

PACIFIC

Raleigh International:

Three months on board of the brig Zebu sailing with the whole world in the pacific ocean

When I was 18 I was in love with the sea. I always felt free when I thought of its boundless space. There was a mysterious peace in its continual, tireless motion... I was very keen on sailing and



... "Ten downs and ten sunsets before finally calling at Guam, in the Mariana Islands, on 20 January 1987, the last stage in a long dialogue with the sea, shared with a group offering multiple cultures, features, traditions and, above all, different viewpoints, albeit all turned towards the same horizon... On this route you can find the smiling canoe of the child from the Solomon islands, the boat of the old diver of Truk, the ships of the soldiers from Guam and finally our square-sailed vessel driven by the winds of seven countries, but guided by the wave of a single sea..." (Nautica - May 1987)



going underwater with breathing apparatus. When I passed Raleigh International's screening they gave me a list of itineraries to choose from. I decided on the Pacific Ocean. Twenty-two of us left from Australia on board an old, 25-metre sailing ship, the brig Zebu, to explore the Melanesia, Caroline and Mariana Islands. I had never been in a sailing ship before but



I was sure that the sea would not disappoint me. Men and women, in shifts, were to sail this majestic vessel with its 15 sails and 105 ropes. The sailing course started immediately, the same day we arrived in the port of Cairns from all over the world. In the beginning we concentrated on the physical endurance tests we had to undergo; our silent and heroic fatigue separated us and united us. Then, as we worked together, we gradually adapted to the new conditions and our tensions dissolved in a marvellous rapport. Liberating, uniting and genuine. Every evening under the stars - how close they seemed - we recounted the stories of our lives as we sailed along, rocked by the sea. We discovered, accepted, and respected each other for what we were. No longer heroes or heroines. Ordinary people on this earth. On this sea. It was strange, but from then on, the colours of the sky and water, the sea-gulls, the dolphins, the wind, every



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inhabitant of the islands and Venus at dawn, began truly to exist. Clear and limpid. No longer covered by the complicated and tortuous shadows of our mind...

RALEIGH INTERNATIONAL

Founded in London in 1984 under the patronage of Prince Charles to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the British landing in America, Raleigh International was meant to last four years. But the excellent results prompted its founders, the explorer John Blashford Snell and an international team of scientists, to extend it for a lifetime.

What does it involve?

Following in the steps of the explorer Walter Raleigh, young people from all over the world, between 17 and 25 years of age, take part in three-month expeditions to the furthest corners of our planet. These voyages, under the banner of environmental protection and community aid to needy populations, help young people to evolve in many ways. They gain greater self-confidence, discovering skills they never knew they possessed, and understand and accept their limits. They learn to work with people from every country, every culture and every social class... They thus begin to realise that they are part of the universe and no longer the most important person in the small world from which they come. The adventure offered to young people by the founders of Raleigh International constitutes a preparation for the much longer and more difficult adventure of life. Enthusiasm, curiosity, courage, willingness to adapt and a good pinch of humility are indispensable for beginning. All the rest then follows naturally.

No particular qualification is needed to participate in Raleigh International. The initiative is open to all if you are aged between 17 and 25 years and speak English. You must also pass the physical and psychological aptitude tests of Raleigh International's Italian Committee and, finally, find a sponsor willing to pay £2,200 and the air ticket to reach the destination chosen by the participant.

More detailed information on how to participate in Raleigh International will be provided during the talk.

DEBATE

"That's the way I am.."

What peace, what immense freedom, in feeling that we have the right to be simply ourselves!

We conceal our real selves for fear of being judged, we always want to appear perfect. We keep searching, often all our life, for how we should be....

But then, if we truly love life and are tired of telling lies, we are born a second time...

Exploring the dusty corner of our minds, we smile at ourselves and there stowed away right at the bottom, we recognise our old masks, gently swinging in the emptiness....

Dear children,

What can we do to know ourselves?

What fears do we have to overcome to manage to accept and love ourselves?

Isn't perhaps feeling comfortable with yourself the first step towards being able to feel comfortable with others?

What influence does an individual's inner development have on the society in which he or she lives?