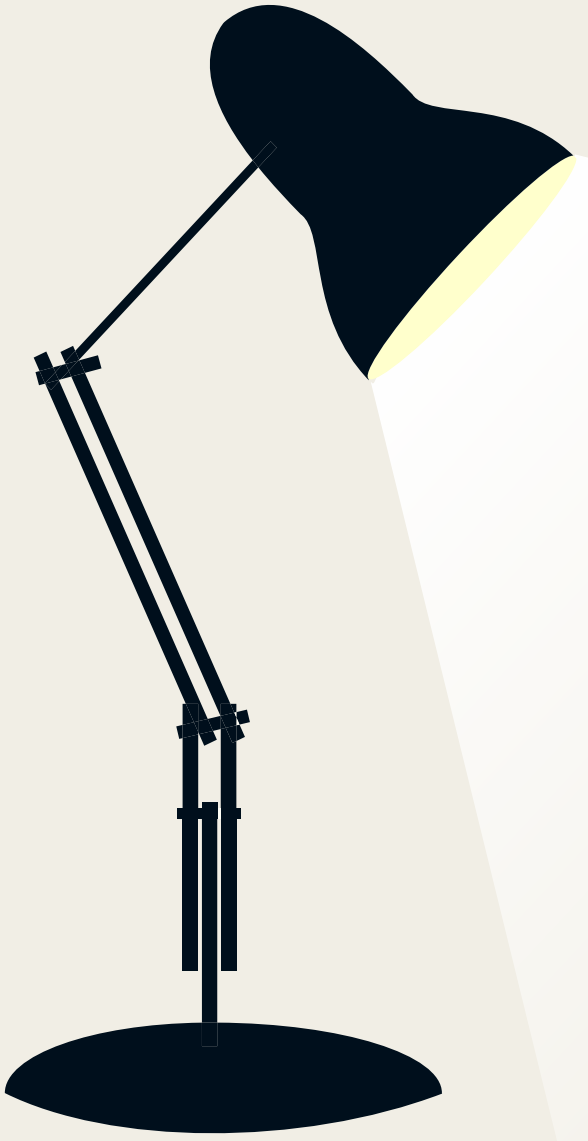
COMMITMENT TO ACCURATE REPORTING

There have been small movements in the numbers reported for previous years, in previous reports. This is due to our commitment to accuracy. As we find better and more precise ways to report and measure emissions on different aspects of our trips, we are able to apply these to historic data to ensure that we are aligned year-on-year. This year is a customised emissions factor for meals that has been designed specifically for World Challenge. This has greatly improved the accuracy of our reporting in this area.

OUR FOOTPRINT IN 2025

We've had an absolute reduction in emissions from 2024 to 2025, meaning that we have generated less tonnes of emissions compared to the year before, despite having a higher number of passengers travel with us.

This means that the amount of emissions generated per passenger (a number comparable regardless of growth in traveller numbers) has also reduced significantly, from 3.66 tonnes per person in 2024, to 2.23 in 2025.





OFFICE AND STAFF EMISSIONS

We have achieved reductions to our total and per passenger emissions in this area by maintaining efficiencies in our operations whilst passenger numbers increase. For example, we have reduced the amount of staff travel that is undertaken, which has reduced emissions. We are also operating from smaller offices and a smaller warehouse which is more efficient.

OUR TRIP EMISSIONS

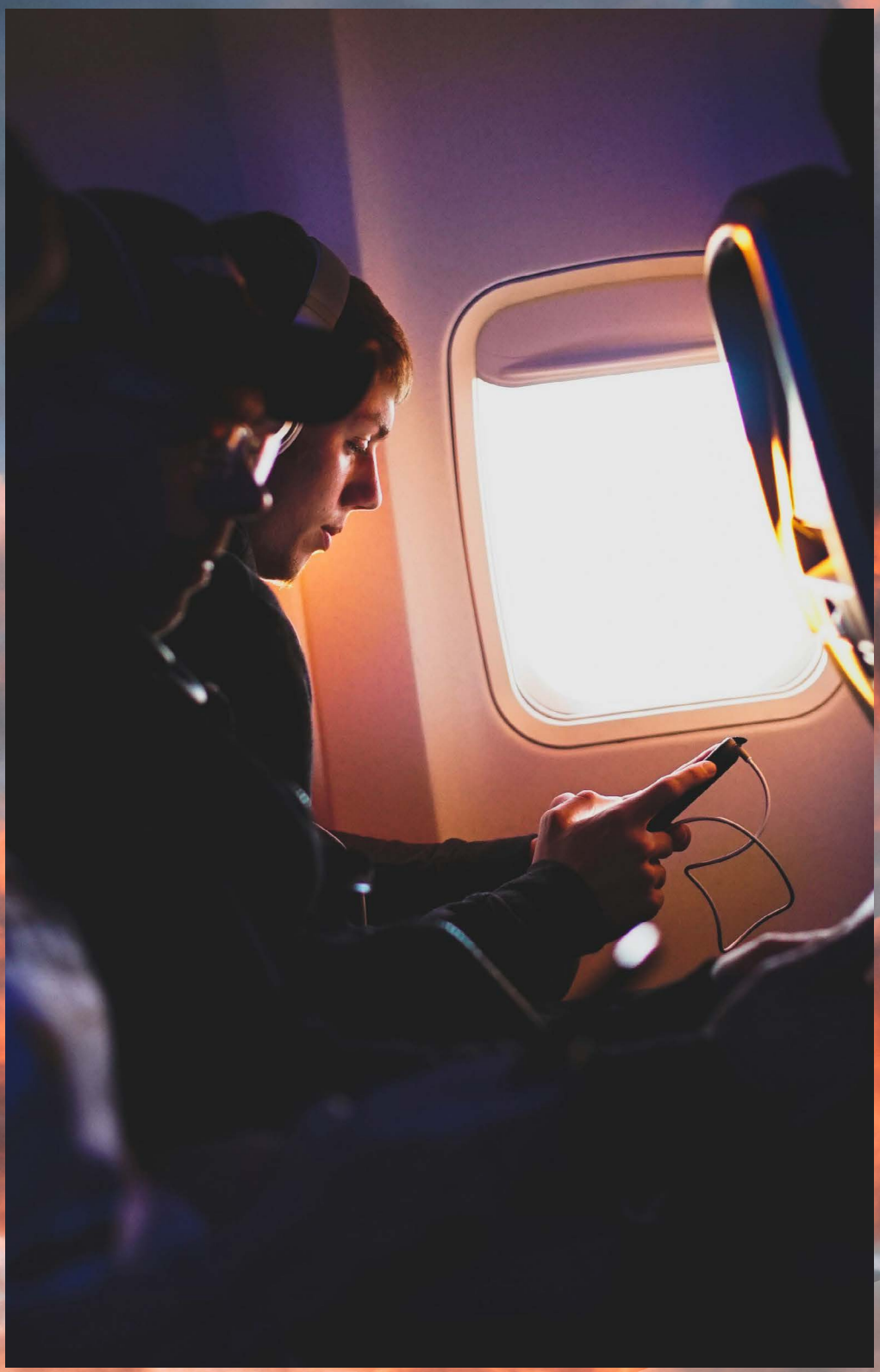
Emissions in this area have also reduced year-on-year, largely due to a decrease in ground travel in our destinations. Where we can, we plan itineraries to minimise the amount of travel required from place to place, which means our emissions are smaller, but also improves the experience for our groups - leaving more time to explore, and less time spent on the road.

WORLD CHALLENGE LOOKING AHEAD

CO2

We will continue to review the itineraries we operate, identifying opportunities to reduce the footprint of each one, where we can.





Our flight emissions

down
35%
in 2025

OUR FLIGHT EMISSIONS

This accounts for a large portion of our overall footprint and has also declined year-on-year in terms of both absolute and per passenger emissions.

Internally, we have taken steps to ensure flights can be booked as early as possible – this means we can choose from a broader range of affordable tickets and routes. We have therefore been able to book more direct routes for more destinations, which means journeys are shorter and more efficient, with less emissions.

Reductions this year were also driven by a decrease to the aviation emissions factor. Because flights in the past year were fuller than they have been since COVID, the emissions created by the flights is divided by more passengers, meaning a smaller amount of emissions per passenger is calculated.

WORLD CHALLENGE LOOKING AHEAD



We will continue to monitor changes in the aviation industry and seek ways to select optimum flight routes and airlines to create emissions reductions in this area, where viable.

MITIGATION AND REGENERATION

In 2025 we partnered with Eden People & Planet once again to fund nature-based solutions to the climate crisis. Our support this year contributed to the restoration of approximately 44 hectares of land in the Rubeho Mountains of Tanzania.

This landscape is a vital water tower for almost 3 million community members, and the habitat of many endangered species, including the African Wild Dog and Udzungwa Red Colobus Monkey. The funding supports community members who are engaged in sustainable livelihoods programmes to regenerate the land, contributing to its long-term restoration and protection.

The larger project, managed by Eden People & Planet, will aim to restore 394,000 hectares, including the planting of 800,000 trees.

Eden: People+ Planet

CLIMATE ACTION FUND

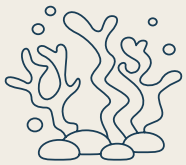
In 2026 we will implement a Climate Action Fund which will allow our global network of partners to apply for funding to implement climate action and resilience programmes in their communities. This will allow us to bring climate action into our supply chain, reducing emissions and strengthening our partners for the changing climate.



BLUE MARINE FOUNDATION

World Challenge is part of the Experience Education group, who have an ongoing partnership with the Blue Marine Foundation to support marine conservation around the world. Since the start of the partnership, a lot has been achieved through

BLUE CARBON PROJECTS ACROSS THE WORLD



76

HECTARES OF BLUE CARBON HABITAT HAVE BEEN RESTORED.



145,000

MANGROVE AND SEAGRASS SEEDLINGS HAVE BEEN PLANTED.



400+

COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED OR ENGAGED IN MARINE RESTORATION.



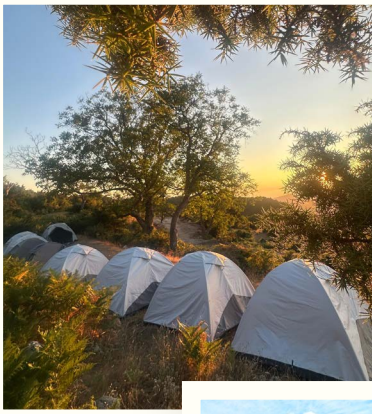
Sightings of rare and endangered Mediterranean monk seals have been reported at the site in Greece.



TEAM TRAVEL 2025

OUR PEOPLE







The World Challenge team are the backbone of all of these initiatives, ensuring that we are able to continue our engagement with schools, supporting students, teachers, and leaders in their undertaking of impactful expeditions which promote learning and growth for young people.

In 2025, several members of the team headed out on trips themselves, joining teams, meeting partners, and networking:

EXPEDITIONS

12 members of the team joined expeditions to support in different ways on the ground.

RECCES

1 member headed to Norway to meet the Ground Team and make some adjustments to the treks ahead of the mid-year season.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

One member attended a conference and fam-trip in South Korea







NORWAY

ITALY
ALBANIA

SOUTH KOREA

NEPAL

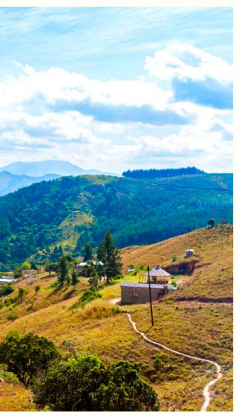
VIETNAM

SINGAPORE

BORNEO

BALI





ESWATINI





NORWAY

"My trip to Norway was an incredible 10 days of wild camping and trekking, where both the students and adults pushed themselves out of their comfort zones. It was a fantastic opportunity to experience firsthand what we do, which, in the words of one of the student's, is, 'to make thousands of students happy every year'. The team fully embraced the no phones policy, allowing them to connect with one another and really appreciate the beauty of the Norwegian landscape.

It taught me that you are never too old to challenge yourself and I feel very privileged to have been on one of our Expeditions."

RACHEL, FLIGHTS MANAGER, WORLD CHALLENGE





BORNEO

“Beyond comfort zones, among sunsets and wild landscapes, we grow...

My World Challenge trip to Borneo was a powerful reminder of how easy it is to sit comfortably within what you know, and how much growth happens the moment you choose to step outside of it.

Saying yes to this opportunity led to meaningful memories and personal development, as a group of strangers quickly became one big family over just two weeks through shared challenges, countless Uno games, and unforgettable experiences.

A standout highlight for me was witnessing the raw natural beauty of the world from amazing jungle landscapes to crystal-blue island waters and the most incredible sunsets. As well as forming genuine connections with local communities, including an unforgettable football match with locals. This is something I will carry with me forever.

This was more than just a trip, it was a life-changing journey where I witnessed students building resilience, confidence, and gaining new perspectives.”

KIM, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, WORLD CHALLENGE

CHARITY AND GIVING

In 2025 several members of the team took advantage of the opportunity to use their volunteering days, while others spent free time fundraising for causes close to their hearts. Here's what a few of them got up to:



STU

Joined the Board of The Mountain Training Trust to support the charity's aims in widening access to the outdoors



EMMA & RICHARD

Supported a One Can Trust school uniform event



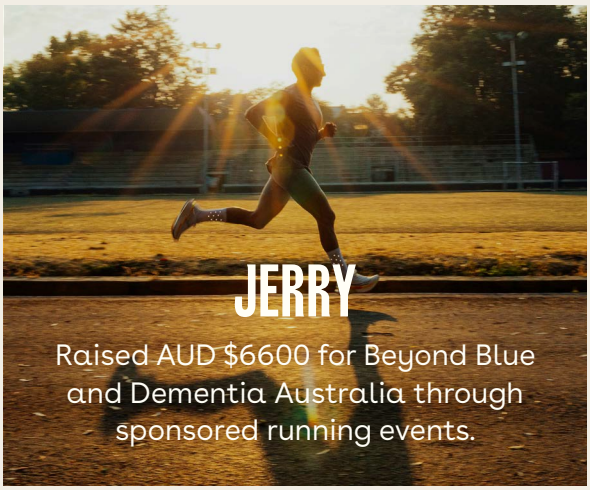
CHILTERN RANGERS DAY

14 members of the team attended a conservation day in a local woodland with the Chiltern Rangers



CHRIS

Volunteered for a day at Oxford City Farm



JERRY

Raised AUD $6600 for Beyond Blue and Dementia Australia through sponsored running events.



PETE

Kayaked the Bass Strait to raise funds for children's charities

FUNDRAISING

RAISING FUNDS

World Challenge student teams raised additional funds to further support our **community initiatives** around the world. Donations totalled **£7130.38**.



BRITISH RED CROSS

Old currencies were donated to the **British Red Cross** providing a total fund of **£305.69**.



BAKE OFF

Staff offices fundraised for **Youth Adventure Trust** for disadvantaged youth through office bake off competitions and raised **£130**



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mental health first aid training

Roz completed Mental Health First Aid training



Mountain Leader Award

Liz passed her Mountain Leader award



Safeguarding Lead

Liz, Jenni, Vicky & Ben renewed their Safeguarding Lead training.

Chester Marathon participation

Roz completed the Chester Marathon.

Insights training

22 members of the UK team had Insights training.



First aid training

was completed by Louise, Josie, Sabrina, Rachel, Roz, Caitlin, Neil & Jenni.



Brighton Half Marathon Participation

Venny, Caitlin, Emily, Roz, Ali, Rich C & Martin completed the Brighton Half marathon







LOOKING AHEAD to 2026 WORLD CHALLENGE

As we move into 2026, we continue to seek opportunities to expand the positive impact that our trips can have, both on the young people who travel with us, and the destinations we travel to.

OUR KEY GOALS INCLUDE

Implement the first year of our Climate Action Fund, supporting at least 5 long-standing partners to deliver locally-led climate projects, bringing mitigation and climate resilience strategies into our supply chain.

Develop short, closer to home trips, expanding access to the learning and development outcomes of World Challenge to more young people by making them more accessible to a broader number of schools.

Aim to have at least 50% of staff utilising charity days and participating in fundraising events throughout the year. As part of this we will take on our first team charity challenge.

Build deeper visibility of our supply chain to better understand the risks and opportunities we have to reduce negative and increase positive impact, including, where infrastructure allows, introducing electric vehicles and low-emission transport options.

World Challenge

THANK YOU

FIND OUT MORE

weareworldchallenge.com