



Corporate Overview 2025



Hammock Expeditions, LLC
51 Hillcrest Way
Bluffton, SC 29909 USA
P: 984.223.9866
www.HammockExpeditions.com
www.STEMStudyTours.com



Company Background

Hammock Expeditions was established in July of 2020. After working in international tourism management with an internationally-based tourism company since 2003, our key officers broke away to form an independent company, housed in the USA and serving clients from around the world. Our focus is educational tourism for students as well as adults and families. Our main focuses are STEM-based (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), scuba diving, skiing, wine & spirits, plus missions and service.

Our brands include:

- **STEM Study Tours:** STEM education & humanities tours for schools, universities, homeschool associations and families.
- **Hammock Expeditions:** Sips & Trips (wine & spirit travel), scuba diving, skiing, plus missions and service for adults and families.

Key Personnel

Michele Hammock – Founder & Chief Executive Officer

Michele has been involved in the tourism industry, both as an operator and a supplier, since 1992. With a background in managing hotels and resorts from a supplier side, Michele's management expertise includes Ritz-Carlton Hotels, Sheraton Hotels & Resorts, Harrah's Entertainment, and the American Skiing Company. Michele started as a Tour Operator in 2003 and was the Director of International Operations for one of the top inbound operators from Europe to North America, followed by the role of Corporate International Operations Director and North American General Manager for a brand including specialist operators from educational tourism to high-end leisure tourism. Prior to her career in tourism, Michele was a Private Investigator, licensed in California, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida, and an appointed Guardian Ad Litem for the State of Florida.



As a Master Diver, Michele's favorite activity is scuba diving, and her favorite tourism destinations are Italy, Costa Rica and anywhere she can dive. Michele is also a connoisseur of fine wines and hopes to one day earn her sommelier certification. Michele lives in the Hilton Head, South Carolina area has 2 grown children, 2 grandchildren, a husky (her baby) and a cat.

Michele's accolades include past Board of Directors appointments for the local Arts Council, the Entertainer's Guild, the Better Business Bureau and more, Community Excellence Awards in Missouri and Oklahoma, the President's Award for Harrah's Entertainment, the Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award with the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, National Youth Day Out campaign chair positions, plus the Paragon Award for Meetings & Incentive Travel. Michele has been a biography appointee in Two Thousand Notable American Women and has appeared in Who's' Who of Management Professionals over 5 times.



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Izzy Franckewitz – Founder, COO & CMO

Izzy grew up in the hospitality industry and started serving in hotels and spas as a teenager. At the ripe age of 16, while living in Florida, she began shadowing and working in tourism roles, greeting and hosting guests from around the world. By 18, Izzy was working consistently as a requested Tour Guide, winning the Ambassador of the Year Award in 2018. Izzy has also worked as a General Manager in retail sales, as a Sales Executive in tourism sales, plus as an Operations Executive in tour operations. Izzy went back to school during our global Covid crisis and held titles of President of the Honors Council, Vice President of Honors in Action and President of the Politically Active organization for her University.



Izzy has traveled the world and is an expert in tourism operational management. Her favorite destinations are Iceland and Costa Rica. As a Master Diver, Izzy is currently working towards earning her Ph.D. in Marine Biology, focusing on Coral Reef Conservation and Marine Fungi. Izzy lives on Hilton Head Island in South Carolina with her family including a beautiful daughter born in 2023.

Christina Tolar – Corporate Director Of Operations

Christina has been an integral part of Hammock Expeditions since 2023, bringing a strong background in client service and operational support. Prior to joining the team, she served as the administrator for a travel team focused on selling life-changing experiences, where she developed a deep appreciation for the impact of meaningful travel.

At Hammock Expeditions, Christina is known for her unwavering dedication to clients. She consistently goes above and beyond to ensure every traveler is fully supported and every detail is handled with care. Her ability to anticipate needs and deliver exceptional service makes her a vital part of the team's success.



Christina is a proud mother to an 18-year-old daughter and a 7-year-old stepdaughter. She enjoys spending time outdoors—especially camping, diving, and relaxing at the beach. Her passion for educational travel and her commitment to excellence make her a trusted leader and advocate for the transformative power of global exploration.

Associations

We are proud members of SYTA, the Student & Youth Travel Association. SYTA is the premier association of businesses dedicated to providing life-enhancing travel experiences to students and young people. SYTA instills confidence in travelers by establishing quality and safety standards for travel providers, and empower their members through advocacy, education, training, and networking opportunities. [Social Impact of Travel on Students](#)



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Responsible Tourism

We offer the following policy relating to Responsible Tourism:

Hammock Expeditions offers a wide range of incredible destinations and we take great pride in ensuring extra steps are put in place to create better environments for people to live, work, and explore. We understand the needs of the cultures we feature and work with them to maintain their unique biodiversity. While visiting our destinations, our team always considers how we can minimize the impact on the environment to ensure that destinations remain viable for many years to come.

In our operations, we regularly review how we can influence change and minimize the impact of our activities on the climate. We also ask that you consider ways that your group can reduce the impact of your travels. Many websites feature innovative carbon calculators and offset options, best principles for eco-friendly tourism and more. We invite you to research these to see how you may best contribute.

Responsible travel is also about bringing you closer to cultures and environments by involving local communities in tourism. It's about doing this in a fair way that helps ensure that they will give you an even warmer welcome. As an example, a local guide will open your eyes to their culture, all while earning a much-needed income from your visit. The responsible traveler understands the relationship with the environment, and that income from tourism can be a powerful incentive for conservation. The responsible traveler values diversity – diversity of people, cultures and environments. We believe that we can grow as individuals through these experiences, and that any trip can make a positive contribution towards conserving global diversity.

Green tourism and responsible travel are key concerns for us. Hammock Expeditions believes in supporting responsible tourism, improving health and safety and promoting sustainable practices among all travelers.

CONTACTING US

If you have any questions, we welcome your contact. Please contact us at:

Hammock Expeditions LLC

P: 984.223.9866

E: info@hammockexpeditions.com

Giving Back

We believe in giving back. Currently, we support two charities. These are subject to change but currently include:

SYTA Youth Foundation - Wingman Designation
Waves of Grace Community Church, Mexico



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