
PRESS STATEMENT

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Gambling charity launches fundraising expedition to China

The Responsible Gambling Trust has challenged people working in the gambling industry to walk the length of the Great Wall of China to help raise money for the charity. The charity is leading a fundraising expedition to China in April 2015 which seeks to raise a minimum of £50,000 towards research, education and treatment for problem gambling in the UK.

The trip will be the latest in a series of annual international fundraisers undertaken by the charity. Since it was founded in 2012, the RGT has taken teams to Kilimanjaro base camp and across the Sahara Desert raising a total of £100,000 in aid of minimising gambling related harm. The sum raised will help the RGT to achieve its 2014/15 fundraising target of £7million.

The six day, 46 kilometre trek will take volunteers along unrestored sections of the Great Wall. Trekkers will also have the opportunity to visit Beijing and explore the attractions of China's capital city including the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square. The trip is open to anyone who wishes to support problem gambling causes and applications are particularly encouraged from people working in the gambling industry.

Marc Etches, Chief Executive of the Responsible Gambling Trust, said,

"I know that many people in the gambling industry care deeply about problem gambling and want to make a social contribution. The Responsible Gambling Trust is very grateful for the support it receives each year from gambling companies of all sizes but we need to raise more if we are to continue to provide first-class support to problem gamblers in the UK. The treks in 2013 and 2014 were challenging but also enormously rewarding. This is a great opportunity to help problem gamblers while having a truly memorable experience.

Anybody interested in taking part in the RGT's Great Wall of China challenge can visit <http://www.charitychallenge.com/expedition/2083/Great-Wall-Discovery> or contact Alan Armstrong on 020 7287 1994 or Alan@responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- The Responsible Gambling Trust is the leading charity in the UK committed to minimising gambling-related harm. As an independent national charity funded by donations from the gambling industry, the Responsible Gambling Trust funds education, prevention and treatment services and commissions research to broaden public understanding of gambling-related harm. The aim is to stop people getting into problems with their gambling, and ensure that those that do develop problems receive fast and effective treatment and support.
- The Responsible Gambling Trust raises a minimum of £5million each year from the gambling industry operating in Britain within a voluntary (donation based) system and funds research, education, prevention and treatment services. Funding priorities are guided by the national strategy advised by the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) and endorsed by the Gambling Commission. The latest strategy was published in December 2012.