

**My Raleigh experience , Libby Gordon**  
**Project manager, Costa Rica & Nicaragua expedition, September to December 2008**

Could I describe my Raleigh experience in a word? No... well yes Indescribable. Could I describe it in three words? Maybe... 'Awesome shared adventure' or 'Life affirming experience'

Trying to describe my Raleigh expedition is a challenge as so much happened over the 10weeks. I would like to share a few highlights that summarise my Raleigh experience.

Phase 1: Environmental Project; living and working in a national park building a wheelchair path. It was hot and tiring but watching the team come together over this time, laughing, sleeping and eating in the jungle was my highlight! Mud and sweat brought us all closer and I felt we all became stronger individuals as we grew as a team.

Phase 2: Community Project; living in and providing clean drinking water to a remote community. Here my highlight was sitting in the small candle lit kitchen of a mud house when



our host mother left to fill a bucket of water. Her husband was able to shine a light just outside the house to where we had installed a tap. A minute later she returned with fresh water that we had been instrumental in providing.

Phase 3: Environmental Project; living in a national park including spending a few days at a turtle sanctuary where we helped release baby turtles. Seeing these tiny animals fight to get to the sea and swim was extraordinary. Sharing this experience with others who you knew were gaining a new appreciation for conservation made this even more special.

My final highlight was waving, through some tears, goodbye to the ventures. The people who had arrived 10weeks previous were leaving more confident and worldly, had more direction, had experienced highs and lows and had done it all as part of a team.

So could I describe Raleigh in a sentence?

**My Raleigh has been about laughter and tears, rations and chocolate, jungle and rainforest, rivers and beach, sunsets and sunrises, boots, mud, games, challenges personal and physical, smiles, listening, hugs, friends and unforgettable experience!**

**Raleigh**