

For Immediate Release

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The G2 Gallery

Travel With a Purpose

*Erin McCloskey Presents a Lecture on Voluntourism at the
G2 Gallery on February 5, 2009*

Venice, CA – Erin McCloskey, the North American operations manager for Biosphere Expeditions, speaks about *Voluntourism*, the wildlife conservation work being done through this concept and how you can be a part of it. For the past decade, she has worked with various wildlife organizations around the world and will be speaking at the G2 Gallery after a month in the field in Oman, studying the Arabian leopard. The event will take place on February 5, 2009 from 6:00– 9:00 p.m.

Specifically tying into the *Irreplaceable: Wildlife in a Warming World* exhibit, McCloskey will be focusing part of the lecture on the annual project run by Biosphere Expeditions that studies the effects of climate change on endangered lammergeyer populations as well as the capercaillie and snow partridge (ptarmigan) in the Pyrenees Mountains of Spain. The

lammergeyer is Eurasia's largest bird of prey and, together with marmots, chamois, capercaillie and ptarmigans, inhabits the spectacular cliffs and gorges of the Pyrenees Mountains. This research is part of a large concerted effort with local partners and, in the face of the negative effects of climate change, aims to ensure the survival of Europe's largest bird of prey as well as the other fauna associated with this flagship species.

McCloskey is the author of several travel guides, nature photography books, and magazine articles. Her most recent publications include a series of nature guides and a feature for the November 2008 issue of the UK's *Geographical* magazine.

Voluntourism is a new term for those who wish to travel with a purpose. People with no scientific training or experience in field techniques can join an expedition and be an integral part of field research in wildlife conservation, creating a research team for a scientist studying the rarest of the rare in remote parts of the world, who without this support simply could not achieve his/her objectives.

LOCATION: The G2 Gallery (www.theg2gallery.com)
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About G2 Gallery

Established in March 2008, the G2 Gallery in Venice, California, is a green art space with a dedicated focus on contemporary nature and wildlife photography.

In keeping with G2's commitment to supporting arts and the environment, the gallery presents exhibitions with eco-conscious themes, donating the proceeds from all art sales to environmental charities and hosts free concerts and lectures that bring awareness of critical issues to our community.

About Erin McCloskey

Erin lives in Venice, California, where she is the North American operations manager for Biosphere Expeditions, an organization that takes layperson volunteers to help in the field on scientific research expeditions in support of wildlife conservation worldwide.

Ever an advocate for the protection of endangered species and spaces and for increasing public knowledge and awareness about the natural world, Erin has collaborated with various NGOs in Canada, obtained her BSC in environmental and conservation sciences, majoring in conservation biology and management, from the University of Alberta, and has worked for the past twelve years in publishing, starting with her job as an editor for a nature publisher, Lone Pine Publishing.

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