



Lucy Shepherd

Most leadership advice is written by people who have never had to make a decision their team's life depends on. Senior teams now operate in conditions of compounded uncertainty, where preparation runs out and judgment under pressure becomes the variable that matters. The harder question is what composure, trust, and decision-making actually look like when the plan stops working.

Lucy Shepherd is a British explorer and broadcaster who turns first-hand expedition leadership in the Amazon, Arctic and high mountain ranges into hard-won lessons on composure, trust and decision-making under pressure.

Lucy Shepherd's 2026 Biography

Why organisations work with Lucy Shepherd

- She has actually led teams through conditions where decisions carry physical consequence: a 50-day, 400km first-recorded crossing of Guyana's Kanuku Mountains with an Indigenous Macushi and Wapishana team, captured in Channel 4's Secret Amazon: Into the Wild.
- Her credentials sit inside the institutions that historically define exploration: Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society at 23, co-opted council member of the Scientific Exploration Society, with a Penguin Michael Joseph book, Into the Wild, that documents the thinking behind the expedition.
- She speaks credibly to mixed-team leadership in cultures and conditions she does not control, a closer analogy for senior leaders running global teams than the usual sports or military comparisons.
- She brings a current, on-camera profile, rather than a single-event story repeated for years. Each new expedition and broadcast updates the material she draws on.

Biography highlights

- Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, appointed at age 23.
- Co-opted council member of the Scientific Exploration Society.
- Led the first recorded east-to-west traverse of Guyana's Kanuku Mountains, a 50-day, 400km expedition with an all-Indigenous team.
- Author of Into the Wild, published by Penguin Michael Joseph.
- Star and self-shooting subject of Channel 4's Secret Amazon: Into the Wild, a two-part series that aired in 2024.
- Described by The Times as "the most hardcore member of the new generation of British adventurers".

AVAILABLE FOR

- Speaking

LUCY'S SPEAKING THEMES

- Climate Action and Sustainability
- Motivation and Inspiration
- Risk Management
- Storytelling & Business Communication

LANGUAGES: English

Biography

The first recorded east-to-west crossing of Guyana's Kanuku Mountains took 50 days and roughly 400 kilometres on foot. Lucy Shepherd led it in 2021 with an Indigenous Macushi and Wapishana team, navigating jungle, river and uncharted terrain on outdated maps. Channel 4 turned the expedition into *Secret Amazon: Into the Wild*, broadcast in 2024.

Shepherd's credentials read like an older era of exploration. She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society at 23 and co-opted onto the council of the Scientific Exploration Society, the bodies that have historically vetted serious British expedition work. The Times has called her "the most hardcore member of the new generation of British adventurers," a line that travels because it is uncharacteristically literal about what she does.

The keynote material draws on a decade of leading and joining expeditions across Arctic plateaus, high mountains, deep jungle and desert. The themes that recur are practical: composure when conditions degrade, trust built across cultural and language boundaries, decisions made on incomplete information, and the discipline of carrying on when the plan no longer applies. Her Penguin Michael Joseph book, *Into the Wild*, sets out the thinking behind those decisions in long form.

Senior audiences tend to find the analogy useful because the field she works in is unforgiving in ways business rarely is. The leadership questions translate without softening, and the speaker bringing them has carried the consequences personally.

Key speaking topics

- Expedition leadership in extreme environments
- Decision-making under physical and psychological pressure
- Leading mixed and cross-cultural teams
- Risk, preparation and the limits of planning
- Wilderness, biodiversity and environmental stewardship
- Resilience drawn from expedition fieldwork

Ideal for

- Senior leadership offsites and partner conferences seeking a substantive keynote on judgment under pressure
- Teams coming through restructure, sustained change, or operational shock who need a renewed sense of composure and trust
- Sustainability, ESG and conservation-themed audiences who want a credible field voice rather than a policy speaker
- All-hands and inspirational anchor slots where the standard sports or military keynote has worn thin

Audience outcomes

- A grounded sense of what real decision-making under pressure looks like, told through a specific 50-day expedition rather than abstract framework.
- A more honest reading of risk, preparation and the point at which planning stops being useful.
- A practical model for building trust across a team when language, culture and authority are not stable.
- A renewed argument for protecting wilderness and biodiversity, made

by someone who has spent time inside it.

Lucy Shepherd's Videos



What Lucy Shepherd's clients say

Both thought provoking and inspirational.

PwC

Your presentation landed well and I think everyone who attended took away some inspiring insights which everyone can relate to. Your message about embracing ambiguity, resilience and optimism are really appropriate in today's world of business.

IG Group

Several people have stopped me in the hallways today to tell me how inspiring Lucy's talk was. It really made exploration so accessible and tangible for folks, which is a testament to her ability to draw parallels between our work and hers.

Google DeepMind

Fantastic 45 minutes spent today with Lucy Shepherd. Lucy provided some much needed respite and positivity by giving us a taste of her world of intrepid exploration and travel. Thank you Lucy for giving all of us a peek into your world.

Marissa Thomas

Member of Management Board, PwC UK

Lucy is exceptional in telling stories and I learned so much. She brought out many insights and practical points of view that we can act on. So inspiring and what we need at this time to reconnect with what's possible.

Charlotte Schraa

Vocus, Australia

Lucy Shepherd's 2026 speaking fees

Specific fees fall within the ranges shown. These are presented as a guide only and are subject to change without notice.

| | EUR | GBP | USD |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Home Country | Under €12000 | Under £10,000 | Under \$15000 |
| Asia Pacific | Please enquire | Please enquire | Please enquire |
| Europe | Please enquire | Please enquire | Please enquire |
| Middle East & Africa | Please enquire | Please enquire | Please enquire |
| South America | Please enquire | Please enquire | Please enquire |
| United Kingdom | Under €12000 | Under £10,000 | Under \$15000 |
| US East Coast | Please enquire | Please enquire | Please enquire |
| US West Coast | Please enquire | Please enquire | Please enquire |

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Virtual | Please enquire | Please enquire | Please enquire |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|