

Outdoor Learning in Nature (Bulgaria)

Draft Programme

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY and LOCATION
Sunday 25th March 2018		Arrival of course participants to Sofia. Accommodation in Sofia.
Monday 26th March 2018	09:30 11:30 14:30 17:00	Departure from Sofia to venue, Deshka outdoor educational centre. Arrival of participants at the venue Welcome lunch and briefing Real World Learning Our course will start by exploring the natural environment around our accommodation, sharing expectations and building a community of practice. We will do this through sensory outdoor activities.
Tuesday 27th March 2018	09:00 12:30 14:30 17:00 19:30	Outdoor Learning Approaches We will explore two popular outdoor learning approaches and schemes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Education is a carefully crafted series of activities which help people live more harmoniously with the natural world by understanding how ecosystems work, developing love and respect for the earth, and reducing their own impact on the earth. We will explore Earth Education through taking part in a short programme of activities followed by a discussion of Earth Education practice. • We shall explore the John Muir environmental award scheme which encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration. Real World Learning (continued) A practical session exploring how outdoor learning can be used to develop behavioural change. This will be based on the Real World Learning Model which will be introduced during the session. Introduction to Bulgarian Traditions and Culture

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY and LOCATION
Wednesday 28th March 2018	09:00 13:00	Trip to Vlahi Outdoor Educational Centre We will visit Vlahi to explore how they are using their environment to offer outdoor learning. We will have an introduction to the Centre and practical examples of outdoor learning activities provided by the Centre.
	14:00	Lunch and Return trip
	16:00 17:30	Sharing our Work Please bring five images and/or objects which describe your work and how you use (or would like to use) the outdoors for learning.
	19:30	Bulgarian Traditions and Culture (continued)
Thursday 29th March 2018	09:00 12:30	Field Work Approaches to Learning Outside the Classroom A practical session exploring how the local environment can be used for learning, focusing on mountains and woodlands.
	14:00 17:00	Models and Best Practice for Outdoor Learning We will explore current thinking and models for effective outdoor learning, and reflect on which we can use to improve our own deliver of outdoor learning.
	19:30	Bulgarian folk evening
Friday 30th March 2018	09:00 13:00	What can nature teach us? Learning in nature has lots of benefits including improved student behaviour and learning, but what can nature teach us? We will investigate how nature is inspiring business to become more sustainable with concepts such as 2iomimicry, Cradle-to-Cradle and the Blue Economy.
	14:00	Departure for Sofia. Visiting Rila Monastery on the way back. Subject to confirmation. Alternative activity possible.
Saturday 31st March 2018		Departure from Sofia.