



Corporate Overview

2024



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



Company Background

Hammock Expeditions was established in July of 2020. After working in international tourism management with an internationally-based tourism company for 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, and our clients include middle and high schools, colleges and universities, associations and families. Our main focus is STEM-based (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), humanities (history, language & culture), arts, sports and adventure.

Our brands include:

- **STEM Study Tours:** STEM Educational Tours for middle schools, high schools, colleges and universities, homeschool associations and families.
- **Hammock Expeditions:** History, language & culture tours for schools, universities and adult groups.
- **The Arts Academy of Dance & Drama:** Serving arts groups in global destinations with workshop-based as well as performance-based tours.
- **Sport, Ski & Scuba:** Serving sports groups in global destinations for training, competition and tournament sports and recreation.

Key Personnel

Michele Hammock – Founder & President

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 has 2 grown children, 2 grandchildren, a husky and 2 cats.

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



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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.

Izzy Franckewitz – Vice President

Izzy grew up in the hospitality and tourism industries and started serving as a teenager as a hotel and spa desk lead. 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 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 of Phi Theta Kappa, 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.



Christina Tolar – Corporate Director Of Operations

Christina adeptly manages her dual passions for travel and her role as the Director of Operations at Hammock Expeditions. Her commitment to inspiring students while navigating global settings showcases her dedication. As a nurturing mother to both a 17-year-old daughter and a 6-year-old stepdaughter, she instills a sense of adventure in her children, relishing moments of tranquility in activities like camping, diving, and beach outings. Her remarkable ability lies in advocating for the transformative potential of educational travel, motivating others through her inquisitive, resilient, and compassionate demeanor. Eager to engage and share the marvels of life, Christina remains a steadfast beacon of exploration and inspiration.

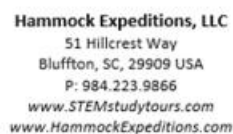
Associations

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. We instill confidence in our travelers by establishing quality and safety standards for travel providers, and we empower our members through advocacy, education, training, and networking opportunities. [Social Impact of Travel on Students](#)

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.

Lastly, Hammock Expeditions partners with Fund-a-Forest. All students that travel with us have a tree planted in their name to support conservation and sustainability. Starting as a carbon offsetting platform, Fund-a-Forest now takes the concept to the next level with their rainforest initiative - funding the planting of a new sapling, goes toward the maintenance of existing reserves, and provides work for locals in preserving an endangered ecosystem.

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.

Privacy Policy

This Privacy Policy governs the manner in which Hammock Expeditions, LLC, collects, uses, maintains and discloses information collected from users of the website, marketing materials, and/or travel services. This privacy policy applies to the site and all products and services offered by Hammock Expeditions, LLC.

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

We may collect personal identification information from Users in a variety of ways, including, but not limited to, when Users visit our site, subscribe to the newsletter, request marketing materials, fill out a form, and in connection with other activities, services, features or resources we make available.

- Information we receive from clients and our travel partners is retained solely for the purpose of conducting daily business with our clients, suppliers and agents.
- Travelers will be asked for, as appropriate, name, contact details such as mailing address, phone, email, date of birth, passport details, medical concerns, dietary concerns and more.
- Any information we receive regarding travelers is shared only with suppliers so that they may use this information to book, confirm and provide the services as requested.
- Information is shared with our suppliers with the understanding that they will not disclose this information in any way except as needed to provide services meeting the clients' expectations.
- Upon request, we will password-protect any documents that contain personal information such as passport numbers, date of birth, personal address and these will be processed securely.



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COOKIES

Our website may use “cookies” to enhance the user experience. User’s web browser places cookies on their hard drive for record-keeping purposes and sometimes to track information about them. User may choose to set their web browser to refuse cookies, or to alert you when cookies are being sent. If they do so, note that some parts of the site may not function properly.

HOW WE USE COLLECTED INFORMATION

Hammock Expeditions may collect and use User's personal information for the following purposes:

- To improve customer service. Information you provide helps us respond to your customer service requests and support needs more efficiently.
- To improve our Site. We may use feedback you provide to improve our products and services.
- To process payments. We may use the information Users provide about themselves when booking a tour to provide service to that order. We do not share this information with outside parties except to the extent necessary to provide the service.
- To send periodic emails. We may use the email address to send User information and updates pertaining to their order. It may also be used to respond to their inquiries, questions, and/or other requests. If User decides to opt-in to our mailing list, they will receive emails that may include company news, updates, related product or service information, etc. If at any time the User would like to unsubscribe from receiving future emails, they may do so by contacting us via our Site.

HOW WE PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION

- We adopt appropriate data collection, storage and processing practices and security measures to protect against unauthorized access, alteration, disclosure or destruction of your personal information, username, password, transaction information and data stored on our Site.
- Sensitive and private data exchange between the Site and its Users happens over an SSL secured communication channel and is encrypted and protected with digital signatures.

SHARING YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

- We do not sell, trade, or rent Users personal identification information to others. We may share generic aggregated demographic information not linked to any personal identification information regarding visitors and users with our business partners, trusted affiliates and advertisers for the purposes outlined above.
- As you browse the Site and other websites, online ad networks we work with may place anonymous cookies on your computer, and use similar technologies, in order to understand your interests based on your anonymous online activities, and thus to tailor more relevant ads to you. If you do not wish to receive such tailored advertising, you can visit [this page](#) to opt out of most companies that engage in such advertising. (This will not prevent you from seeing ads; the ads simply will not be delivered through these targeting methods.)

CHANGES TO THIS PRIVACY POLICY

Hammock Expeditions has the discretion to update this privacy policy at any time. When we do, we will revise the updated date at the bottom of this page. We encourage Users to frequently check this page for any changes to stay informed about how we are helping to protect the personal information we collect. You acknowledge and agree that it is your responsibility to review this privacy policy periodically and become aware of modifications.



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YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THESE TERMS

By using our sites, you signify your acceptance of this policy. If you do not agree to this policy, please do not use our Site. Your continued use of the Site following the posting of changes to this policy will be deemed your acceptance of those changes.

CONTACTING US

If you have any questions about this Privacy Policy, the practices of this site, or your dealings with this site, please contact us at:

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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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