



Center for Responsible Travel

CREST Washington, DC
1333 H Street, NW Suite
300, East Tower
Washington, D.C. 20005
+1 202-347-9203 x.414

CREST at Stanford University
450 Serra Mall Building
50, Room 51D Stanford
CA 94305 +1
650-723-0894

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Whitney Cooper
Phone: +1 202-347-9203 x.414
Email: wcooper@responsibletravel.org

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Support the Center for Responsible Travel through Trip Auction, Nov. 5

SAN FRANCISCO— Celebrate responsible travel and get the chance to purchase the trip of a lifetime at the Center for Responsible Travel (CREST) Cocktail Gathering and Trip Auction scheduled to be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, November 5, at a private home in Woodside, California. Click [here](#) to see full invitation!

Trips to Belize, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, Greenland, Kenya, Peru, Turkey, Florida, and Yellowstone Park have been donated by leading tourism companies that support CREST's mission. CREST, a non-profit organization, based at Stanford University and in Washington, DC, is committed to promoting responsible travel that provides sound employment, respects local cultures, protects the environment, and benefits host communities.

"This holiday house party and trip auction is designed to showcase both the mission of CREST and offer travel experiences with outstanding tourism companies who are operating in some of the most culturally and biodiversity rich places on earth," says Martha Honey, co-director of CREST. "By purchasing one of these vacation packages, you can both support CREST and take or give as a gift a truly special vacation."

The CREST holiday house party and trip auction promises to be as enjoyable as it is educational. Honey and her fellow co-director, William Durham, are hosting this event, which is open to invited guests and other Bay Area residents who RSVP in advance (details below). Diane Dwyer, the popular NBC Bay Area television news anchor, will serve as the evening's MC and auctioneer. "I have always counted travel as one of my greatest pleasures," says Dwyer, in her support of the event. "But lately I have begun to see the negative effects of overcrowding, pollution and egregious over development. I feel it's time to support organizations like CREST as well as responsible tourism companies that are making a difference."

Another notable guest will be Rodney Fong, Chair of the Board of the San Francisco Convention and Visitors Building, who will talk briefly about the city's green initiatives.

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Trip Packages and Details:

Of the eleven holiday packages, five will be offered via a silent auction which will run from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Then a live auction will be held for the remaining six trips. All trips are for two people and good for one year. Unless specified, international flights are not included and please note that different dates and conditions may apply for each trip. A minimum bid is required for each of the trips.

The following are brief descriptions of the trips with outstanding companies, all winners of international awards and/or hold "green" certification for their contributions to responsible tourism:

Belize: Hamanasi Adventure & Dive Resort. Visit the rainforest, Mayan ruins, reefs, jaguar preserve and more on this 7-night, 8-day stay at a top Central American destination. **Available July 15 -November 15, 2010.**

Costa Rica: Lapa Rios Ecolodge & Latitude 10 Resort. Like two trips in one, enjoy 4 days, 3 nights in the remote Osa Peninsula in a private bungalow surrounded by a tropical rain forest and overlooking the wild Golfo Dulce-Pacific Ocean. Then move on via Nature Air, the world's first carbon-neutral airline, for a 4-day, 3-night stay in a private bungalow at an exclusive beach resort embedded in the jungle. **Available May 1 - November 30, 2010 and 2011.**

Costa Rica: Selva Verde & Rara Avis Rainforest Lodge. Journey off Costa Rica's well trodden ecotourism paths to Sarapiquí. Spend 3 nights at Costa Rica's original ecolodge at Rara Avis. Then travel via Nature Air, the world's first carbon-neutral airline, for a 4 night stay at Selva Verde Lodge, another pioneer ecolodge built on a large tract of rainforest. **Available November 2009 - November 2010.**

Ecuador: Yachana Lodge & Hamaca Tours. Discover the different sides of Ecuador beginning with 3 nights in the Amazonian geotourism destination, Yachana Lodge. Then travel to the Pacific Coast for an extra 4 nights with Hamaca Tours & Expeditions using the city of Guayaquil as your gateway to understand the history and traditions of ancient cultures of Ecuador. **Available November 2009 - November 2010.**

Florida: Colony Hotel & Cabana Club. Enjoy 6 days, 5 nights at this historic landmark. The Colony offers the historic appeal of a romantic "Old Florida" setting, with all the modern amenities of a perfect vacation. The hotel is ideally located on the renowned Atlantic Avenue, in the very heart of Delray, Florida's restaurant, boutique, art gallery, festival, cultural and historic centers. **Available November 30, 2009 – November 30, 2010.**

The Galapagos: Lindblad Expeditions. Voyage on the National Geographic Endeavour in a cabin for two to the Galapagos Islands for 10 days, 9 nights. Discover unique wildlife in a spectacular setting with a top-tier Expedition Team. Lindblad Expeditions has over 40 years of experience in the Land of Darwin. And thanks to their long history of expedition cruises in the Galapagos Islands, you'll do so much more than observe this precious ecosystem. You'll interact with it! **Available November 30, 2009 – November 30, 2010.**

Greenland: Air Greenland & Hotel Arctic. Plan for an early summer vacation and prepare to cool off with 7 days, 6 nights at the Hotel Arctic, in Illulissat, Greenland. Rated the best hotel in Greenland, this fantastic hotel is located adjacent to the famous icefiord. Sit in your room and admire the magnificent icebergs! Flights from Copenhagen, Denmark to Illulissat are included and arranged by Air Greenland. Tours of Illulissat and Sermermiut, the historical Inuit village, are coordinated by World of Greenland. **Trip not available during the following dates: December 15, 2009 - January 4, 2010 and April 26 - May 2, 2010.**

Kenya: Basecamp Masai Mara. Explore the vast Masai Mara with Basecamp Explorer on extensive game drives and walking tours into the wilderness. For 6 days & 5 nights, Basecamp Explorer's fantastic guides will take you on an adventure as you learn how to interpret tracks and subtle signs of the wildlife! **Trip will not be available December 22, 2009 - January 1; April 2 - 5 or July 1 - August 31, 2010.**

Peru: Rainforest Expeditions & Casa Andina. Enjoy the splendor of Peru by spending 4 days, 4 nights in the Amazon with one of Peru's best-known ecotourism companies, Rainforest Expeditions. Then spend 2 days, 2 nights in the Andes Mountains at one of the classic hotels from the Peruvian owned hotel chain, Casa Andina in the imperial city of Cusco. **Trip not available June 1, 2010 - August 31, 2010.**

Turkey: Intrepid Travel. Discover the mysterious land of the Ottoman Empire in a 15 day, 14 night cultural experience on Intrepid's Turkish Delights! **Available November 2009 – December 2010.**

Yellowstone: Off the Beaten Path. Invigorate your summer or fall with wildlife watching in Yellowstone National Park on this 6 day, 5 night adventure! This journey with Off the Beaten Path, the founding member of the Adventure Collection, gives you maximum field time in one of the greatest places to see the interactions between predator, prey, and scavenger. **Available the following dates in 2010: May 16 - May 21; May 30 - June 4; September 5 - September 10; and September 12 - September 17.**

For more information about the event and more in depth descriptions of the auction trips, visit www.responsibletravel.org. To RSVP or for those who can't make the event, but still want to bid on a trip, please contact Whitney Cooper at wcooper@responsibletravel.org or 202.347.9203, ext. 414.