

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Ruth Floyd, Executive Director of Business Services

SUBJECT: Field Trip Opportunity Offered to Students (non-district sponsored)

DATE: December 5, 2023

TYPE: Action Required

Jason Femrite, history teacher at Stanwood High School, is requesting Board approval to offer a field trip opportunity to Stanwood High School students to participate in an educational trip to London, Paris, and Central Europe through Explorica by WorldStrides tour company in June/July 2025.

This is a non-district sponsored educational trip. Mr. Femrite, students, and employees that participate will not be representatives of the school district.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board approve Jason Femrite's request to offer students the opportunity to participate in the Explorica by WorldStrides field trip to London, Paris, and Central Europe in June/July 2025.

November 15, 2023

To: Stanwood-Camano School District School Board

From: Jason Femrite

Dear Board Members,

I am requesting permission to offer students and parents information for an upcoming trip to London, Paris & Central Europe.

I'm excited to announce that I will be leading a group of students on a once-in-a-lifetime educational tour, "London, Paris & Central Europe." We'll explore famous historic sites, discover the rich heritage and diversity of different cultures and experience the places we've studied in class. Students will grow and mature as individuals and return home with a whole new worldview. I've chosen to travel with Explorica because of their exceptional safety record, their supportive service and their glowing reviews from other teachers in our community who travel with them. Explorica programs offer the perfect mixture of fun and learning, and they provide everything we need.

Overview of Details

I have included some paperwork with information pertaining to our trip:

- I. Sample itinerary of the trip
- II. Google Slide Deck that includes the following information:
 - A. My travel experience EF and Explorica
 - B. Benefits of Educational Travel
 - C. Why I travel with Explorica
 - D. Trip itinerary in full
 - E. What is included in the trip
 - F. Traveler Responsibilities
 - G. Travel Protection
 - H. Passport and Visas
 - I. Academic Credit
 - J. Enrollment Options
 - K. Fundraising & Financial assistance
 - L. Cancellation Fees
- III. Washington State History Standards
- IV. Explorica by WorldStride Meeting Brochure

Thanks you for your support,

Jason Femrite

Teacher

Stanwood High School

London, Paris & Central Europe

explorica.com/
June 25 - July 09, 2025

Day 1 Start tour

Day 2 Hello London

Meet your tour director and check into hotel
London city walk: Thames River, Trafalgar Square, National Gallery visit, Piccadilly Circus, Covent Garden, Leicester Square,
Classic fish & chips dinner

Day 3 London Landmarks

London guided sightseeing tour: Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Tower Bridge, Hyde Park, St. Paul's Cathedral
Curry dinner
Optional Windsor Castle guided excursion

Day 4 London--Paris

Eurostar Chunnel crossing
Paris city walk: Île de la Cité, Notre-Dame Cathedral, Île St. Louis, Latin Quarter
Louvre visit
Dinner in Latin Quarter

Day 5 Paris Landmarks

Paris guided sightseeing tour: Arc de Triomphe, Champs Élysées, Eiffel Tower, Champ de Mars, École Militaire, Les Invalides, Conciergerie, Tuilleries Garden, Place Vendôme, Opera House
Optional Versailles guided excursion : State Apartments, Hall of Mirrors, Gardens of Versailles

Day 6 Paris--Heidelberg

Travel to Heidelberg via Mannheim by train

Day 7 Heidelberg--Munich

Heidelberg tour director-led sightseeing: Heidelberg Castle & Heidelberg Tun barrel visit, University, Marktplatz
Travel to Munich
Bavarian bratwurst dinner

Day 8 Munich Landmarks

Munich guided sightseeing tour: Residenz, Nymphenburg Palace Gardens, Alte Pinakothek, Deutsches Museum, BMW Headquarters, Olympic site of 1972, Frauenkirche, Neues Rathaus, Marienplatz, Hofbräuhaus
Dachau Concentration Camp & Memorial visit

Day 9 Munich--Vienna

Travel to Vienna via Salzburg
Mozart's birthplace visit
Wiener Schnitzel dinner

Day 10 Vienna Landmarks

Vienna guided sightseeing tour: Schönbrunn Palace visit, Parliament, Ringstraße, Hofburg, Opera House, St. Stephen's Cathedral visit
Optional Danube cruise

Day 11 Vienna--Prague

Travel to Prague
Prague city walk: Charles Bridge, Mala Strana, Old Town Square, Jewish Quarter

Day 12 Prague Landmarks

Prague guided sightseeing tour: Hradcany (Prague Castle), St. Vitus Cathedral visit

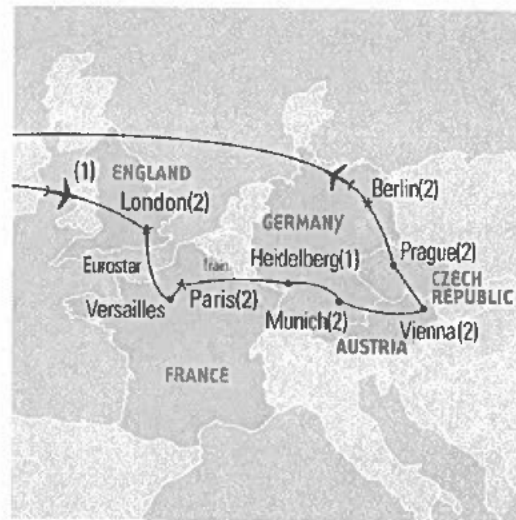
Day 13 Prague--Berlin

Travel to Berlin via Dresden
Zwinger Museum visit
Berlin City Walk: Alexanderplatz, Bebelplatz, Hackesche Höfe, Nikolai Quarter, Museum Island

Day 14 Berlin Landmarks

Berlin guided sightseeing tour: Checkpoint Charlie, Potsdamer Platz, Berlin Wall, Brandenburg Gate, Reichstag, Victory Column
Optional Potsdam excursion: Neues Palais guided visit, Sanssouci Palace gardens, The Russian Colony

Day 15 End tour



Tour Center ID: [REDACTED]
Registration deadline: 11/15/2023

What's included

We provide everything you need for a remarkable trip:

- Round-trip airfare
- 13 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms
- Full European breakfast daily
- Dinner daily
- Full-time services of a professional tour director
- Guided sightseeing tours and city walks as per itinerary
- Visits to select attractions as per itinerary
- High-speed Eurostar Chunnel crossing
- Guided sightseeing tours with high-tech headset as per itinerary
- Tour Diary™
- Local Guide and Local Bus Driver tips; see note regarding other important tips
- Note: On arrival day only dinner is provided; on departure day, only breakfast is provided
- Note: Tour cost does not include airline-imposed baggage fees, or fees for any required passport or visa. Optional excursions, optional pre-paid Tour Director and multi-day bus driver tipping, among other individual and group customizations will be listed as separate line items in the total trip cost, if included.

Tour investment

Students (travelers under the age of 23): \$4,959
Adults (age 23 and over): \$5,669

Price reflects savings of \$200 scholarship. Sign up by 11/15/2023 and enter code Travel5Z in order to take advantage of this limited-time offer!

Automatic monthly payment plan

Pay just \$50 upon enrollment and the balance will be divided into equal monthly payments, charged automatically to your credit card or checking account. As of 11/02/23, your monthly payment would be just \$272.72.

Manual plan also available; learn more on explorica.com/paymentplans.

Travel protection

Most Explorica travelers protect their investment with one of our trusted plans, starting from just \$224. To learn more, visit explorica.com/cfar.

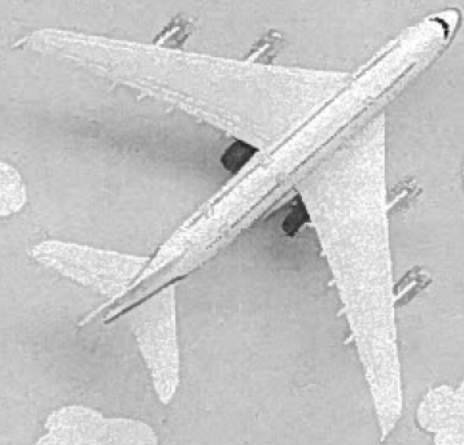


←explorica®→
by WorldStrides

London, Paris & Central Europe

June 25, 2025 - July 9, 2025

WHY I TRAVEL



Jason Femrite

About me:

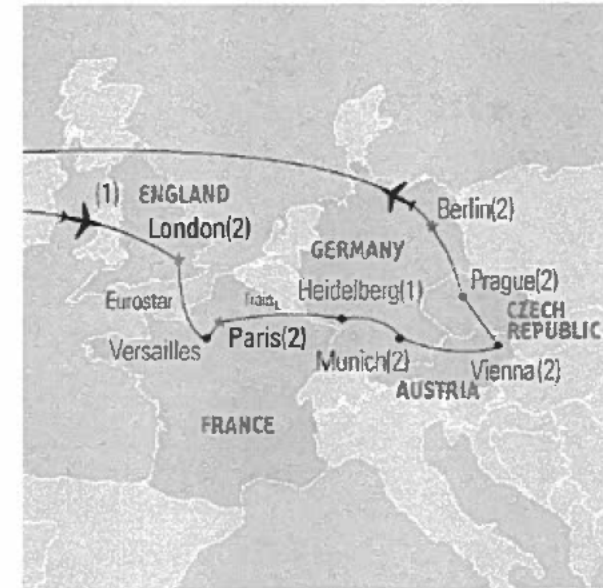
Travel:

- *New York 2011*
- *Washington DC 2011*
- *Paris 2012*
- *From Rome to Greece 2013*
- *Battlefields of WW1 2015*
- *Venice, Florence & Rome 2017*
- *New York & DC 2022*
- *London, Paris & Central Europe 2025*

Why I selected this tour

- *London, Paris & Central Europe 2025*

← **explorica** →
by WorldStrides



Benefits of Educational Travel



Expanded worldview

- Understanding and appreciation of different cultures



Personal growth

- Increased confidence and competence
- Language and cultural immersion



Life skills

- Demonstrates maturity and worldliness
- Enhances college and job applications



Travel impact by the numbers...

92% of students

who have traveled report the experience had a lasting impact on their world view.



On Average, students who travel..



Score 19% higher on their SATs



Hold a GPA that's 23% higher



Are 32% more likely to attend college



Are 61% more likely to be employed full time

Why Explorica?



Proven experience

- 55 years of safe travel experiences
- More than 1 million travelers
- Tours to 75 countries on all 7 continents



Excellent value

- Fully inclusive
- Quality hotels, meals & activities
- Guaranteed best prices



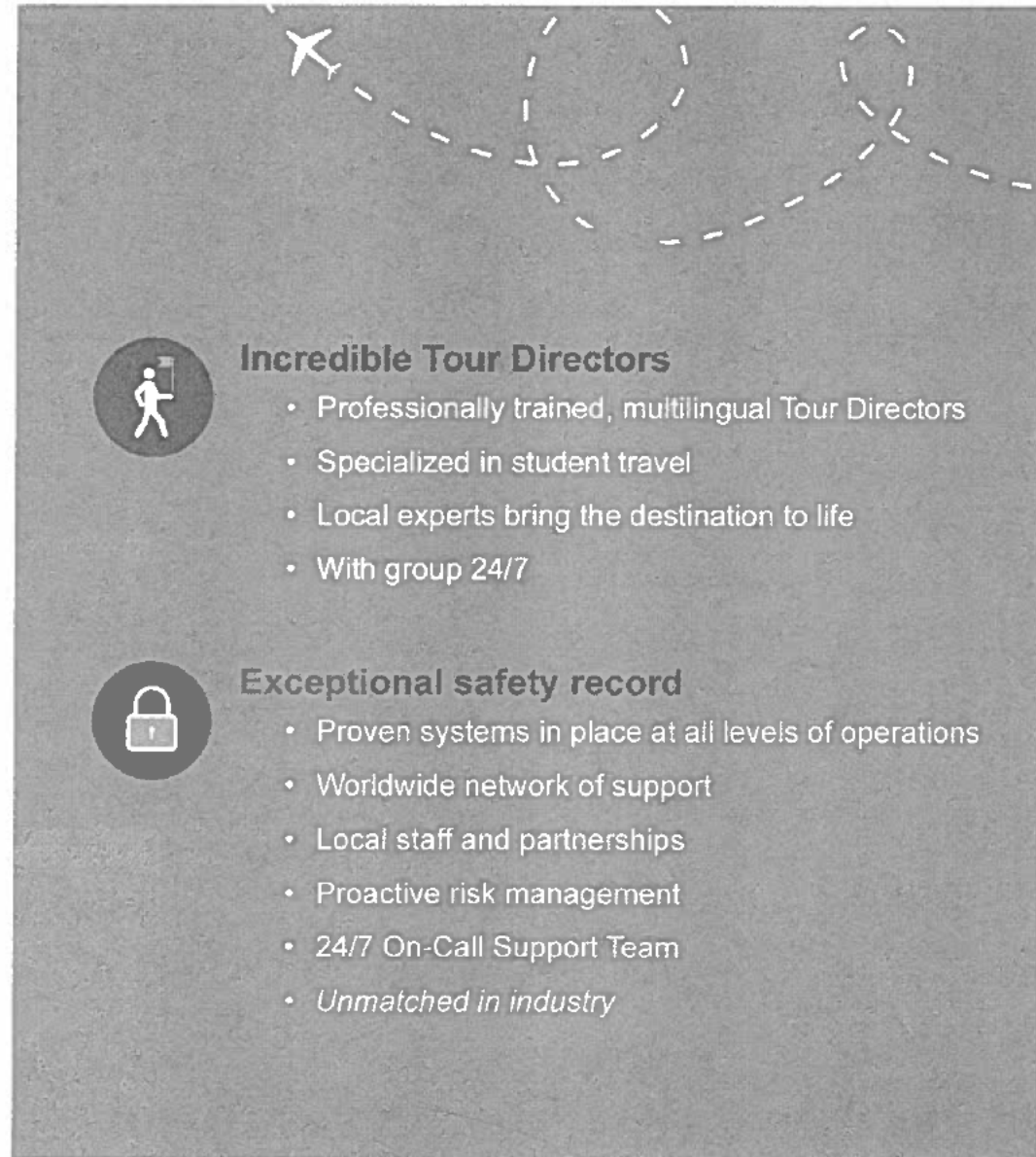
Incredible Tour Directors

- Professionally trained, multilingual Tour Directors
- Specialized in student travel
- Local experts bring the destination to life
- With group 24/7



Exceptional safety record

- Proven systems in place at all levels of operations
- Worldwide network of support
- Local staff and partnerships
- Proactive risk management
- 24/7 On-Call Support Team
- *Unmatched in industry*



London, Paris & Central Europe

Where we're going

And why...

- **June 25, 2025 - July 9, 2025**
- **Trip length: 15 days**

Take in London and Paris' most popular sites before going on a comprehensive tour of Central Europe's big cities. Starting with London's Buckingham Palace and Paris' Arc de Triomphe, you'll explore Heidelberg's majestic castle, the concentration camp at Dachau, Mozart's birthplace, and the medieval streets of Prague before viewing the remains of the Berlin Wall.

Next up

Our itinerary day by day



Tour Itinerary

DAY 1 | Start tour

DAY 2 | Hello London

- Meet your tour director and check into the hotel
- London city walk
 - Thames River, Trafalgar Square, National Gallery visit, Piccadilly Circus, Covent Garden, Leicester Square,
- Classic fish & chips dinner

DAY 3 | London landmarks

- London guided sightseeing tour
 - Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Tower Bridge, Hyde Park, St. Paul's Cathedral
- Optional Windsor Castle guided excursion \$80
- Curry dinner



Tour Itinerary

DAY 4 | London--Paris

- Eurostar Chunnel crossing
- Paris city walk
 - Île de la Cité, Notre-Dame Cathedral, Île St. Louis, Latin Quarter
- Louvre visit
- Dinner in Latin Quarter

DAY 5 | Paris Landmarks

- Paris guided sightseeing tour
 - Arc de Triomphe, Champs Élysées, Eiffel Tower, Champ de Mars, École Militaire, Les Invalides, Conciergerie, Tuileries Garden, Place Vendôme, Opera House
- Optional Versailles guided excursion \$80
 - State Apartments, Hall of Mirrors, Gardens of Versailles



LATIN QUARTER



EIFFEL TOWER

Tour Itinerary

DAY 6 | Paris--Heidelberg

- Travel to Heidelberg via Mannheim by train

DAY 7 | Heidelberg--Munich

- Heidelberg tour director-led sightseeing
Heidelberg Castle & Heidelberg Tun barrel visit, University, Marktplatz
- Travel to Munich
- Bavarian bratwurst dinner

DAY 8 | Munich Landmarks

- Munich guided sightseeing tour
Residenz, Nymphenburg Palace Gardens visit, Alte Pinakothek, Deutsches Museum, BMW Headquarters visit, Olympic site of 1972, Frauenkirche, Neues Rathaus, Marienplatz, Hofbräuhaus
- Dachau Concentration Camp & Memorial visit



Tour Itinerary

DAY 9 | Munich--Vienna

- Travel to Vienna via Salzburg
- Mozart's birthplace visit
- Wiener Schnitzel dinner

DAY 10 | Vienna landmarks

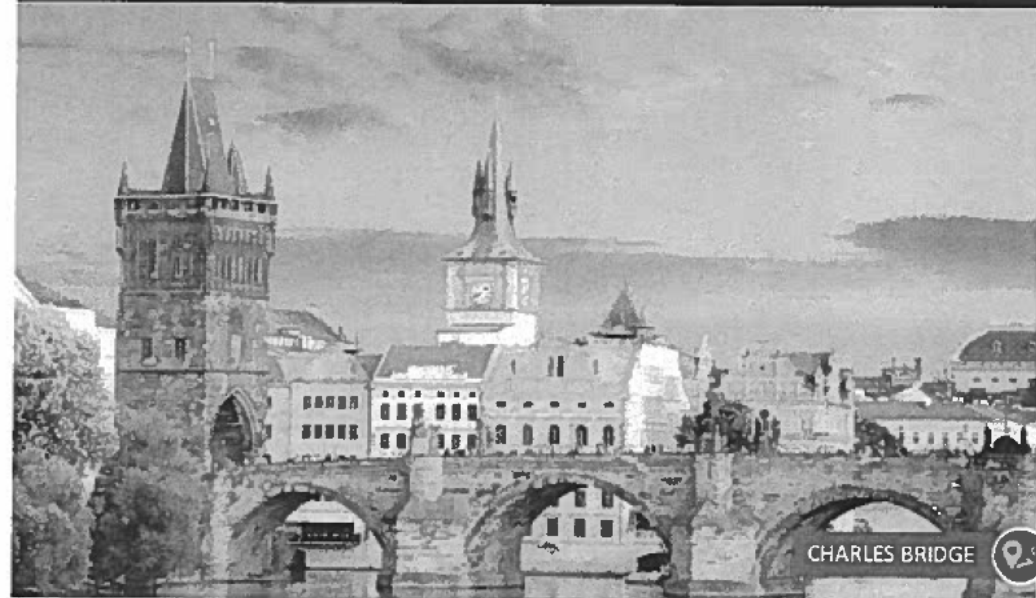
- Vienna guided sightseeing tour
Schönbrunn Palace visit, Parliament, Ringstraße, Hofburg, Opera House, St. Stephen's Cathedral visit
- Optional Danube cruise \$40

DAY 11 | Vienna--Prague

- Travel to Prague
- Prague city walk
Charles Bridge, Mala Strana, Old Town Square, Jewish Quarter

DAY 12 | Prague Landmarks

- Prague guided sightseeing tour
Hradcany (Prague Castle), St. Vitus Cathedral visit



Tour Itinerary

DAY 13 | Prague--Berlin

- Travel to Berlin via Dresden
- Zwinger Museum visit
- Berlin City Walk

Alexanderplatz, Bebelplatz, Hackesche Höfe, Nikolai Quarter, Museum Island

DAY 14 | Berlin Landmarks

- Berlin guided sightseeing tour
Checkpoint Charlie, Potsdamer Platz, Berlin Wall, Brandenburg Gate, Reichstag, Victory Column
- Optional Potsdam excursion \$80
Neues Palais guided visit, Sanssouci Palace gardens, The Russian Colony

DAY 15 | End tour



What's included

Almost everything!



Round-trip airfare



All on-tour transportation



Accommodation in triple or quad rooms with private bathrooms



Full breakfast daily



Hearty, authentic dinner daily



Entrance fees to attractions per itinerary



Guided sightseeing tours and city walks per itinerary



Full-time, professional Tour Director



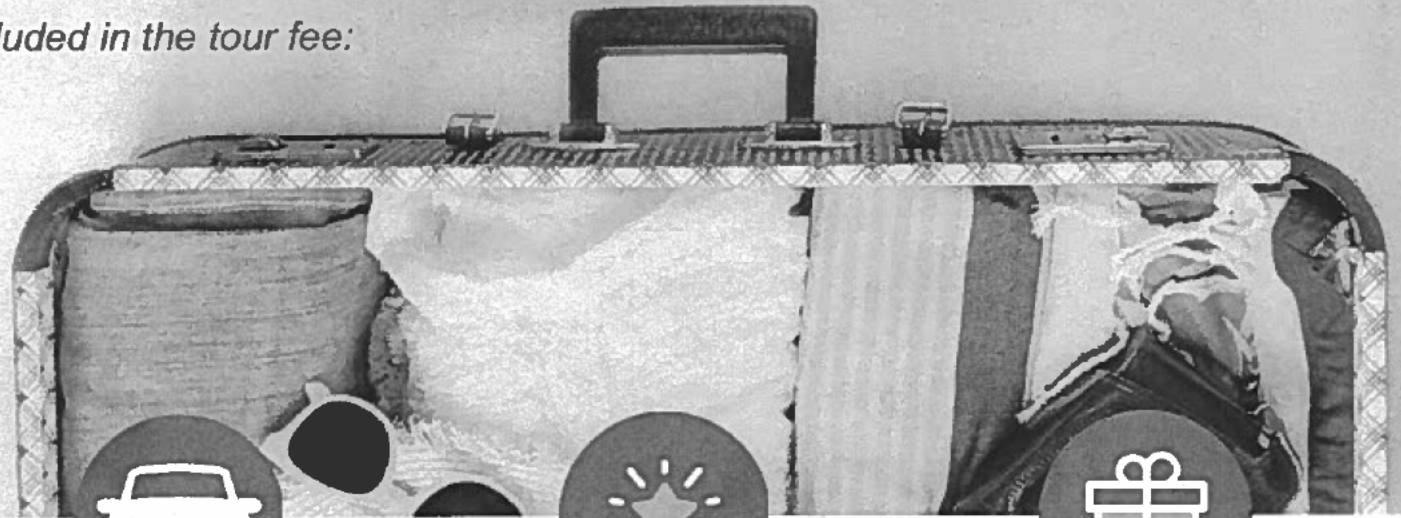
Online Tour Diary™, so you can follow our journey from home



24-hour emergency service

Your responsibilities

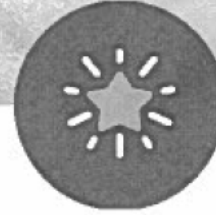
These costs vary and are not included in the tour fee:



Acquiring a passport and
visa (if applicable)



Travel to and from the
airport, for departure and
arrival back home



Tips for our tour director
and bus driver
(unless included)



Spending money for
optional excursions, free
time activities, lunches,
beverages/snacks, and
souvenirs

These are all necessities each traveler will be responsible for during the tour—please plan accordingly for them.

Your responsibilities

Optional travel protection



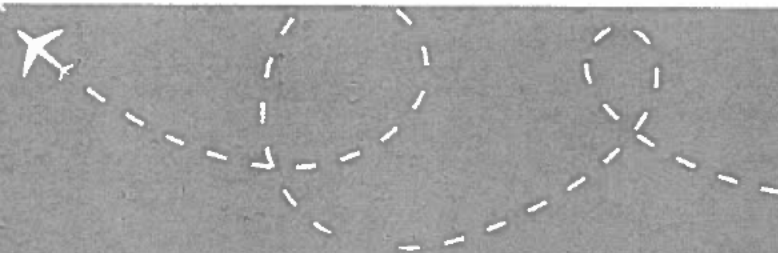
Travel Protection Plan

\$16/day

This plan covers your child for:

- A traveler's injury, sickness, or death of a family member
- Theft of passport or visas
- Flight cancellations due to strike or bad weather
- Loss of luggage and personal effects
- Trip cancellation or trip interruption due to covered reasons such as a covered sickness, illness, or injury
- Trip cancellation or trip interruption due to terrorist acts, as defined

*Cost of plan is due in full at the time it is selected.
This plan must be selected before your final trip payment.*



Travel Protection Plan PLUS

\$24/day

This plan covers your child for:

- Everything in the standard plan
- Plus Explorica's exclusive "Cancel for Any Reason" protection:
 - If you cancel your trip 48 hours (2 days) or more before your scheduled departure date, you will be reimbursed for 75% of the non-refundable cancellation fees, less the deposit and insurance premium

*Cost of plan is due in full at the time it is selected.
This plan must be selected within 14 days of trip enrollment.*

Passports & visas

All travelers are responsible for securing the necessary documentation for travel. These pieces of documentation may include a passport and visa.



Passports

- Passports are needed 3 months prior to your departure date.
- The application process takes 8-12 weeks, so plan accordingly.



Visas

- Since requirements vary for each nationality, we recommend all travelers verify the individual requirements for their nationality with the local consulate for all the countries to be visited, or VisaCentral, Explorica's partner for travel visas.

Important note: Passports must be valid for at least six months after our scheduled return date.

Academic Credit

How this differs from a family trip

- Students can complete assignments before, during, and/or after the tour.
- This option provides the opportunity to earn high school and/or college credit for their travel experience.



High school credit (students in grades 6-12)

- Middle and high school students can earn **free high school credit** in conjunction with their trip. To participate, choose a course from the options carefully paired with your travel program, then work at your own pace to complete the online coursework within six months of your tour. (.5 HS credits)



College credit (students in grades 9-12)

- Explorica partners with George Mason University to issue college credit in conjunction with our travel programs.
- High school students can earn college credit by successfully completing a course after they return from their travel program. Choose a **1-credit or 3-credit** course option, then work at your own pace to complete the online coursework within six months of your tour.
- The cost of credits is based on George Mason University's competitive fees.



Easy ways to pay

Making it possible for every student to travel

- \$99 deposit
- 30 days later \$500
- 110 days prior to departure 75% of the tour fee due
- 65 days prior to departure 25% of the tour fee due

1

2

3

Pay in full at enrollment

- Entire trip paid upon registration
- No remaining balance
- Payment rendered manually

Automatic monthly payment plan

- \$50 deposit paid upon registration
- Balance divided into equal monthly installments
- Payments charged automatically

Manual payment plan

- \$99 deposit paid upon registration
- Balance divided into 4 installments
- Payments rendered manually

←explorica→
by WorldSlides

Any plan can be paid with Visa, MasterCard (credit and debit), checks, electronic checking account payments, online banking and money orders. Payments can be made online, over the telephone, or by mail.

Easy ways to pay

Making it possible for every student to travel



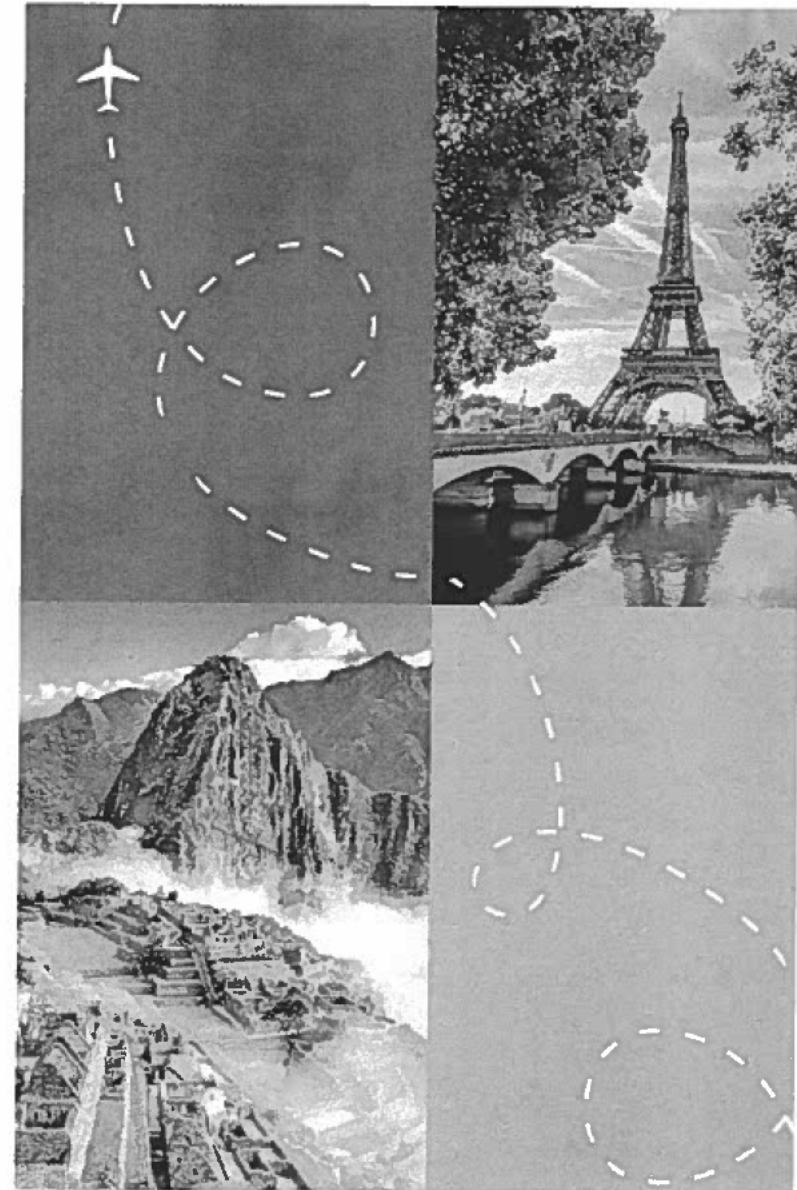
Fundraising support

- Personal fundraising page on explorica.com
- Easily request and accept credit card donations from friends and family



Financial assistance

- Need-based support for qualifying families
- Confidential application



Price: Extra \$100 off if you sign up by

Tour investment

Students (travelers under the age of 23): \$4,959
Adults (age 23 and over): \$5,669

Price reflects savings of \$200 scholarship. Sign up by 11/15/2023 and enter code Travel5Z in order to take advantage of this limited-time offer!

Automatic monthly payment plan

Pay just \$50 upon enrollment and the balance will be divided into equal monthly payments, charged automatically to your credit card or checking account. As of 11/02/23, your monthly payment would be just \$272.72.

Manual plan also available; learn more on explorica.com/paymentplans.

Travel protection

Most Explorica travelers protect their investment with one of our trusted plans, starting from just \$224. To learn more, visit explorica.com/cfar.



How to enroll

You can enroll your child through any of the following methods:

- Online at www.explorica.com (most popular!)
- By phone at 1-888-310-7121
- By mail when you complete the paper application and send it to:
Explorica
P.O. Box 9033
Charlottesville, VA 22906-9033



Sample Tour Center

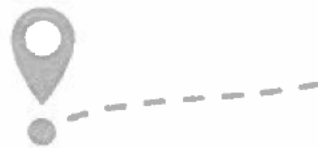
Thanks for joining us!

Enroll online at:

www.explorica.com/ [REDACTED]

Questions? Please contact:

Program Leader: Jason Femrite



\$200 off Enter Travel Code: *Travel5Z*

