



OF MOUNTAINS AND MARMOTS: CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE FRENCH ALPS

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Expedition Briefing 2012

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



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Timeline and Checklist

In preparing for your upcoming Earthwatch expedition, please ensure that you:

Immediately

- ☐ Read this Expedition Briefing and all enclosed materials thoroughly.
- ☐ Book an appointment with a doctor; you will need him or her to sign the Health section of your Earthwatch Participation Form.
- ☐ Make sure you understand and agree to Earthwatch policies and participant responsibilities.

At least 90 days prior to your expedition start date

Complete and return your volunteer forms. **Below are the specific forms required for this expedition:**

- ☐ Earthwatch Participation Form for Adults
- ☐ Travel Form

European volunteers can download forms on: earthwatch.org/europe/volunteerforms

US/North American volunteers can download forms at: earthwatch.org/volunteerforms

Australian volunteers can download forms on: earthwatch.org/australia/expeditions/volunteer_forms/

Japanese volunteers can download forms on: earthwatch.jp/getinvolved/condition/formdownload-i.html

- ☐ Pay any outstanding balance on the minimum contribution for your expedition.
- ☐ Book travel arrangements (see the *Rendezvous* section for details).
- ☐ If you plan to purchase additional travel insurance, note that some policies require purchase when your expedition is booked (see the *Insurance* section for more information).
- ☐ If traveling internationally, make sure your passport is current and obtain a visa for your destination country, if necessary (see the *Passports and Visas* section for more details).
- ☐ Make sure you have all the necessary vaccinations for your project site (see the *Health Information* section).
- ☐ Purchase a guide book for your destination country.
- ☐ Bring your level of fitness up to the standards required (see the *Project Conditions* section).

At least 60 days prior to your expedition start date

- ☐ Review the packing list to make sure you have all the clothing and any special equipment needed.
- ☐ Obtain any necessary prescription medications that will be needed for your travels.
- ☐ **Residents of the EU and UK:** Apply for a European Health Insurance Card (see the *Insurance* section).

Up to 30 days before you leave for the expedition

- ☐ Read any required reading or websites recommended by the Earthwatch scientist(s) for your expedition.
- ☐ Make sure you have enough personal funds for your expedition (see the *Travel Planning* section).
- ☐ Leave the Earthwatch emergency contact number with a friend or relative (see the *Emergency Contacts* section).
- ☐ Leave a copy of your passport, visas and airline tickets with a friend or relative.
- ☐ Confirm your travel arrangements.

Note: If you have signed up for an expedition within 90 days of the start date, you must return your fully completed volunteer forms as soon as possible.

Of Mountains and Marmots: Climate Change in the French Alps

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A marmot in the mountains.

General Information

Project title	Of Mountains and Marmots: Climate Change in the French Alps		
Earthwatch scientists	Dr. Aurélie Cohas , Assistant Professor, Laboratory of Biometry and Evolutionary Biology at Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 Prof. Dominique Allainé , Professor, Laboratory of Biometry and Evolutionary Biology, University of Claude Bernard Lyon 1 Dr. Christophe Bonenfant , CNRS Researcher, Laboratory of Biometry and Evolutionary Biology, University of Claude Bernard Lyon 1		
Research site	La Grande Sassièrre Nature Reserve		
Rendezvous Location & Time	Arrival: Bourg St Maurice Rail Station, France, 6:00 p.m. on Day 1 Departure from accommodations: 9:30 a.m. on Day 8 or 15		
Expedition Dates	Team 1: May 19 – June 2, 2012 1a: May 19 – May 26, 2012 1b: May 26 – June 2, 2012 Team 2: June 2 – June 16, 2012 2a: June 2 – June 9, 2012 2b: June 9 – June 16, 2012	Team 3: June 16 – June 30, 2012 3a: June 16 – June 23, 2012 3b: June 23 – June 30, 2012 Team 4: June 30 – July 14, 2012 4a: June 30 – July 7, 2012 4b: July 7 – July 14, 2012	
Expedition length:	8 or 15 days	Minimum age of participation: 18 years of age*	
Team size max:	8 participants		
*Note: It may be possible for 16- and 17-year-olds to participate on standard teams if accompanied by a parent or guardian. Contact Earthwatch for more information and see <i>Volunteers Under 18 Years of Age</i> in the <i>Passports and Visas</i> section for traveling advice for minors.			

Emergency Contacts

<p>Emergency contact number at Earthwatch in the UK:</p> <p>+44 (0) 7900-895-752</p> <p>A duty officer is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist you. If you reach voicemail, state that you have an emergency communication and leave a clear message with the name of the field program, your name, the location from which you are calling, and, if possible, a phone number where you can be reached. An Earthwatch staff person will respond to your call within one hour.</p> <p>You may also call Earthwatch in the US:</p> <p>+1 (978) 461-0081</p> <p>After business hours, leave your message with our live answering service who will contact an Earthwatch staff person who will respond to your call.</p>	<p>Emergency medical and evacuation assistance provider:</p> <p>To contact International SOS in the event of an emergency, dial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For assistance within the US: ISOS Philadelphia, +1 (215) 942-8459 For assistance outside the US: ISOS London, +44 (0) 208-762-8008 For assistance within Australia: ISOS Australasia, +61 (0) 2-9372-2468 <p>State that you are on an Earthwatch expedition. The following information must be provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Insured Person's name The Assured is EARTHWATCH, the Certificate No: GP 0010214 and SOS reference #14ACPA000075 The telephone number and facsimile number where the Insured Person can be reached The Insured Person's address abroad The nature of the emergency
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EXPEDITION UPDATE:
*Of Mountains and Marmots:
Climate Change in the French Alps
Teams 3, 3a, and 3b*

May 10, 2012

Dear Earthwatch Volunteer,

We hope you are excited about your upcoming expedition! It has come to our attention that there have been some changes to the French railway timetables since your project briefing was printed. These changes will affect those of you booked on Teams 3, 3a, and 3b in different ways. Please note the updated information below:

Departure for Team 3 and Team 3b – Saturday, June 30, 2012

The first train to leave Bourg St Maurice on June 30th departs at **15.10 (3:10 p.m.)**, NOT 10.55 as previously noted. The project staff is aware of this change, and will adjust the departure time from the accommodations accordingly.

Arrival for Team 3b, Departure for Team 3a – Saturday, June 23, 2012

There are no trains traveling between Chambéry and Bourg St Maurice on Saturday, June 23. Volunteers will therefore need to rendezvous and depart from Chambéry. You will be transported to or from Chambéry in a project vehicle. Due to the need to travel further than anticipated, we request that you cover fuel and road toll fees. This should cost about 10€ per person, and can be paid directly to the Earthwatch scientist.

Departure for Team 3a: 09.00 from the accommodations, to arrive at **Chambéry** in time to catch the **14.02 (2:02 p.m.)** train to Lyon.

Arrival for Team 3b: 15.00 (3:00 p.m.) at Chambéry, arriving on the 13.40 (1:40 p.m.) train from Lyon. Then transport to accommodations, arriving at about 18.00 (6 p.m.).

Please clearly note on your Travel Forms your arrival and departure information and planned transport method so that project staff can plan accordingly.

Thank you,
Earthwatch Staff

If you have questions as you prepare for your expedition, contact the appropriate Earthwatch office:

Australia Office

T: +61 (0) 3-9682-6828

earth@earthwatch.org

Japan Office

T: +81 (0) 3-3511-3360

info@earthwatch.jp

UK Office

T: +44 (0) 1865-318-831

info@earthwatch.org.uk

US Office

T: +1 800-776-0188

info@earthwatch.org



EXPEDITION UPDATE:
*Of Mountains and Marmots:
Climate Change in the French Alps
All Teams*

May 10, 2012

Dear Earthwatch Volunteer,

Please note that the telephone number listed in the project briefing for Field Team Leader Sophie Lardy is incorrect. The correct contact number is +33 (0) 6 43 00 54 67.

Thank you,
Earthwatch Staff

If you have questions as you prepare for your expedition, contact the appropriate Earthwatch office:

Australia Office

T: +61 (0) 3-9682-6828
earth@earthwatch.org

Japan Office

T: +81 (0) 3-3511-3360
info@earthwatch.jp

UK Office

T: +44 (0) 1865-318-831
info@earthwatch.org.uk

US Office

T: +1 800-776-0188
info@earthwatch.org



Dear Earthwatcher,

Welcome to Earthwatch! We greatly appreciate your decision to contribute to hands-on environmental science and conservation. As an Earthwatch volunteer, you have the opportunity to create positive change. Each year we connect thousands of people just like you with research projects—approximately 65 projects in more than 35 countries—where they can participate in the fieldwork necessary to understand and help an array of species, habitats and cultures. These projects focus on: **climate change, cultural heritage, ecosystem services and oceans.**

We are committed to caring for the safety of all those involved in our activities anywhere in the world. Although risk is an inherent part of the environments in which we work, through careful risk management and diligent planning we believe that all participants can have educational and inspirational Earthwatch experiences. We've been providing volunteer field experiences **for 40 years**, so you're in good hands.

It is essential that you carefully read your Expedition Briefing and fully complete the volunteer forms so that you are prepared. Your Expedition Briefing includes important information such as instructions for reaching the rendezvous point, what risks are present on the research project and how to avoid them, what to pack, what immunizations you need, how to physically prepare for your expedition, and more. It also explains the research being conducted on the project, why it's important, and what role you'll play as an Earthwatch volunteer.

Well-prepared volunteers are better able to enjoy the unique and exciting experiences that an Earthwatch expedition offers and will be more helpful to the scientists' important work. Open-mindedness, the ability to work on a team, and a desire to learn are all keys to a successful and enjoyable Earthwatch experience. We hope this expedition will inspire you to get more involved in conservation and sustainable development priorities—not just out in the field but also when you return home. We encourage you to share your experiences with others, and to transfer your skills and enthusiasm to environmental conservation efforts in your workplace, community and home.

If you have questions as you prepare for your expedition, contact your Earthwatch office. Thank you for your support, and enjoy your expedition!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Wilson", written over a horizontal line.

Ed Wilson
President and CEO

Dear Earthwatch volunteers,

Welcome to the marmot expedition!

Assessing the impact of climate change on alpine marmots is very important, because climate-change-related threats to animal survival are very acute in high-latitude and high-elevation ecosystems. And many warning signs have been documented over the last ten years for both arctic and alpine species, including caribou, polar bear and ptarmigan. These areas, and these species, are the witnesses of climate change, and can provide clues to the consequences of climate change for our environment and its biodiversity.

We have now been working on the marmot population in the breathtaking La Grande Sassi re Nature Reserve for more than twenty years. As a result, we have identified almost all the marmots in the family groups which we have monitored, and recorded all the events of their life—such as when they were born, when they first reproduced, how many pups they produced, and when they died. In addition, we use climate data and carefully monitor their burrows to understand the environmental conditions the marmots have to face. These valuable data offer a unique opportunity to investigate the ecological and evolutionary consequences of climate change on a social mammal, to gain insight into the future impacts of climate change on alpine species, and to help design measures to protect them.

You will join members of an enthusiastic and passionate group of researchers drawn from several countries who are already taking advantage of the unusual opportunities provided by these animals. In addition to our scientific work on marmots, we are also monitoring alpine plant and animal populations throughout the reserve, and we would like to develop our interactions with both the local community and the visiting tourists.

This Expedition Briefing should provide you with all the information you need to prepare for your expedition, but feel free to contact Earthwatch with any questions.

Upon arrival in Bourg Saint Maurice, you will be met by the field team leader for the marmot project. The field team leader and all of the scientists are looking forward to meeting you and to making you part of this unique and exciting experience.

We are all most grateful to you for your help, and I hope that you will find your time with the project interesting, rewarding, and fun.

Yours sincerely,

Aur lie Cohas

Earthwatch scientist



Earthwatch scientists Aurélie Cohas and Christophe Bonenfant.

The Research

Of Mountains and Marmots: Climate Change in the French Alps

Overview

Natural systems' responses to global climate changes are of major concern for human societies (IPCC 2007). In any socio-economically realistic scenario, global warming will continue, maybe at an accelerated rate, until the end of 21st century, and will cause significant changes to all regional climates (IPCC 2007). Biological sciences face the major challenge of predicting how natural systems will react to modifications of their environment (Sutherland 2006). This research project aims to investigate the population dynamics (which include survival, breeding success, and population growth) of animals living in alpine areas—regions that are likely to change a great deal because of climate change—using the alpine marmots of the French Alps (*Marmota marmota*) as a model species. As it is nowadays well known that climate has an important impact on the breeding success and the survival of wild animals, and thus could have strong consequences on the persistence or the extinction of a species, there is a crucial need to understand how populations will evolve under continuing climate change and to find the mechanisms involved.

Alpine marmots (*Marmota marmota*) are an emblematic species of the French Alps, easy to observe and to capture. Although not a threatened species in France, we can use the alpine marmot as a model for the conservation of the endangered Vancouver Island marmot in Canada or the Menzbier's marmot in central Asia. Moreover, the alpine marmot is a keystone species that play a crucial role in the maintenance of alpine plant diversity, and is the principal source of food for alpine predators such as golden eagles, red foxes and the rare lammergeyer, or bearded vultures, that are now recolonizing parts of the Alps.

The project, based on a long-term study of a protected population of the alpine marmot, a social mammal, aims to fill gaps in what we know about population dynamics and how climate affects them. Population dynamics result from the interplay of external factors, such as environmental characteristics, and internal factors, such as individual characteristics (sex, age etc.) that affect the reproductive success and survival of individuals (Caswell 2001). Few detailed studies of population dynamics in vertebrates have explicitly addressed the importance of social units as determinants of population functioning. Because the group structure mediates between the individual level and the population level, it may have profound consequences for the functioning of the population. In other words, individual strategies may affect the dynamic of social groups that, in turn, affect the dynamic of the whole population (Creel & Creel 2001). We still know very little about the composition and the dynamic of groups, and the extent to which this social world shapes the behavior of breeders and the demography of populations. Moreover, in the context of global climate change, it is important to identify whether sociality lessens or amplifies the effect of climate on population dynamics, which has not yet been investigated.

First, we will investigate the impact of climate on the demography (breeding success and survival) of social mammals, and, second, we will study the relationship between social behaviors and population dynamics in the context of climate change. The three goals of the project are (1) to assess the effects of local and global climate on breeding success, emigration, survival and ultimately on population growth; (2) to determine the effects of group structure (group size, age and sex of the individuals within a group) on individual performance and population dynamics; (3) to investigate whether directional trends of climate over the last twenty years have had measurable effects on animal populations in the Alps at three different scales—individual, social unit, population—and to predict future trends.

Research Area

The project is based in La Grande Sassi re Nature Reserve at an altitude of 2,300m (45 29'N, 6 59'E), in the French Alps between the villages of Tignes and Val d'Is re. Climate in this typical alpine region is highly variable, even in summer. The reserve consists of alpine meadows covering gentle slopes along a small river, and is home to many species of plants, mammals (e.g. chamois, ibex, voles, red fox, stoat, hares) and birds (e.g. bearded vulture, golden eagle, common rock thrush, black grouse, ring house). A stunning alpine landscape surrounds the reserve, combining steep mountains with high-altitude lakes and mountain pastures. In the valleys are small villages that depend mainly on tourism for income. The area is rich in sporting activities. Within a thirty-minute drive of the accommodations, you can visit the mountain ski resorts of Tignes or Val D'Is re where there is a spa and swimming pool. You can hike through the mountains or join guided nature walks with national park rangers or local guides. You may also have the opportunity to visit typical mountain villages such as Le Monal, or visit the farm of l'Adroit and learn how French cheese is made. (Note that some activities may be unavailable on certain dates and will only be available to volunteers undertaking the full two-week expedition.)

Research Achievements and Opportunities

Data have been collected on this alpine marmot population since 1990. Our research involves continuous monitoring of both individuals and family groups. For all individuals of the twenty-four family groups followed (so far, 1300 marmots), we record body condition, breeding success, emigration status, social status, and survival. We also collect various biological samples from individuals. In addition, we carefully monitor family composition (age, sex, number of individuals and behavioral interactions between them). Combined with daily records of temperature, rain, snow cover, and seasonal vegetation cover and diversity assessment, these data will allow us to detail, for the first time, the population dynamics of alpine marmots in relation to climate and group composition.

Already, we have (1) described the habitat preferences and social structure of the species (Perrin 1993); (2) with molecular tools, identified the mating system and the genetic structure of the population (Cohas et al. 2006, 2007, 2008); and (3) analyzed the sex ratio in litters and discovered that, at weaning, the ratio is biased towards males, which is intriguing (Allain  2004, Allain  et al. 2000). To investigate the costs and benefits of sociality, we have (4) analyzed the effect of group composition on reproductive success (Allain  & Theureau 2004, King & Allain  2002). And by the end of the nineties, we were able to start demographic analyses, and therefore (5) estimate the annual survival rates for the different sex and age classes (Farrand et al. 2002, Cohas et al. 2009).

The project now needs to estimate the costs and benefits of cooperative behavior, and to consider the interaction between population dynamics and sociality in response to environmental variations. Those complex relationships will considerably improve our understanding of population dynamics of social mammals. So far, we have found clues that point to a critical role of hibernation, in which trade-offs between social and individual thermoregulation may be involved. Dominant alpine marmot males appear to be more active in social thermoregulation, waking up more frequently than others to warm the burrow during winter (Arnold 1988), and may pay the price of expending more energy than others in terms of, for example, body mass.

Understanding the potential benefits and costs of sociality in terms of population dynamics and in relation to climate change is not of academic interest alone. By exploring the factors affecting reproductive success and survival, this project's future work should help to reveal the factors influencing group structure, which will ultimately help build effective management tools for the management and conservation of alpine marmots as the climate continues to change.

We also provide training at multiple levels, including field training to graduates from different countries as well as to doctoral students.

PROJECT STAFF

Earthwatch scientists

Dr. Aurélie Cohas is an assistant professor at the Laboratory of Biometry and Evolutionary Biology at Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 in France where she earned her Ph.D. in evolutionary ecology. Aurélie's key research interests are the behavioral ecology of social mammals, with a primary goal of understanding how animal behavior can influence animal performances, such as survival and reproductive success.

Dominique Allainé is a professor at the Laboratory of Biometry and Evolutionary Biology at Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1. He initiated the marmot project in La Sassièrre Nature Reserve almost twenty years ago. Today he has less time to get out into the field because his university duties keep him desk-bound, but he hopes to visit the project during the fielding season.

Dr. Christophe Bonenfant, a CNRS researcher at the Laboratory of Biometry and Evolutionary Biology at Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, primarily researches roe deer, but he also assists Aurélie with her work on the marmots. Much of his summer will be spent doing fieldwork elsewhere; however, he hopes to be able to join the teams for a short period.

Earthwatch field staff

Marionna Ferrandiz-Rovira completed her bachelor's degree in biology and master's degree in terrestrial ecology at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in Catalonia, Spain. She is a behavioral ecologist, and is currently at work on her Ph.D. at the Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1. There, she has carried out research on sperm competition in mammals and studied the role of mate choice in maintaining and promoting genetic diversity in a natural population of Alpine marmots. Since 2007, Mariona has monitored two populations of Alpine marmot, one in the Pyrenees (Catalonia) with a research team of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; the other is the alpine population monitored in this Earthwatch project. She has worked in environmental education, and has a good knowledge of nature in the field. She has also worked as technician in paleontological excavations and



Making observations in the field.

continues her collaboration with paleontologists in her spare time. Mariona enjoys traveling, hiking, and playing football—she is an aficionado of the Barça football team. She speaks Catalan, Spanish, French, and English.

Marion Tafani holds a master's degree in agricultural sciences, and specializes in ecology, biodiversity, and evolution. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at the Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, evaluating the potential role of local and global climatic factors in a vertebrate community with contrasting bio-demographic strategies. She works with various alpine

species, including ibex and marmots, and has participated in monitoring the La Sassi re alpine marmot population since 2009. She likes nature, hiking, and traveling and is excited to share those activities with new people. She is especially interested in linking science and local knowledge, and has previously worked on farmland bird ecology, and community-based projects on sustainable development and forestry. For her, Earthwatch provides an opportunity to connect people and science, while meeting and sharing experiences with new, interesting people.

Sophie Lardy, this project's field team leader, is a zoology graduate from the Universit  Pierre and Marie Curie in Paris, France, where she studied ecology, evolutionary biology, and animal behavior. She recently finished her Ph.D. degree at the Universit  Claude Bernard Lyon 1, where she studied the evolution of animal societies using the alpine marmot as a model. With behavioral observations and the long-term data collected over the last twenty years, she studied how group structure affects the abilities of individuals to survive and reproduce. For the last three years, Sophie has managed fieldwork at La Sassi re with Aur lie, and has participated in the trapping and handling of marmots. She also conducted behavioral observations in order to analyze social relationship between marmots of a same family group. Sophie will be the Earthwatch team leader during your stay in La Sassi re Nature Reserve. She will be happy to answer your questions about the research, marmots, and other fauna and flora of La Sassi re.

Additional staff and students

There are typically around four graduate students volunteering as project staff members on the marmot project at any given time. The interns' time with the project teaches them a range of logistical skills as well as research design, data handling, and data analysis. They also have the opportunity to carry out a supervised project of their own. Interns usually have a degree or diploma in biology, ecology, or environmental management. Interns work alongside volunteers during data collection and other project activities, and frequently assist with training Earthwatch volunteers on the research tasks.

Other scientists collaborating in the marmot project may also be present. Full teams will have eight scientists for most of the time.

Staffing Schedule (Subject to Change)

Staff Member Present	Team 1		Team 2		Team 3		Team 4	
	1a	1b	1a	1b	1a	1b	1a	1b
Aur�lie Cohas (PI)*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Sophie Lardy (field team leader)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Marionna Ferrandiz-Rovira (PhD student)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Marion Tafani (PhD student)	x	x						

*Please be aware that Aur lie may have to be in Lyon for meetings at unknown dates.

Daily Life in the Field

VOLUNTEER TRAINING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Training

Volunteers will be given a safety talk by the field team leader on the evening of arrival. The next morning, a detailed on-site project briefing will be given to get an overview of the field objectives and tasks. Earthwatch volunteers will then have the first half of the day to get used to the territory of the marmots, their boundaries and the techniques of behavioral observations and the techniques of capture. Volunteers will then get a short briefing every morning on the specific objectives of the day and before starting any task, and will be trained and accompanied by an experienced field assistant for technical tasks, especially animal capture and handling. Volunteers will not be directly handling the marmots but will assist field staff with their data processing and transport of the marmots from the traps to the research tent for analysis. Staff members will also work with volunteers to ensure the quality of the data collected. Since we are experienced at training people who are new to field research, a volunteer should be fully efficient within one or two days. Earthwatch volunteers will then be fully involved in the scientific team, which is highly motivated and hard working, and show strong interest in wildlife. The team is very cooperative and friendly, and everybody participates in every task.

Project staff will provide volunteers with informal lectures on climate change impact on wildlife. We will also provide guidebooks to recognize alpine fauna and flora.

The Earthwatch scientists will give the team a more detailed onsite project briefing when you arrive.

Assignments

Volunteers will participate in the following tasks:

Capture of marmots:

- Collect dandelions for bait
- Set up and check traps
- Collect captured individuals, write down biometric measures, label all collected samples (blood, biopsies, hair, odorants, feces, etc.)

Behavioral observations of family groups:

- Record number, age and sex of individuals to identify the composition of all family groups
- Search for pups, and record pups' emergence date and litter size to characterize reproductive events of each family group
- Record and film antagonistic behaviors, affiliative behaviors, vigilance behaviors, and territorial behaviors, along with the identity of individuals involved, to characterize family member relationships and relationships between members of different family groups.

Monitoring of marmot colony:

- Monitor marmot dispersers and capture them
- Collect feces in latrines
- Monitor burrows position and evolution

Monitoring of alpine community:

- monitor chamois and ibex densities
- monitor endemic plant species abundance and distribution

Working with data:

- Organize, store and index all collected samples
- Enter the collected data in the database
- Record data in the observation field book and each marmot family booklet

Community outreach:

- Communicate our activities to the tourists while in the field and during evening events
- Support our partnership with the schools of the Tarentaise valley
- Help share our marmot research through our website (in development)

Please bear in mind that this is an active research project, and nothing should be done to interfere with the marmots' natural behavior; therefore, speaking to or otherwise attempting to interact with the marmots while in the midst of collecting data should be avoided.

TEAM ITINERARY AND DAILY SCHEDULE

Please be aware that weather and research needs can lead to changes in the daily schedule. Should this situation arise, your cooperation and understanding are appreciated.

This schedule is likely to fluctuate seasonally. For example, as we approach and enter the summer season (namely, July) research will begin earlier (7:30 a.m.) and there will likely be a longer midday break (12:00 to 3:00 p.m.).

Day 1

6 p.m. Rendezvous in Bourg Saint Maurice; drive approximately 45 minutes to the accommodations at Villaret du Nial; safety briefing; dinner.

Day 2

The following is an approximate schedule. This schedule is likely to fluctuate seasonally. For example, as we approach and enter the summer season (namely, July) research will begin earlier (7:30 a.m.) and there will likely be a longer midday break (12:00 to 3:00 p.m.).

Time of Day	Activity
7:00 a.m.	Self-serve breakfast
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Field tour and briefing
12:00 to 2:00 p.m.	Lunch (back at the accommodations)
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Field task training
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Discussion, rest
8:00 p.m.	Dinner
Late evening	Informal talk and/or recreation time

Day 3-7

Time of Day	Activity
7:00 a.m.	Self-serve breakfast
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Daily briefing; field work with marmots (baiting trap, observations, capture, large-scale monitoring)
12 p.m.	Lunch; discussion of morning work; rest (back at the accommodations)
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Further marmot work (mainly catching and analysis), herbivore and plant monitoring
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Data and sample processing
8:00 p.m.	Dinner
Late evening	Informal talk and/or recreation time

Day 8

Volunteers on one-week teams will return to Bourg Saint Maurice by 9:30 a.m. Two-weeks team volunteers will have a recreational day. See below for further details.

Continued Itinerary: Two-Week Teams Only

Days 9-14

Days 9-14 will follow a similar schedule as described above under Days 3-4.

Day 15

Return to Bourg Saint Maurice by 9:30 a.m.

Recreational Time: During the recreational day, several options for hiking, cultural activities, or simply relaxing will be provided at the chalet. We will provide details on each option, including people to contact to participate, such as taxi owners and guides.

The area offers an abundance of activities. If you're eager for outdoor time, you may wish to hike near the chalet or within the La Sassi re Reserve, from which you can take several easy and beautiful hikes leading to glaciers, alpine lakes, or the village of Val d'Is re. You can also choose to visit traditional villages such as Le Monal or Bonneval-sur-Arc and learn about traditional activities like cheese making. You can also stay closer to home at the village of Tignes or visit the Val d'Is re swimming pool and spa.

Some of these activities are free, but others will require additional transport or guide fees, which you will be responsible for. Project staff members are unable to transport you to regional attractions, but can assist with arranging transport on your behalf. Sophie, the field team leader will be happy to offer advice and help with organization. Please be aware that some options may be unavailable due to weather conditions or timing.

If you wish to plan activities that are not among the options we offer, you will have to do so on your own. Project staff will likely not participate in these activities. You should consult a travel guidebook for information on local attractions. See the Helpful Resources section for links to suggested guidebook vendors.

There are a number of extreme sports also offered in the area. We recommend that you do not participate in these during the project. Should you wish to do so, it will be at your own risk, and should be done after the expedition is over.

Earthwatch Recreational Time Policy

Earthwatch will generally accompany participants from the rendezvous to the end of the expedition with the exception of recreation time.

- For days when no research activities are scheduled, referred to as recreational days, Earthwatch scientists will offer either a planned team activity or a range of recreational activities that have been vetted and comply with Earthwatch standards. Participants will also have the option of remaining at camp or project accommodations to rest.
- Participants who are determined to pursue options other than those recommended by the project staff will be required to sign a release before doing so. If there is a period of time during a regular research day when no research activities are scheduled, adult participants may have the opportunity to leave the project site on their own; they will be asked to sign out of the project giving their intended destination. Not appearing for the next scheduled activity will trigger the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) regarding missing people. Earthwatch will assess the general risks of adult participants leaving the project site on their own at night after work hours, but cannot guarantee participant safety or an awareness of all issues.
- In some cases, due to local conditions, it may be advisable to restrict adult participants to the project camp or accommodation after dark. This will be clearly communicated in the on-site safety briefing. However, if the local conditions are such that adult participants can go out at night under their own recognizance, there will be a sign-out process through which participants should state their proposed destination and estimated return time. Participants will be given twenty-four-hour contact information for project staff should assistance be needed. The sign-out is informational only and will not be used to enforce a curfew on adult participants. Adult participants should understand that unless contacted for help, project staff will not start a search for a missing participant unless he or she fails to appear the following morning or for the next scheduled research activity.

Additional Policies

Participants who have driven themselves to the project may not drive their own vehicles to, from, or for project activities, including the transport of project equipment. Participants may choose to use their own vehicles during recreational time, but be advised that all driving during recreational time is done at your own risk. You are actively discouraged from driving other participants during recreational time. Riding in another participant's vehicle is also done at your own risk. Riding in other participants' vehicles is not covered under the participants' insurance policy for the expedition.

ACCOMMODATIONS



You'll stay in a beautiful alpine chalet overlooking the Chevril Lake, nestled within Villaret du Nial, a small hamlet at the foot of mountains leading up to La Sassi re Reserve. The chalet has been lovingly restored by the French and English couple who live next door. You will be sharing the accommodations with all the field staff and, although it is a large space, you will not have much privacy.

Smoking is not allowed within the chalet nor anywhere within the reserve where the research takes place. Volunteers will be able to smoke outside the chalet during lunch breaks and in the evening.

Sleeping

Volunteers will be accommodated on the ground floor in rooms with twin beds, bunk beds or double beds. One room has an en suite bathroom; occupants of the others will share bathrooms. Rooms (but not bathrooms) will be shared based on gender. Couples rooms and single rooms may be available upon request.

The chalet provides bed linens, but not towels. There is no cleaning service, so volunteers must be responsible for keeping their rooms and the common space tidy.

Bathrooms

Conventional showers and toilets are available, as is hot water. For the sake of preserving natural resources, showers will be limited to three minutes per person per day. Shared bathrooms will be used by both genders. There is a washing machine available for use on-site for an additional fee of 5 euros, but no dryer is available, and clothes do not dry quickly when hung on the line. For that reason and for or water resource preservation, we recommended that volunteers do not plan to make use of the washing machine unless absolutely necessary.

Electricity

Electricity is available at all times. French sockets and adapters required. If coming from a country with 110-volt electricity, please note that French electricity is at 220 volts and you will require a converter as well as adaptor to ensure your electrical equipment works properly.

Internet and Communications

Free wireless Internet is available at the accommodations. There will be only one computer available, primarily for project use, and it can only be used for personal reasons after all scientific work has been completed. Volunteers are welcome to bring their own personal laptops should they wish. (Please note: if you are bringing expensive equipment, please ensure that it is covered under your own personal insurance or Earthwatch insurance. Earthwatch insurance has a maximum coverage of  750 per item and aggregate valuables limit of  750.)

Facilities and Amenities

The chalet has an open living area with a fireplace and a dining area. All facilities are new and in very good condition. A balcony leading off from the dining area overlooks the hamlet, and hiking trails begin about five meters from the chalet door.

Distance to Field Site

The hamlet is approximately a fifteen-minute drive to the field sites, up steep, winding roads.



Services and Restaurants in Walking Distance

There are no shops, restaurants or other amenities within walking distance of either the research site or the accommodations. The hamlet where the chalet is situated only contains houses. The closest villages are Tignes and Val D'Isere, which can be visited during recreational days/time. These villages contain a range of shops, swimming pool and restaurants.

FOOD

Most meals are vegetarian and we can accommodate most diets but will need to be advised in advance. The team leader will be responsible for cooking arrangements. Most of the non-fresh food will be bought in Lyon before the beginning of the field season due to the much higher costs in the alpine area. The team leader will also go shopping every Saturday to get fresh food and local specialties. We put a strong emphasis on buying organic and local products, especially cheese and milk products. Volunteers are not expected to participate in these tasks, but can if they'd like.

The team leader will also take the lead with meal preparation and organization. Eating is a very important and convivial activity in French culture, and on our scientific team everybody helps in the preparation of the food. We usually organize a schedule where two people register to help with each meal. Volunteers will be expected to participate in these tasks. All the dishes are cleaned with a dishwasher.

All meals will be eaten together at a long table in the dining area on a self-serve basis (at lunch the scientific staff will stay in the field while the Earthwatch volunteers will go back to the accommodation).

Below are examples of the foods you might expect in the field. Please bear in mind that variety depends on availability. This list is intended to provide a general idea of food types, but it is very important that volunteers be flexible.

Breakfast: Bread, biscuits, jam, honey, cereals, fruits, yogurt, cheese, tea, coffee, chocolate, fruit juice, milk.
Lunch: A simple meal, including a starter (e.g. soup, salad), a main dish (e.g. pasta), and dessert (e.g. fruits, yogurt)
Dinner: Also a three-course meal, including a starter, a main dish (e.g. quiche, gratin) and dessert (e.g. fruit, yogurt, sometimes homemade cake)
Snacks/Other: Biscuits (cookies)
Beverages: tea, coffee, juice
Water: Drinkable water is available at the accommodations. Water from a fountain is available at the field site, but should not drunk unless boiled.
Alcohol: Students supporting the research and living with volunteers are not allowed to consume any alcohol. To respect this and to ensure that there are not separate rules for individuals, there will be a no-alcohol policy while in the field or at the accommodations. During recreational time, participants are free to visit restaurants and bars in the local villages if time and transport allow.

Special Dietary Requirements

Please alert Earthwatch to any special dietary requirements (e.g. diabetes, lactose intolerance, nut or other serious food allergies) as soon as possible, and not mention them in the space provided on your volunteer forms. Accommodating special diets is not guaranteed and can be very difficult due to availability of food, location of field sites, and other local conditions.

Special note to vegans: Please be aware that it is often difficult to accommodate vegans. If this is an issue, then participation on this Earthwatch expedition should be seriously reconsidered.



The chalet's kitchen

Travel Planning

Note: Earthwatch Institute's international emergency medical and evacuation assistance provider, International SOS, has a wealth of useful information available at their website, including visa, passport, currency, medical, etc. information for the country in which this project takes place. See internationalsos.com and enter Earthwatch's member identification number: **14ACPA000075**. Under "Select Resource" choose "English Country Guide," and then select this project's country from the list.

You are encouraged to register your travel itinerary with your embassy. For information on embassies around the world, see embassyworld.com.

- Citizens of Australia may register online at: orao.dfat.gov.au.
- British citizens may register online at: fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/staying-safe.
- Citizens of the United States may register online at: travelregistration.state.gov.
- Citizens of other countries are encouraged to check with their appropriate embassy or consulate regarding registration.

RENDEZVOUS

While Earthwatch may be able to suggest resources to aid volunteers with travel planning, it is important to remember that you are responsible for making your own travel arrangements to the rendezvous site and that airline information is subject to change. **It is essential for the success of the expedition that you do not plan to arrive late or leave the expedition early.**

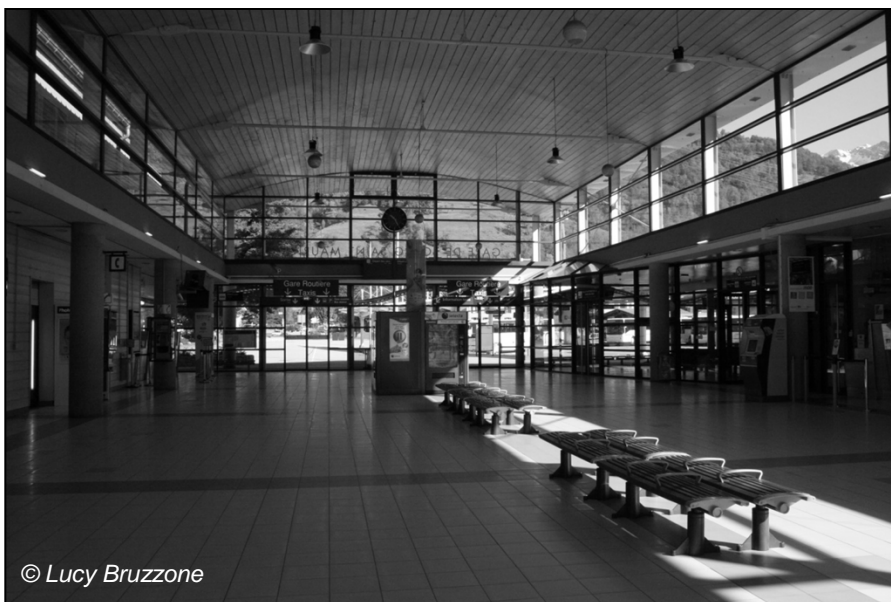
Location	
Specific meet-up point:	Bourg St Maurice train station
Address:	30 place Gare 73700 Bourg Saint Maurice
Telephone number:	Train station: 3635 (general number for train services in France); Field team leader, Sophie: +33 (0) 6 00 54 67
Date	
Team 1/1a:	May 19, 2012
1b:	May 26, 2012
Team 2/2a:	June 2, 2012
2b:	June 9, 2012
Team 3/3a:	June 16, 2012
3b:	June 23, 2012
Team 4/4a:	June 30, 2012
4b:	July 7, 2012
Time:	6:00 p.m.

Your team will meet at 18:00/6:00 p.m. on Day 1 at Bourg St Maurice train station, by the chairs in the center of the station, between the Relays Tabac and the station ticket sales (*see photo*). Sophie Lardy will meet you, and will be wearing an Earthwatch T-shirt; if possible, please wear your Earthwatch T-shirts as well.

Once the team meets, you will travel to the accommodations by car or minibus (depending on team size), which takes about 45 minutes.

Suggested travel routes to Bourg St Maurice train station:

From the US or other points overseas: fly to Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport (**Option 1 below**) or to Lyon's St Exupery Airport (via Frankfurt, or direct from the UK) (**Option 2 below**).



The meeting area in Bourg St Maurice station.

Option 1: From within Charles de Gaulle, catch an SNCF train to Bourg St Maurice (see paris-cdg.worldairportguides.com/shuttles-taxis-trains.php for the location of the train station). You will need to change trains at Lyon Part Dieu rail station.

Approximate train times: Depart Charles de Gaulle 11.58, arrive Lyon Part Dieu 14.00; depart Lyon Part Dieu 14.40, arrive Bourg St Maurice 17.43. Timetables are subject to change, so please verify train times on the SNCF website (sncf.fr) prior to travel.

Option 2: When you land in Lyon, travel to Lyon Part Dieu rail station (about 30 min. by train) and, from there, to Bourg St Maurice:

Traveling from Lyon St Exupery Airport to Lyon Part Dieu Station:

- A tram will take you directly from the airport rail station to Part Dieu station (the main rail station in Lyon). Follow the signs from your arrival gate to the SNCF/TGV station and the Rhone Express (you'll walk a bit before arriving at the tram station).
- Exit Lyon St Exupery Airport Rail Station and follow signs to Rhone Express (down the stairs/escalator to right of the exit).
- We suggest that you buy tickets before descending into the Rhone Express station. This can be done via the automated machines in the station (there is an English option, and you can pay by cash or card), on the train or in advance via rhoneexpress.fr. The cost is approximately €13 for a single ticket and €23 round trip (there is a discount for 12-25 year-olds at €19 round trip). A single ticket is only valid for 45 minutes after purchase. Ticket does not need to be validated, but will be checked onboard.
- On arrival at Lyon Part Dieu station (the end of the line) enter the station and check train time and platforms on the screens in front of you. You will be entering from the back of the station.
- The platforms are spread throughout the station, so follow signs.

Approximate train times: Depart Lyon St Exupery for Lyon Part Dieu about every 30 mins; depart Lyon Part Dieu 14.40, arrive Bourg St Maurice 17.43. Timetables are subject to change, so please check train times on the SNCF website (sncf.fr) prior to travel.

From the UK:

You can **fly** to Paris and follow Option 1 above, or fly to Lyon and follow Option 2.

You may also take the **train** from London to Bourg St Maurice.

Train schedules were not confirmed at the time this briefing was published. However, we suggest the following route:

- Take the train from London St Pancras, departing at 07.24, to Paris Gare to Nord, arriving at 10.47.
- Cross Paris by Metro (Paris Gare du Nord to Paris Gare du Lyon). You can purchase Paris Metro tickets on the Eurostar train, or on arrival from automated ticket machines or the metro ticket office. The cost of a single metro ticket is about €1.70. You need to get on the green Metro line D traveling south, in the direction of Melun. There are only two stops between the stations.

See ratp.fr/en/ratp/c_21895/ticket-t/ for details on how to purchase and use a metro ticket.

- From Gare du Lyon, take the 11.54 train to Lyon Part Dieu, arriving at 13.51.
- From Lyon Part Dieu, take the 14.41 train to Bourg St Maurice, arriving at 17.45. Alternatively, you can get an overnight train from London to Bourg St Maurice, arriving early the following morning.

The following websites will be useful in planning your travel:

- seat61.com – global overland travel planning
- raileurope.com – booking and planning European rail travel (not within the UK)
- sncf.fr – French railway site
- thetrainline.com – UK train travel booking and planning
- easyjet.com – Easyjet website, which flies to Lyon St Exupery airport
- eurolines.com – European coach travel (When booking coach travel, check all classes of ticket, as it is sometimes cheapest to travel first class. Discounts are usually available for those over 60 years old and under 26 years old.)

Please note that the earlier you book trains, the cheaper the tickets will be, but trains can only be booked up to 3 months in advance.

Also remember: when traveling by train in France, YOU MUST validate your ticket BEFORE boarding the train. You do this by putting your ticket into one of the yellow machines at the entry to each platform (*see photo at right*). Your ticket will be stamped with a date and time.

Please note: All prices and travel times noted in this briefing are subject to change.



Transportation delays in France

As in many other EU countries, a number of transport worker strikes have taken place in France recently. The situation may have improved by the beginning of 2012 research season, but, as in any democratic country, strikes are always a possibility. It is therefore advised that you check with your travel agent and local media for up-to-date information prior to departure.

Late Arrival

Please do not reserve a flight that arrives after your team's scheduled rendezvous time. **If your flight is delayed and/or you miss the rendezvous, please contact the field team leader, Sophie Lardy, at +33 (0) 6 00 54 67** as soon as possible. She can help you make travel plans and suggest best course of action.

TransDev Martin run buses from Bourg St Maurice to all the local villages and towns. The T14 in the direction of Val D'Isere is the bus required. However, there are only four buses per day (tickets cost €10 for a one-way trip and €18 for a round trip, with a 15% discount if you are under 26 years), and the last bus leaves at 18:00. It may be best to get a taxi (see taxis-bozzetto.com/FR/index.php?r_nav=home&p_nav=tarifs for fares). Taxis wait just outside the train station in front of the bus depot.

Any travel or other expenses due to late arrival are the responsibility of the volunteer.

If you are unable to contact Sophie, **call the emergency contact number at Earthwatch headquarters in the UK: +44 (0) 7900-895-752 (see *Emergency Contacts* for calling instructions). You may also call Earthwatch in the US at +1 (978) 461-0081.**

Remember that Earthwatch is available to assist you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; someone is always on call to respond to messages that come into our live answering service.

Departure

Volunteers will be leaving the accommodation at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday and will be driven by the Sophie to Bourg St Maurice train station, arriving in time for the 10:55 a.m. trains. Volunteers can take a train to Lyon, Paris, or London.

Below are some suggested departure options (You can use the suggested websites in the arrival section of the briefing to help with travel planning). Again, all timetables are subject to change and should be verified well in advance of travel.

Depart Bourg St Maurice at 10.55, arrive Lyon Part Dieu at 14.20; travel from Lyon Part Dieu to Lyon St Exupery airport by tram at 15.20 for flights departing after 17.00, or travel to London by train.

Depart Bourg St Maurice at 10.55, arrive Lyon Part Dieu at 14.20; travel from Lyon Part Dieu at 15.00, arriving at Paris Charles De Gaulle airport at 17.02 for flights departing after 19.00.

Note: Early departures cannot be accommodated except in cases of emergency. Before leaving a project early for any reason you must sign an Earthwatch release form.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Visa Information

Citizens of the US, EU, Australia, Canada and Japan **do not** need a tourist visa for entry. Citizens of other countries should check with their travel agent or a visa agency for specific visa and entry requirements. Travelers are advised to check visa regulations well in advance of traveling.

Passport Information

Most volunteers traveling from outside the host country will require a passport valid for at least six months beyond the dates of travel.

For Volunteers Requiring Visas ONLY: Essential Information

Type of Visa	Volunteers requiring a visa must get a TOURIST VISA .
Where to Get a Visa	Contact the nearest French embassy or consulate to find out how to apply for your visa. Please note that this process can take weeks or more. We strongly recommend using a visa agency , which can both expedite and simplify the process. See below for visa agencies.
Required Information	You will need to send your passport (valid for at least six months beyond your stay), a Visa Application and Immigration Form , 2-4 passport-size photos , and payment to the embassy or visa agency (if applicable). Please be sure that your passport is valid for at least six months beyond your stay.
Contact Information	<p>You may be required to list the following contact information on your Visa Application and Immigration Form:</p> <div> <div>Dr Aurélie Cohas</div> <div>Laboratory "Biométrie et Biologie Évolutive"</div> <div>Univ. Claude Bernard Lyon 1</div> <div>Bât. Grégor Mendel</div> <div>43 bd du 11 novembre 1918</div> <div>Villeurbanne 69622</div> <div>France</div> </div> <div> <div>+33 (0)4 72 44 80 18</div> <div>marmot.project@univ-lyon1.fr</div> </div>
Cost of a Visa	Generally between US\$40-100, but varies from country to country and can potentially cost up to US\$180 . A visa agency will charge an additional fee.

Note: The purpose of your visit is for vacation, holiday or travel. Foreign immigration officials do not always understand the concept of a "working vacation" or "volunteering." Words such as "working," "volunteering," "research," or "scientific expedition" can raise questions concerning the country's foreign labor laws and/or prompt questions about official scientific research permits and credentials, etc., to which volunteers on their own will not be equipped to respond. All required research permits for the project are in place and have been approved by the proper authorities.

Visa Agencies

In the United States	In Europe	In Australia
Travisa* 290 5th Avenue, 4th Floor New York, NY 10001 Tel: (212) 613-2223 Fax: (212) 613-2287 Hours: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST Web: travisa.com (*See the website for additional offices)	CIBT, Inc. UK 25 Wilton Road Lower Ground Floor Victoria SW1V 1LW Tel: 0844-736-0211 Fax: +44 (0) 207-828-5411 Calling from Europe outside UK: +44 (0) 207-802-1000 Email: info@uk.cibt.com Web: uk.cibt.com (has alternate address for urgent requests)	Ask your travel agency if it can send your visa application on your behalf.

Volunteers Under 18 Years of Age

Entry to Foreign Countries

It may be possible for 16- and 17-year-olds to participate on standard Earthwatch teams *if* accompanied by a parent or guardian. However, in an effort to prevent international child abduction, many governments have initiated procedures at entry/exit points to protect minors. Thus, if a minor will be traveling with only one guardian, or if for any reason they will be traveling alone (such as for a Teen Team), it may be necessary to have a notarized letter from all legal guardians stipulating that they may travel unaccompanied or in the presence of a single guardian. This letter must give an explanation for why only one parent or someone other than a parent is signing the letter. For example, if one parent is deceased, only one parent has legal guardianship, or someone other than the parents are legal guardians, the letter should state that.

Airline Documentation Requirements

Airlines may also have documentation requirements for unaccompanied minors. Parents of minors are responsible for checking with each airline that their child will be flying to ensure that sufficient documentation is provided. This could include a copy of a birth certificate or a notarized letter stating that the minor has his or her parent's permission to travel alone or with only one parent.

Note: Requirements by specific countries and airlines vary and change frequently. You **MUST** keep informed of the requirements on your own to avoid problems at immigration. If a letter is not available, the volunteer under 18 can be refused entry into the country or on a flight. There is nothing Earthwatch Institute can do to help in this circumstance.

Additional Passport and Visa Resources

- For Japanese citizens: rainbowt.jp/travel/visa_top.html
- For Australian citizens: passports.gov.au and dfat.gov.au/visas/index.html
- For US citizens: passportvisasexpress.com
- Travel Document Systems: traveldocs.com/index.htm

INSURANCE

MedEvac assistance, advice and insurance are included in the contribution you pay to Earthwatch. It covers your travel medical risks, including medical expenses and emergency medical evacuation, while you are traveling, as well as trip cancellation and baggage and personal money insurance. It doesn't provide personal liability insurance. This coverage is valid in the country of your Earthwatch expedition and during travel to and from your expedition (**Note:** For US volunteers, the coverage is valid only when the expedition is over 100 miles from your place of residence). Please see earthwatch.org/europe/downloads/Insurance/post15Jan_FAQs.pdf for information about when coverage starts and ends, and answers to other frequently asked questions.

If you have additional vacation time before and/or after your Earthwatch expedition that forms part of your overall time away from your place of residence, this additional vacation time is not covered under this policy. If you are in any doubt as to whether your travel plans before and/or after your Earthwatch expedition constitute additional vacation time please contact Sutton Winson.

This insurance policy is secondary to your existing health insurance policy (e.g. the NHS in the UK).

If you signed up through Earthwatch UK/Europe, or Earthwatch Japan:

Details of this insurance policy are included in your expedition briefing pack and can be found at earthwatch.org/europe/insurance. Please refer all queries regarding this policy to Sutton Winson in the UK at +44 (0) 1444 251 164 or on earthwatch@swib.co.uk.

Information about additional insurance available to UK residents can be found at earthwatch.org/europe/insurance. Should you have any questions about whether you require additional coverage for your travel plans, please contact Sutton Winson. Earthwatch is not authorized by the FSA to give advice on any additional travel insurance you might require.

If you signed up through Earthwatch US:

Details of the US insurance policy can be found at earthwatch.org/insurance. Please refer any queries regarding this policy to Sutton Winson in the UK. From the US, dial 011 44 1444 251 164, or email earthwatch@swib.co.uk. Please note the time difference between the US and the UK and call during UK business hours, which are from 08:45 to 17:00 GMT (from November to April) and GMT +1 (from April to November).

Information about additional insurance can be found at earthwatch.org/insurance. Should you have any questions about whether you require additional coverage for your travel plans, please contact Sutton Winson. Earthwatch is not authorized by the FSA to give advice on any additional travel insurance you might require.

Residents of the EU and UK: We strongly recommend that you apply for a European Health Insurance Card, which can simplify the process of receiving health care while traveling within the European Union. See ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=509&langId=en or ehic.org.uk/Internet/home.do (for UK residents) for more information.

Emergency Medical and Evacuation Assistance (for all volunteers)

Emergency medical and evacuation assistance is available for all Earthwatch participants from International SOS (ISOS), a twenty-four-hour, independently operated international emergency medical and evacuation service. Please see the contact information and card on the *General Information* page. Participants should carry the card with them on the expedition.

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

Luggage

- *General considerations:* Do not bring more luggage than you can carry and handle on your own. If traveling by air and checking your luggage, you are advised to pack an extra set of field clothing and personal essentials in your carry-on bag in case your luggage is lost and/or takes several days to catch up with you. Many airlines have strict baggage policies. Please check with your airline(s) on baggage weight limits, liquid restrictions, fees for checked baggage, etc.
- *Checking luggage:* Please note that if you will be taking an international flight that has one or more connections within the country of your destination, it will be necessary to collect any checked bags at the airport where you first arrive in the destination country. After proceeding through customs, you will have to recheck your luggage before flying on to your final destination.
- Please note that the minibus we will travel in to and from the train station has a small trunk, and avoid bringing too much luggage (a backpack of 60 liters will be sufficient to carry everything needed for the expedition).

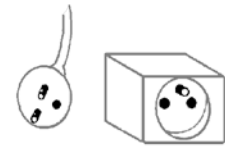
Money Matters

- *Local currency:* Euro. See the International SOS website and xe.com/ucc for currency information and exchange rates.
- *Personal funds:* You should bring spending money to get to and from the rendezvous as well as for undertaking recreational activities (such as hiking or sightseeing with a guide, swimming, cheese making, etc.). ATMs are widely available at the airport and close to Bourg St Maurice rail station. You may also change money at the airport. It is recommended that you bring around 100 euros in cash with you and a credit/debit card, as it is rare that you cannot pay with card in France (although American Express may not be valid). This should be adequate for the time you are on the expedition.

Your Destination

- *Language:* French is the official language of the country. Most project staff members are native French speakers, with the exception of one Ph.D. student who is a native Spanish speaker. However, all scientists speak English well, and the project will be conducted in English.

- *Electricity*. 220 volts. European standard connection is a two-pinned plug with a central ground plug. If your equipment requires another type of plug, you must bring an adaptor. For additional information, see kropla.com/electric2.htm.



Please note that French electricity is at 220 volts, so, if coming from a country that uses 110 volts, you will need a converter as well as adaptor.

- *Time zone*: Central European Time (CET) +0100 GMT/UTC. For time worldwide with GMT/UTC, see worldtimeserver.com.
- *Telephone dialing codes*: When calling France from another country, dial the country's international dialing code, followed by (33) and the number. When calling within France, omit the (33) and dial (0). When calling another country from France, dial (33), followed by the other country's country code and the number. PLEASE NOTE: you should check with your cell phone provider to obtain any carrier-specific dialing codes you may need; many providers have dialing procedures that may differ in whole or in part from these directions. For additional information, see kropla.com/dialcode.htm.

Country Information

- UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office: fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/
- Country information from around the world: countryreports.org
- National Geographic Map Machine: plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine
- US State Department: state.gov
- Online unit conversions: onlineconversion.com
- Worldwide weather: wunderground.com or tutiempo.net/en
- ATM locator: visa.via.infonow.net/locator/global/ or mastercard.com/atmlocator/index.jsp

RECOMMENDED READING

Below are additional recommended materials for those interested in further preparing for the expedition. See the *Helpful Resources* section for links to suggested vendor websites.

Scientific media

Books

- Barash, David P. *Marmots: Social Behavior and Ecology*. Stanford University Press, 1989: 360 pages.
- Wolff, Jerry and Paul W. Sherman. *Rodent Societies: An Ecological & Evolutionary Perspective*. University of Chicago Press, 2007: 610 pages.

Articles

- Allainé D (2004) [Sex ratio variation in the cooperatively breeding alpine marmot *Marmota marmota*](#), *Behavioral Ecology*, vol. 15 pp.997-1002
- Allainé D, Theuriau F (2004) [Is there an optimal number of helpers in alpine marmot family groups?](#), *Behavioral Ecology*, vol. 15 pp.916-924
- Allainé D (2000) [Sociality mating system and reproductive skew in marmots: evidence and hypotheses](#), *Behavioural Processes*, vol. 51 pp.21-34
- Allainé D, Brondex F, Graziani L, Coulon J, Till-Bottraud I (2000) [Male-biased sex ratio in litters of alpine marmots supports the helper repayment hypothesis](#), *Behavioral Ecology*, vol. 11 pp.507-514
- Cohas A, Allainé D (2009) [Social structure influences extra-pair paternity in socially monogamous mammals](#), *Biology letters*, vol. pp.42-48
- Cohas A, Yoccoz NG, Bonenfant C, Goossens B, Genton C, Galan M, Kempenaers B, Allainé D

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 - Devillard S, Allainé D, Gaillard J-M, Pontier D (2004) [Does social complexity lead to sex-biased dispersal in polygynous mammals? A test on ground-dwelling sciurids.](#), *Behavioral Ecology*, vol. 15 pp.83-87
 - Farand E, Allainé D, Coulon J (2002) [Variation in survival rates of the monogamous alpine marmot \(*Marmota marmota*\): effects of sex age year and climate factors](#), *Canadian Journal of Zoology*, vol. 80 pp.342-349

Note: You may access these publications online by following the links above. To log in, use:

ID: Charles

Password: Darwin

Field Guides

- Svensson, Lars, Killian Mullarney, Dan Zetterstrom and Peter J Grant. Collins Bird Guide: The Most Complete Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe. 3500 col illus, 700 maps. Harper Collins.
- Grey-Wilson, Christopher and Marjorie Blamey. Collins Pocket Guide Alpine Flowers of Britain and Europe. Harper Collins.
- Macdonald, David and Priscilla Barrett Collins. Field Guide – Mammals of Britain and Europe. Harper Collins.

Project-related website: http://marmota.marmota.free.fr/home_A.html

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Please see Earthwatch's Volunteer Resources pages for additional information on:

- Travel agencies with whom Earthwatch volunteers can get preferential rates
- Recommended kit and clothing providers
- Recommended travel booksellers

Volunteers who sign up through our US office, visit: earthwatch.org/volunteerresources

Volunteers who sign up through our UK office, visit: earthwatch.org/europe/volunteerresources

Project Conditions

Please show this section to a doctor when he/she is completing the Health section of your Earthwatch Participation Form. Be sure to discuss vaccination requirements with the doctor well in advance of your departure date. See the Health Information section for vaccination information.

To the doctor:

This patient has volunteered to join a field research team that has specific physical demands of which you and the patient should be aware. **We need your accurate evaluation of this patient's ability to meet the conditions detailed below in order to care for his/her health and safety, and to assess that he/she can participate fully and effectively.**

General Conditions

Snow can still be present in May, and can even fall in July, although it would likely be fully melted before midday. Mornings and evenings can be very cold and include frost, even in summer, and days very hot. Altitude makes the effects of sun much stronger. The climate is very dry, which can leave you feeling stuffy when you wake, so moisturizer is recommended. Generally the weather is good, and it is unlikely that we would have multiple days of rain. However, it is a mountainous area, so weather can vary dramatically.

Conditions are expected to vary within the limits below:

May, June, July	
Temperature	May: 6°C – 21°C (42°F – 70°F) June: 8°C – 24°C (46°F – 76°F) July: 8°C – 30°C (46°F – 86°F)
Altitude (dist. above sea level)	Field site: 2,340 m (7,677 ft) Accommodation: 2,000 m (6,562 ft)
Precipitation (average)	90 mm (3.5 in) per month

Essential Eligibility Criteria

All participants must be able, independently or with the assistance of a companion, to:

- ☐ Follow verbal and or visual instructions.
- ☐ Enjoy being outdoors all day (6-7 hours) and maintain a good attitude in all types of weather (see *General Conditions*), and in the potential presence of wild animals and insects.
- ☐ Be comfortable using the natural environment as a toilet facility while in the field, as no toilet structure is available.
- ☐ Tolerate varying temperatures between an average of 6-8°C (42-46°F) in the mornings and 20-30°C (68-86°F) at midday. Altitude makes the effect of the sun much stronger, and participants must be prepared for this.
- ☐ Hike for between 2 – 10 kilometers (1.2 – 6.2 miles) a day at high altitude (2,340m/7,677 ft). Generally volunteers will be following a large flat mountain path, but will need to leave this and cross rocky, uneven mountain alpine meadows to check marmot traps. The distance traveled each day will be split between

approximately 3 trap check sessions, and may require a rapid pace to access marmots and remove them from traps.

- ☐ Get low enough to the ground to set traps and remove marmots from traps, up to 5 times per day.
- ☐ Traverse small streams and sometimes rivers to reach research areas. Bridges are used where possible, but some wading may be required at safe crossing points.
- ☐ Carry up to 6 kg (13.2 lb) over 1 kilometer (0.6 miles) on sometimes steep slopes, while carrying traps and captured marmots.
- ☐ comfortably remain in one location for periods of up to 4 hours a day (never for longer than 2 hours in a row) to quietly observe and count marmots.
- ☐ Get oneself up into and down out of a vehicle and ride, seated with seatbelt fastened, for about half an hour a day and up to one hour on arrival and departure days, over generally smooth but windy roads.
- ☐ Climb narrow stairs to move between ground-floor bedrooms and upper-floor kitchen and communal areas in the accommodations.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

Hazard Type	Associated Risks and Precautions
Transportation	Teams will be traveling in a car or minibus on mountain roads; there are no special risks beyond normal driving hazards. Drivers will drive slowly on the smaller roads and in poor weather conditions, and will have mountain driving experience. Seatbelts must be worn at all times. Fire extinguishers, first aid kits, and mobile phones will always be carried.
Walking on rough terrain	There is a risk of sprains or strains due to walking on uneven ground. Participants should wear supportive hiking boots and be cautious. The use of walking poles is strongly recommended for those with weak ankles or joints.
Plants	Stinging nettles are present at well identified sites. Project staff will point these out, and they should be avoided. Volunteers will be working in a grassland area with potentially high pollen count. Volunteers with allergies should ensure they bring the appropriate medication and inform Earthwatch and project staff of their condition and where their medication is kept.
Animals	Vipers (<i>Vipera aspis</i>) are present on the study site, so being bitten is a possibility. To limit the risk, volunteers should wear supportive hiking boots and never put their hands anywhere without visibility. Project staff will brief volunteers fully on areas they should not go to and how to manage this risk.
Climate/weather	The weather can be very hot around midday. Heatstroke and dehydration are risks, especially since volunteers will be spending a good deal of time outdoors. You are encouraged to take at least two liters of water into the field at all times and to make sure to stay hydrated (see also recommendations under "Altitude" below.) At the same time, early mornings and late afternoon can be very cold and windy. Clothing that can be layered, a wool hat, gloves, and warm and windproof jacket are a must. It can rain or snow at any time of the year, so it is wise to carry light waterproof gear. Fieldwork will not occur if the weather is very poor, e.g. constant heavy rain, and must stop should the weather deteriorate. Weather can change rapidly in the mountain, and all volunteers and staff must keep a close watch for changes.
Altitude	Although the accommodations and research site are not at exceptionally high altitudes volunteers may find that they take a day or so to adjust. The first day's activities should

	be taken slowly, and any illness reported to the project staff immediately. Volunteers should remain well hydrated and be aware that the sun is stronger at these altitudes so a high factor sun cream and protective clothing (wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, long sleeves) are essential. If you have any condition that might be affected by increased sun exposure or if you are sensitive to heat, please consult a physician. Be aware that many common prescriptions can increase your sensitivity to sun and heat.
Accommodations	Care should be taken at the accommodations when climbing the stairs. Slippers with grip should be worn at all times while inside to avoid slipping on the stairs or on the wooden floor, boots must be removed on entering the chalet. If walking around at night, volunteers should use torches/flashlights. The accommodation is a wooden chalet, so the risk of fire is present. Volunteers will be briefed on what to do in the case of fire. The chimney must not be used without a guard. The cooker uses a gas cylinder which must be switched off when not in use and checked at night. There is a busy road down a steep slope just beneath the village where the chalet is situated and another smaller road above which leads to the field site. Project staff will brief volunteers on this on arrival. Volunteers walking around the accommodation at night must use a torch/flashlight.
Research shelter/ field research site	As there is no longer a permanent research base on site, the project staff use tents for shelter and cooking during the day. Volunteers will be briefed on how to avoid fire in the tents and should follow instructions closely. There are no toilet facilities at the research site. Staff will instruct volunteers on where toileting is appropriate when in the field and where they must dispose of any toilet paper. There are electric fences present at the research site to designate certain areas. These should not be approached. The chalet at the research site which the researchers used previously burnt down. Its remains are still present, and volunteers should be cautious of debris, which may cause harm.
River crossings	Crossing of small streams may be required to access the research site. These streams can rise rapidly due to snowmelt or heavy rains. Project staff will keep a close watch on the weather and must leave the project site should conditions deteriorate. The main river running through the project site is fed by a dammed reservoir managed by an energy company. Water from this can be released at any time by the company, leading to heightened water levels. Project staff members know the workers and will remain in contact with them for information on changes. Research may take place on the other side of this river, necessitating a shallow river crossing. No crossing will take place if the water is above knee height and or running very fast. Project staff will brief volunteers on safe crossing techniques and locations. If necessary, volunteers and staff must walk up or down stream to find a safer crossing location. No river crossings can occur if any water releases are planned, if water levels are high, or if heavy rain is falling.
Project tasks/ equipment	Volunteers will not handle the study animals, but being scratched or bitten is still a possibility due to proximity to the marmots. Marmots in this area transmit no known diseases, and infection due to bites can be prevented with basic safety precautions. Volunteers should wear gloves when appropriate. Please be sure your vaccinations are up to date and see the <i>Health Information</i> section below for vaccination recommendations and other advice. Always follow project staff instructions regarding all field tasks. Volunteers with allergies to animal fur should consult their physician and ensure they bring appropriate medications with them. They must also inform Earthwatch and project staff of their condition and inform staff where their medications are kept.
Swimming	Swimming will only be possible during recreational time. It is an optional activity at the local municipal pool where lifeguards are present. Volunteers wishing to swim must have a basic level of swimming ability.
Personal security	The project is located in a rural area with very low security risk. However, on arrival in France and if traveling through larger cities, volunteers should keep a close watch over

	valuables. Pickpockets and petty crime are well known in larger cities. Volunteers should always be sensible with personal belongings and not leave valuables on display in the accommodations or project vehicles.
Traveler's Diarrhea	Traveler's diarrhea affects 20–50% of all international travelers. Always wash your hands with soap and water or a hand sanitizer before eating and preparing food. Tap water is clean and drinkable in France. Water from streams or fountains should not be drunk unless boiled. Volunteers will be assisting with preparing food, food hygiene standards should be followed regarding cooking times and storage of food. You should also carry an over-the-counter anti-diarrheal medication in your personal First Aid kit. Speak to your doctor about other options for treating traveler's diarrhea and see the ISOS or CDC websites for advice on avoiding this condition.
Distance to medical care	<p>While doctors with basic medical services are located in Tignes and Val d'Isère (20 min drive), the nearest fully equipped hospital is one hour by vehicle from the project site. Participants should obtain necessary routine medical/dental care prior to traveling and keep a copy of their personal health records and prescriptions with them. Participants must be sure to disclose any medical conditions to Earthwatch and the project staff, and inform project staff of the location of any important medications. Inform a staff member immediately if feeling at all unwell.</p> <p>If you have a chronic condition which may require immediate medical care (e.g. heart conditions, kidney problems, severe asthma, etc.), participation should be seriously reconsidered. If you are pregnant, you should discuss with your physician prior to considering this project.</p>

HEALTH INFORMATION

See internationalisos.com for information on the current health conditions in France. At the homepage, enter Earthwatch's member identification number: 14ACPA000075. Under "Select Resource" choose "English Country Guide," and then select France from the list.

Routine Immunizations

All volunteers should make sure to have the following up-to-date immunizations: DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus), polio, MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) and varicella (if you have not already had chicken pox). Please be sure your tetanus shot is current.

Project Vaccinations

Medical decisions are the responsibility of each volunteer and the following are recommendations only.

While Earthwatch can provide details regarding suggested vaccinations, we are not a medical organization and decisions about which vaccinations to receive should be made between you and a doctor. Health conditions around the world are constantly changing, so keep informed and consult your physician, a local travel health clinic, the US Center for Disease Control (cdc.gov), the World Health Organization (who.int), and International SOS (see above) for the latest health information for travelers. Please consult a physician for guidance on vaccinations if you intend to travel to other parts of the country.

Vaccination chart available on ISOS member site (English Country Guide, medical summary).

	Required for Entry	Recommended for Health Reasons
Yellow fever	X - if traveling from countries or region where it is endemic, a Certificate of Vaccination is required.	
Hepatitis A		X - Many travel health professionals recommend hepatitis A vaccination for all travelers and expatriates, regardless of destination.
Hepatitis B		X - Many travel health professionals recommend hepatitis A vaccination for all travelers and expatriates, regardless of destination.

Advice Regarding Diseases

Please see the CDC (cdc.gov) or WHO (who.int) websites for more information.

- *Tuberculosis*: The WHO estimates that one-third of the world's population is infected with the bacterium (*M. tuberculosis*) that causes tuberculosis (TB). Incidence of tuberculosis is higher in developing countries, particularly in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. In general, approximately 10% of persons infected with *M. tuberculosis* are at risk for developing active TB during their lifetimes. TB is considered highly treatable with medications that are of relatively low toxicity and cost. Volunteers returning from developing countries are encouraged to have a (PPD)-tuberculin skin-test to screen for potential infection.
- *Measles*: The virus has been seeing a comeback in westernized countries in recent years. Several outbreaks have occurred in France in 2011. Please ensure your routine vaccinations are up to date prior to traveling.

Additional Health Information Resources

- Travel health website: mdtravelhealth.com
- The Travel Doctor: tmvc.com.au
- Australian Department of Health and Aging: health.gov.au
- Hospital for Tropical Diseases: thehtd.org
- Traveller's/Traveler's Healthline Advisory Service Tel: (020) 7950-7799
- MASTA Travelers' Healthline (UK) Tel: (0906) 8-224100 (within the UK)

EMERGENCIES IN THE FIELD

In case of minor injuries or diseases, the Earthwatch scientists will call the nearest doctor to visit the site (in France doctors, spend about half of their time driving to visit patients). It is also possible that the Earthwatch scientists will drive the participant to the nearest doctor's office. Earthwatch scientists will be able to go to the pharmacy to buy medicine if recommended by the doctor's.

In case of an emergency, participants would be transported by ambulance, helicopter, or project vehicle to the nearest hospital. If a volunteer needs to leave early for emergency purposes, the project team can assist with transportation.

The emergency contact number at Earthwatch headquarters in the UK is +44 (0) 7900-895-752 (see *Emergency Contacts* for calling instructions). You may also call Earthwatch in the US at +1 (978) 461-0081.

Proximity to Medical Care	
Physician, nurse or EMT on staff	None
Staff certified in safety training	Dr. Aurélie Cohas and Mariona Ferrandiz-Rovira are certified in first aid (this include CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) in France)
Nearest hospital and/or clinic	Hôpital Bourg Saint Maurice 139 rue Nantet 73700 BOURG SAINT MAURICE Telephone: +33 (0)4 79 41 79 79
Distance	60 minutes by car

COMMUNICATIONS

Emergency Communications in the Field

The scientific staff stays in contact using walkie talkies. Volunteers will be trained in their use.

In case of emergency, the field team leader and another staff member will be available at all times via mobile phone.

A landline phone, mail, and a fax machine are available at the national park office. (These will only be used in case of emergency.)

The emergency contact number at Earthwatch headquarters in the UK is +44 (0) 7900-895-752 (see *Emergency Contacts* for calling instructions). You may also call Earthwatch in the US at +1 (978) 461-0081.

Personal Communications

While volunteers may bring mobile phones, they should be aware that reception quality at the field site can greatly vary. Also, some operators work better than others at the field site (we recommend Orange mobile service and strongly discourage Bouygues). If you have trouble getting through on a call, you may have better results sending a text message instead. Purchasing prepaid SIM cards is possible in large cities, but may be challenging around the field area. So, if you would like to do this, please do so at the airport. However, most volunteers should be able to send and receive calls and/or text messages from their overseas SIM cards. Volunteers are asked to be considerate of the researchers, staff, and other team members, and restrict personal communications to times when not involved in project tasks or activities.

The mail is slow, and it often takes more than a week to receive mail from Europe or the US. Therefore, volunteers should instruct friends/family NOT to send mail to Earthwatch team members. Mail will not be forwarded once the team has ended. There are postboxes in both Tignes and Val d'Isère if volunteers wish to send mail.

Internet access will be available to volunteers at the accommodation, but no computer will be available specifically for this purpose. The computer there will be dedicated to inputting research data, and volunteers may use it for personal communication only when all research tasks are complete.

Family and friends of Earthwatch volunteers should be aware that personal communication with outsiders is not always possible while participating in an expedition. Earthwatch encourages volunteers to minimize outgoing calls; likewise, family and friends should restrict calls to urgent messages only. Measures have been taken to ensure that appropriate communication tools are available in cases of emergency.

All volunteers are asked to remember that Earthwatch expeditions offer a rare chance to escape from hearing ringing phones and others' phone conversations, and to regulate their cell-phone use with respect for fellow volunteers and staff accordingly.

Contact Information

In case of emergency, volunteers can be reached via the contact information below.

Address	Chalet du Saut Villaret du Nial 73320 Tignes France
Phone	Chalet Landline: +33(0)479 065 213 Sophie (field team leader): +33 (0)6 00 54 67 Cell Aurélie (lead Earthwatch scientist): + 33 (0)6 43 00 55 97 Cell Please note that these numbers are for emergency communications only
Email	marmot.project@univ-lyon1.fr



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Earthwatch Institute Policies & Participant Rights and Responsibilities

This document contains important information concerning Earthwatch Institute policies and participant rights and responsibilities for inclusion on an Earthwatch expedition. Please read this document thoroughly and sign the Liability Release section of your Earthwatch Participation Form to indicate that you understand and accept the risks inherent to your expedition and the policies, rights, and responsibilities enumerated in this document. Participants will not be permitted to partake in an expedition until Earthwatch has received the signed release form.

Intellectual Property Rights

It is permissible to share photos, videos, and stories of your expedition with family, friends, local media, and in a public forum. Sharing your new perspectives and experiences is welcomed and encouraged.

However, please recognize that all information, data, and images shared or gathered in the course of your expedition's field work become the intellectual property of the Earthwatch scientist (ES). Co-opting or plagiarism of data, images or information gathered during an expedition for use in a scientific thesis, masters or PhD work, or for profit or for the academic or business use of a third party without the permission of the ES is strictly prohibited. Please be aware that data gathered during the interviewing of local people becomes the intellectual property of the ES. Earthwatch scientists have the right to place additional restrictions on your ability to share data or certain research-related images.

Conversely, an Earthwatch scientist may give written permission to use data and images for academic or profitable activity. Please be sure to ask what is acceptable to the Earthwatch scientist.

Fellows or scholarship recipients are sometimes required to submit a written report reflecting what they have learned on a project, sometimes as a step toward developing a curriculum. Earthwatch scientists have the right but not obligation to review and edit materials involving information gathered on one of their expeditions.

Discrimination

Earthwatch does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or any other reason prohibited by applicable law and respects participants' right to privacy. However, you must be aware that local laws in countries in which Earthwatch operates may not be anti-discriminatory and that the possibilities exist that local residents may not have an awareness of best practice regarding discrimination.

Discrimination on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation will not be tolerated on Earthwatch teams. Disruptive behavior, or verbal, physical or any other type of abuse or harassment will also not be tolerated. Violation of Earthwatch's non-discrimination policy is grounds for expulsion from the program without a refund.

Intimate relationships

Earthwatch scientists, their staff, their colleagues, and their associates are prohibited from becoming romantically involved with participants during the entire duration of the period that the team is in the field. Romantic relationships that may otherwise seem permissible may eventually create an unpleasant or unproductive work environment and are therefore strongly discouraged for the duration of an Earthwatch project.

Sexual Harassment

Please recognize that the relationship that exists between Earthwatch scientists and staff and participants is analogous to the student-teacher relationship. Therefore, please be aware of the following policies.

Sexual harassment of participants by the Earthwatch scientist or Earthwatch staff is prohibited. Likewise, sexual harassment of other participants, Earthwatch field staff, or local people by participants is also prohibited.

Sexual harassment infringes on an individual's right to an environment free from unsolicited and unwelcome sexual overtones of conduct either verbal or physical. Sexual harassment does not mean occasional compliments of a socially acceptable nature.

Sexual harassment refers to conduct which is offensive, which harms morale, or which interferes with the effectiveness of Earthwatch expedition teams; such conduct is prohibited. Lewd or vulgar remarks, suggestive comments, displaying derogatory posters, cartoons or drawings, pressure for dates or sexual favors and unacceptable physical contact or exposure are examples of what can constitute harassment. No one should be touched in areas that otherwise would be covered by a bathing suit. It is important to realize that what may not be offensive to you, may be offensive to participants, the local population, and Earthwatch field staff.

Any individual who feels subjected to sexual harassment or has any knowledge of such behavior should report it at once to his or her PI or to Earthwatch staff members. All Earthwatch scientists and Field Team Leaders (FTLs) will notify Earthwatch immediately when an accusation of sexual harassment or abuse is made or witnessed.

All reports of sexual harassment will be handled with discretion and will be promptly and thoroughly investigated. Any participant who is found to have engaged in conduct constituting sexual harassment will be immediately removed from the expedition at his or her own expense. If a minor is immediately involved in allegations of sexual harassment, his or her parents will be contacted.

Drugs

Laws on drug use in most countries are severe and may carry lengthy imprisonment or death penalties. I understand and accept that the manufacture, possession, use, purchase and/or sale of illegal drugs or other illegal substances while on an Earthwatch expedition is strictly prohibited. Prescription drugs may only be purchased and used by the individual indicated on the prescription in keeping with their intended use guidelines.

Alcohol

Local statutes, customs, practices, ordinances, and regulations with regard to the use, possession, sale, or purchase of alcohol are applicable to all participants and project staff in Earthwatch expeditions. Participants and project staff on Earthwatch expeditions must comply with the law of the country in which a project is located regarding the minimum age required to consume alcohol. In addition, restriction on the use, possession, sale, or purchase of alcohol may be set by the Earthwatch scientist. Any restrictions on the consumption of alcohol should be clearly outlined by the project staff in the briefing to participants at the start of the project, and in the Expedition Briefing.

Consumption or possession of alcohol or smoking is not permitted on any Earthwatch Teen Team, regardless of local law.

Excessive consumption of alcohol by staff or participants is not acceptable on any Earthwatch project. Intoxication can jeopardize personal safety, in addition to the safety of the team. It can also cause delay, and hinder response in the event of a crisis or emergency situation.

Earthwatch staff and the Earthwatch scientist have the discretion to remove individuals from the project who consume alcohol in a time and manner that endanger the safety and/or productivity of the expedition.

Minors

Earthwatch considers participants under eighteen (18) years of age to be minors. Minors are not permitted to participate on any of Earthwatch's standard teams unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian in which case the minimum age is sixteen (16). Minors on regular teams do not receive additional guidance or supervision from Earthwatch beyond what is offered to the adult participants. The number of minors on regular teams is limited to two (2) per team. Earthwatch has developed teams specifically for 16 and 17 year olds ("Teen Teams") as well as teams specifically for families ("Family Teams") with children as young as 10 years old. These teams focus on the same research activities and have the same expectations as our regular teams, but with more facilitation and support. Exceptions for some projects are made at the discretion of Earthwatch and the Earthwatch scientist. Due to a more in-depth screening process for certain programs that select candidates based on school year rather than age, there may be 18 year olds fielding on the same team as 16 and 17 year olds. Please be aware that some Earthwatch projects do not allow participation by minors in any circumstance.

Participants and Driving

Participants are not allowed to drive project vehicles or aircraft during an expedition. In select circumstances, participants may be able to drive boats under the direct supervision by project staff. These circumstances are pre-determined by project staff in collaboration with Earthwatch. Participants must respect the restrictions for boat driving in place for each project.

If a project environment is such that participants can drive their own vehicles to the rendezvous, those who have driven themselves to the project may not drive their own vehicles to, from or for project activities, including the transport of project equipment after arriving at the site.

Participants who have driven themselves to the project may choose to utilize their own vehicle during recreational time, but project staff will brief them on the driving restrictions. All driving during recreational time is done at your own risk.

Please be advised that the only exception to the above driving restrictions is emergency situations.

Riding in other participants' vehicles is not covered under the participants' insurance policy for the expedition. Riding in another participant's vehicle is done at a participant's own risk.

In the Event of an Emergency

In the event of emergencies, judgments must be made by Earthwatch field staff and participants. While Earthwatch makes an effort to ensure that qualified people make the most informed decisions possible, occasionally first aid may be administered and other immediate steps taken by expedition participants who are not licensed medical providers.

Each Earthwatch expedition has safety protocols and emergency procedures in place. Earthwatch encourages team members (the field staff and participants) to exercise their best judgment with regard to their own safety and the safety of other team members. Other participants may perform "Good Samaritan" actions, or actions taken to assist fellow participants during emergency situations in the field. However, Earthwatch does not encourage or expect you to jeopardize your own safety or that of others in attempting to rescue or assist your fellow team members.

Right of Refusal

Earthwatch reserves the right to refuse an applicant's participation on Earthwatch projects at any time and to terminate any work being done by a participant and require the participant to vacate the project site if any of the Earthwatch Expedition Team in his or her absolute discretion considers it appropriate. In this event, the participant (and his/ her parent/ guardian, if appropriate) will be responsible for arranging and paying for any accommodation, travel or other arrangements which may be necessary following the termination of a participant's involvement in a project, for whatever reason and may not be eligible for a refund.

Earthwatch and the project staff may not refuse a participant for discriminatory reasons (race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, or any other reason prohibited by applicable law). However, participants may be denied in the interest of team compatibility. Earthwatch will make reasonable efforts to accommodate participants with disabilities and the organization endeavors to find appropriate expeditions for those participants that have physical limitations. Refusal of a participant is an unusual event and is generally due to either an applicant's failure to meet the essential eligibility requirements of a particular project, or in the interest of team compatibility. In the event that an applicant is refused participation for health reasons, Earthwatch will refund in full any deposit or payment made toward the expedition.

Earthwatch scientists have the right to refuse special requests, such as media visits (film, photography or print), special groups or teams (students, donors, etc.), if they conflict with Earthwatch scientist schedules, safety, research objectives or general performance of the team.

Any participant found in violation of any of the policies described in this document ("Earthwatch Institute Policies & Participant Rights and Responsibilities") is subject to removal from the team at their own expense. By signing the Liability Release section of your Earthwatch Participation Form, participants are indicating that they have read and understand the policies in this document. Removal of a participant from a team is at the discretion of the Earthwatch scientist or Field Team Leader and Earthwatch staff. In addition, Earthwatch will support the right of the scientist to send participants away from a project once in the field should their behavior compromise the safety, research objectives or general performance of the team, or if the participant has violated a stated policy. In the event that a minor is dismissed from a project, Earthwatch will contact the participant's parents or legal guardian prior to their dismissal. Should a participant be removed from a team, he/she is responsible for any or all costs associated with departure from the team and will receive no refund of the share of costs of the expedition nor any expenses incurred in participation on the expedition.

(November 2010)

Appendix

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Expedition Packing Checklist

Required Items

- ☐ This Expedition Briefing
- ☐ Photocopies of your passport, flight itinerary and credit cards in case the originals are lost or stolen; the copies should be packed separately from the original documents
- ☐ Passport and/or visa (if necessary)
- ☐ EHIC Card (if EU national)
- ☐ Certification of vaccination (if necessary)
- ☐ Documentation for travel by minors (if necessary) (see *Volunteers Under 18 Years of Age* in the *Travel Planning* section)
- ☐ Calling card/mobile phone (with international calling capabilities if applicable)
- ☐ Credit card that may be used (internationally, if applicable) in the event of an emergency (travel delays, etc.)

Clothing/Footwear for Fieldwork

- ☐ Be sure to bring your Earthwatch T-shirt and remember to wear it, as appropriate, throughout your expedition
- ☐ High-quality sun glasses
- ☐ Well worn-in and comfortable hiking boots with ankle support
- ☐ Lightweight, quick-drying, long-sleeved shirts and pants/trousers
- ☐ T-shirts
- ☐ Set of heavier/warmer clothes
- ☐ Windproof jacket with hood
- ☐ Warm wool or synthetic fleece sweaters/sweatshirts/jumpers
- ☐ rain proof poncho/jacket
- ☐ rain proof trousers
- ☐ Hats and gloves
- ☐ Thermal underwear
- ☐ Hat with wide brim to protect from sun

Clothing/Footwear for Leisure

- ☐ One set of clothing to keep clean for non-field days and end of expedition
- ☐ Slippers to wear within the accommodations (they should have soles with grip)
- ☐ Night clothes

Field Supplies

- ☐ Rucksacks/backpacks for daily use (to carry clipboards, GPS, sunscreen, fleece, water, camera, etc.)
- ☐ Dry bag or plastic sealable bags (good for protecting equipment such as camera from dust, humidity, and water)
- ☐ One or two water bottle(s) (able to hold a minimum of two liters)
- ☐ Sunscreen lotion with SPF 60 or higher

Bedding and Bathing

- ☐ **Note: The project will supply all bedding (blankets, pillow, bed linen), but not towels.**
- ☐ Bath towel
- ☐ Swimming towel (if desired)

Personal Supplies

- ☐ Personal toiletries (biodegradable soaps and shampoos are encouraged)
- ☐ Antibacterial wipes or lotion (good for cleaning hands while in the field)
- ☐ Personal first aid kit (e.g. anti-diarrhea pills, antibiotics, antiseptic, itch-relief, pain reliever, bandages, blister covers, etc.) and personal medications
- ☐ Moisturizing lotion and lip balm

Miscellaneous

- ☐ Spending money
- ☐ Camera, film/memory card(s), extra camera battery (if you bring a digital camera, bring your interface cables for downloading photos)

Optional Items

- ☐ Binoculars are strongly recommended (8 x 30 or larger are good for wildlife viewing)
- ☐ Work gloves for use during fieldwork
- ☐ Flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries and extra bulb
- ☐ Work gloves
- ☐ Earplugs for light sleepers
- ☐ Swimming costume and towel for use during recreational time
- ☐ Travel guide
- ☐ Field guides (a selection of relevant field guides are available at the study site, but volunteers may wish to bring their own)
- ☐ Books, games, journal, art supplies, etc. for recreational/rest time and travel
- ☐ Basic French phrase book
- ☐ Blank CD or USB drive for sharing digital photographs at the end of the expedition

Note: Required and Optional Items lists are accurate to the best of Earthwatch's knowledge at the time of publication.



Our Mission

Earthwatch engages people worldwide in scientific field research and education to promote the understanding and action necessary for a sustainable environment.

We believe that achieving a sustainable future requires objective scientific data from the field—and that the scientific process must engage the general public if it is to change the world. To that end, we involve people from all walks of life directly in global field research.

We invite you to join us.

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Earthwatch engages people worldwide in scientific field research and education to promote the understanding and action necessary for a sustainable environment. Our vision is for a world in which we live within our means and in balance with nature.