

Vesuvius and the tragedy of Pompeii



Using his expertise as a guide to Pompeii, Herculaneum and Vesuvius, David looks at the fascinating stories gleaned from the clues that litter this tempestuous landscape in one of the most densely populated, and threatened, areas of Europe. David uses his knowledge of other volcanic areas to provide surprising insights.

Climate change

David has university lectured on environmental issues for many years. His climate change talk examines impacts, measuring environmental change, and how evidence is collected and interpreted. The fascinating detective work of proxy data gathering is also looked at.



Living with the Environment



This talk asks how much of nature we are prepared to sacrifice to maintain our lifestyle. It looks at how we 'cost' the environment and the ethics of placing a number on an environmental resource. How do we measure the benefits nature gives us? Should we even try? A talk guaranteed to generate debate.

Value for money

David can provide talks throughout the day (including assembly), ensuring maximum value. The fee will be lower if David is already in the area on an adjacent date: check the website to see his current bookings.

David trained as a geologist at the University of Edinburgh. He has worked as a ranger in the Grand Canyon, as an expedition science leader in Botswana and on a biodiversity survey of Montserrat. He was the Director of Studies for the University of Edinburgh's Global Environmental Change international summer school. While the Royal Geographical Society's Expeditions Advisor, he fell off a mountain and self rescued with broken legs. He has run environmental sustainability courses for the University of Glasgow, worked on ocean research ships, and has lectured at the University of Maine. He currently tutors on the environment for the Open University and guides on earth science field trips to Italy and Iceland. David was awarded Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in recognition of his public communication of geographical subjects. He has written for national journals, and has contributed to Radio 4's *Excess Baggage* travel show.



David Edwards

www.guestspeaker.earth

Talks for schools on geography, volcanoes, energy, sustainability, and the environment

Case study talks from the frontline of geography, featuring topics such as:

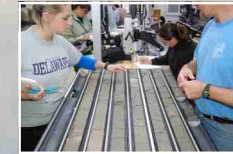
Collecting data for climate change studies
Challenges of less developed countries
Politics, technology and sociology of energy



How we value nature
Conserving fragile environments
Sustainable living



Economics of the environment
Surviving volcanic eruptions
Plate tectonics in action



Cold environments
Data gathering
Managing natural disasters
Environmental ethics



From a speaker who has:

Survived an eruption * Witnessed emergency evacuations * Carried water in the Kalahari Desert * Broken both legs mountaineering and self-rescued * Smuggled himself into a country without a passport * Camped on glaciers * Drilled the Pacific ocean floor * Been charged by elephants * Caught wild animals for a biodiversity survey * Collected molten lava * Worked as a ranger in the Grand Canyon * Caught snakes with his bare hands * Taught environmental science at university

Botswana: Water, Lions and Democracy

David spent three months in the bush as a leader on a youth expedition. There were close encounters with elephants,



lions, cheetahs, and hyenas, in a democratic country that has thrived amongst troubled neighbours. Water issues and survival in the Kalahari Desert are contrasted with the lush Okavango Delta. David also stayed with



local people and learnt about everyday life, and Botswana's health, political and social challenges. The expedition's patron was the first white first lady of a newly independent African state: a mixed race marriage which institutional racism and South African apartheid tried to stop.

Montserrat: Surviving the Volcano



"Volcano threatens to erupt" was the newspaper headline as David arrived for a three month biodiversity survey on the Caribbean island of Montserrat. He witnessed close up the eruption that triggered the first evacuations and the disruption to this idyllic island. David describes the warning signs in the build-up to the eruption and the subsequent evacuations and hazard management.



My Exploding World



His work with volcanoes has taken David to Italy, Hawaii (collecting molten lava), Canada (evading grizzlies), Montserrat (evading ash avalanches), Iceland, and New Zealand. In this talk he explains why volcanoes are so important, exciting, and relevant to understanding our world.

Iceland: Plate Tectonic Wilderness

Iceland is the UK's closest wilderness, an earth scientist's heaven, and a country that shouldn't be there: a part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge over a mantle plume. Geothermal energy and the whole range of volcanic processes can be fruitfully studied in this exciting and alien landscape. Heimaey and its 1973 eruption provides a case study of volcanic impacts on a small society and how the lava flow was successfully battled.



Seafloor Environmental Science Exploration



Join David on the exploration drill ship JOIDES Resolution, an international platform for ocean research. It has unlocked many of the secrets of the oceans, from climate change to plate tectonics; building on the cold war mapping of the seabed for nuclear submarine warfare. See how it uncovers secrets from the last great unexplored wilderness that help us decipher the story of our planet and what the future holds.

Our Energy Future

Join David for riots, the overthrowing of governments and deals with oppressive regimes, as we try to ensure that we have access to the energy that allows us to have economic



development, high literacy rates, long life expectancy and low infant mortality. Why is energy security so important? What environmental issues should govern our energy choices? Based on his popular university course this topical talk will provide an



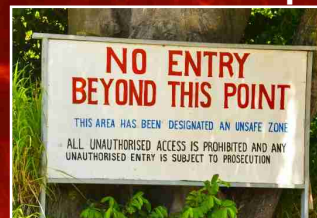
understanding of the political, ethical, social and practical considerations.

Antarctica: a Continent for Science

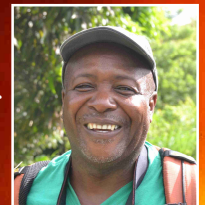
With superb images from his recent expedition, David examines why it is so important to us today. It is a touchstone of environmental change and tells us much about our past and our future. Geology, climate, wildlife and personal sacrifice come together in a landscape which has inspired generations.



Montserrat: Impacts and Adaptations



In 1995 David witnessed, dangerously close, the eruptions and evacuations that changed Montserrat for ever. Many years later he returned to see how the island is faring. With the population having lost two thirds of its land there have been major social shifts, impacts, adaptations and challenges. See what it is like to live on the new Montserrat.



(As featured on Radio 4's 'Excess Baggage' programme)