



Jason Bolton, from the UK joined the India Spring 2008 expedition as a Medic.

I joined Raleigh after a change in speciality precipitated a 6 month gap in my career. I was unhappy in my previous job and needed a change in my life.

As team medic I was responsible for the day to day health and welfare of venturers and staff, providing advice and treatment of common conditions and the provision of emergency/casevac treatment of potential serious problems.

The medical skills required are easily adapted from NHS work environment to expedition environment. But the soft skills were a challenge. I've had never really done these before and had to learn a lot from other PMs. I trivialised a lot of this stuff, now I realise how important it really is.

I have enjoyed whole experience and learnt a lot about being a project manager and how to manage a group of young people. My highlight was the whole experience and the realisation of the power of Raleigh. My biggest challenge has been the soft skills and adapting to the Raleigh environment. I now have a greater appreciation of management skills especially with young people. It has filled gaps and weaknesses that I didn't even know I had. Overall, Raleigh has been the most positive experience I have ever had – fantastic!

Would I recommend joining Raleigh as a volunteer manager? Yes, yes, yes. Takes you to a place where nothing else can take you. It's a wonderful opportunity to see and be part of development of young people and oneself. The travel, excitement, challenges and experience are unavailable to buy for any amount.

I can see the bigger picture with Raleigh. I couldn't recommend it highly enough. I hope my children (if I ever have any) will rise to the challenge.