

### #3 MATTHIAS HAMMER BIOSPHERE EXPEDITIONS

In 1999 and armed with a PhD, Matthias Hammer turned his back on the ivory tower of academia and headed for the field. And he's had few regrets

To Dr Hammer the appeal to the public of his Biosphere 'holidays' is simple: 'They are for people who have seen a lot but now want to actually do something.' Two weeks with Biosphere under canvas in the field is, you might have guessed, not really a holiday at all, more a rare opportunity for the public to become actively involved in genuine field research programmes, programmes subsequently published under the auspices of Cambridge University, of which Dr Hammer is an alumnus. Biosphere was established in 1999 to put together biologists and other scientists looking for funding and a new kind of traveller who is interested in wildlife and 'wants to feel like he or she can make a difference'. Guests pay around £1,000 for two weeks in the field; tracking grey wolves in Poland; monitoring steppe wolves and bird migrations in the Ukraine; radio-tracking cheetahs in Namibia; or surveying Amazonian macaws and spider monkeys in Peru. Programmes are added yearly, but there's no shortage of guests. 'In fact we have a waiting list for some holidays.'

[www.biosphere-expeditions.org](http://www.biosphere-expeditions.org)

