



## **Winners & Finalists Announced BYTA 2012 - 6<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

BETA is delighted to announce the winners and finalists in each category at the British Youth Travel Awards 2012.

With a record number of submissions received this year, our short listing judges had a tough task to whittle down the entries, and we would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of those that took part this year.

The British Youth Travel Awards (BYTA) provide us with a platform for us to celebrate and reward our high achievers, gain recognition, and raise the profile of the work and individual successes of organisations engaged in youth, student and educational travel, to, from and within the UK.

**Best Accommodation WINNER : Clink78**

**Silver :** Dearne Valley (Kingswood)

**Bronze:** Palmers Lodge Swiss Cottage

**Best Educational Product WINNER:** Oxford Royale Academy

**Silver:** Buckmore Education

**Bronze:** Ardmay House International Summer School

**Best International Youth Destination WINNER:** Spain

**Silver:** Australia

**Bronze:** Germany

**Best Leisure Product WINNER:** Live the City

**Silver:** Spaceships Campervans

**Bronze:** Golden Tours

**Best Marketing WINNER:** Spaceships Campervans “where’s Mike”

**Silver:** Clink Hostels

**Bronze:** STA Travel “live like an aussie”

**Best Support Service WINNER:** BritBound

**Silver:** Britannia Student Services

**Bronze:** Live the City

**Best Use of Social / Mobile Media WINNER: Generator Hostels**

**Silver:** Clink Hostels

**Bronze:** Topdeck Travel

**Best UK Youth Destination WINNER: London**

**Silver:** Brighton

**Bronze:** Liverpool

**Best Volunteering Organisation WINNER: Blue Ventures Expeditions**

**Silver:** Madventurer Volunteer Projects

**Bronze:** Camps International

**Customer Service WINNER: Palmers Lodge Hostels**

**Silver:** Patrick Kipfmiller, St Christopher's Inns

**Bronze:** Clink Hostels

**Rising Star Award WINNER: Sophie Herbert, St Christophers' Inns**

**Silver:** Sebastian (Seb) Powell, Topdeck

**Bronze:** Lauren Gibbs, BritBound



**Blue Ventures' work in Madagascar** and Belize was recognised because of its commitment to using responsible volunteer tourism to aid marine conservation and community work in some of the world's most economically and ecologically vulnerable countries.

Blue Ventures is a multiple award-winning international marine conservation organisation that works with local communities to conserve threatened marine and coastal environments, both protecting biodiversity and alleviating poverty. Through its expedition programmes, volunteers from all over the world join conservation activities during career breaks and student gap years, working closely with field research teams and always in partnership with local communities.



Blue Ventures' Volunteer and Expedition Coordinator Kate Guy said: *"We are obviously delighted to be the first winners of this new Award, especially considering the very strong competition in this category. We're committed to demonstrating the enormous potential of socially and environmentally responsible tourism for driving sustainable development in some of the world's most marginalised communities"*.

Blue Ventures' expeditions were featured in the BBC's Indian Ocean series earlier this year, when the show visited Madagascar. *"Blue Ventures does magnificent work, helping communities and offering extraordinary volunteering opportunities that you'll remember for the rest of your life"* said the series presenter Simon Reeve after filming Blue Ventures' expedition site in

**the village of Andavadoaka**

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