



MARBLE FALLS

Independent School District

Meeting Date: 11/17/2025		Date Submitted: 11/11/2025	
Meeting Type: Regular Meeting		Agenda Placement: Presentation/Discussion Items	
Subject: MFHS Out of State Travel - Engineering			
Executive Summary: Students from the MFHS Engineering Department hope to travel to Japan on June 1st through June 9th, 2027. The engineering students will have the opportunity to experience robotics and engineering while experiencing what life is like in a foreign country. They will take a tour of the Akihabara Electric Town, Visit the Miraikan Science Museum, explore the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency, and learn about Hybrid Assistive Limb Technology at the cyberdyne studios. They will participate in the culture of the Japanese people by participating in a cooking class by a local chef, visiting various temples, visiting the Hamarikyū Japanese Gardens, and visiting an authentic Japanese Village.			
Fiscal Impact: No Fiscal Impact	Funding Source:	Fiscal Year:	Amendment Required?
Administration's Recommendation: This is consideration for first read.			
Submitted By: Patrick Hinson		Presenter: Patrick Hinson	
Board Approval Required: NO			

LOVE & INSPIRE

Marble Falls ISD has an unyielding commitment to love every child and inspire them to achieve their fullest potential.

Revised: 4.19.23



EDUCATIONAL
TOURS

Watch videos, read
reviews, and enroll on your
teacher's Tour Website

eftours.com/

This is also your tour number

EXPERIENCE JAPAN

10 or 13 days | Osaka | Kyoto | Takayama region | Kanazawa | Tokyo | Extension to South Korea

Japan is an island nation of contrasts. Neon lights pulse and shine on century-old temples, monks walk alongside anime cosplayers, and Zen meditation is practiced in the same parks where people take selfies. It may sound chaotic, but Japan has perfected the balance of ancient and modern. A better understanding of Buddhism and Shinto, higher truth, or just a measure of inner peace await you on this meditative journey through the tranquil side of Japanese culture.

EVERYTHING YOU GET:



Full-time Tour Director



Sightseeing: 2 sightseeing tours led by expert, licensed local guides; 1 walking tour



Entrances: Osaka Castle; Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine; Golden Pavilion; Kiyomizudera Temple; tea ceremony; Zen meditation; Takayama morning market challenge; Shirakawa-go open-air museum; Kanazawa castle; Kenroku-en Garden; gold-leaf chopstick activity; Meiji Shinto Shrine; arcade; Asakusa Kannon Temple; *with extension:* N Seoul Tower; Gyeongbokgung Palace; Korean cooking class; Bukchon Hanok Village; Hyundai Motorstudio



Personalized learning guide: Our personalized learning experience engages students before, during, and after tour, with the option to create a final, reflective project for academic credit.



All of the details are covered: Round-trip flights on major carriers; *internal flight with extension;* comfortable motorcoach; bullet train; 8 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (11 with extension); breakfast and dinner daily



Golden Pavilion



Traditional Japanese tea ceremony

Anyone can see the world.

YOU'RE GOING TO EXPERIENCE IT.

As you can see, your EF tour includes visits to the places you've learned about in school. That's a given. But it's so much more than that. Immersing yourself in new cultures—surrounded by the people, the language, the food, the way of life—creates inspirational moments that can't be listed in an itinerary. They can only be experienced.

And the experience begins long before you get your passport stamped and meet your Tour Director in your arrival city. It begins the moment you decide to go. Whether it's connecting with other travelers on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, or delving deeper into your destinations with our personalized learning experience, the excitement will hit you long before you pack your suitcase.

When your group arrives abroad, everything is taken care of so you can relax and enjoy the experience. Your full-time Tour Director is with your group around the clock, handling local transportation, hotels, and meals while also providing their own insight into the local history and culture. Expert local guides will lead your group on sightseeing tours, providing detailed views on history, art, architecture, or anything you may have a question about.

When your journey is over and you're unpacking your suitcase at home, you'll realize the benefits of your life-changing experience do not end. They have just begun.

@EFtours I attribute my college semester abroad to the love for travel I discovered on an EF Tour in high school #traveltuesday

— MELISSA, TRAVELER



Via Twitter



Learn from your Tour Director and expert local guides



CHECK OUT WHAT A TOUR IS ALL ABOUT

Watch the videos at
[eftours.com/](https://www.ef-tours.com/)

Your teacher's Tour Website

What you'll experience on your tour

Day 1: Fly overnight to Japan

Day 2: Osaka

- Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Osaka.

Day 3: Osaka

- Visit the Osaka Castle, a famous landmark surrounded by moats and gardens that's filled with Samurai history.
- Travel to Kyoto, a city that conjures images of sunlit walks around tiered pagodas and quiet lakes lined with cherry blossom trees.
- Visit the Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine, located near the base of Mount Inari. Originally constructed to honor the Shinto god of rice, the elaborate complex welcomes visitors through thousands of red torii gates.
- Take a walking tour of Nishiki Market and the Pontocho district with your Tour Director.

Day 4: Osaka | Kyoto

- Take an expert-led tour of Kyoto. As the national capital for over a millennium, Kyoto offers you a unique glimpse into the history of Imperial Japan.
- Visit the tranquil Golden Pavilion, a Zen Buddhist temple painted in delicate gold leaf.
- Visit the Kiyomizudera Temple, a celebrated house of worship best known for its large wooden stage that sits on a colorful hillside.
- Experience the rich flavors of matcha green tea ice cream, a Japanese culinary and cultural delight.
- Enjoy a traditional Japanese tea ceremony.

Day 5: Kyoto | Takayama region

- Travel to the small mountain town of Takayama.
- Enjoy free time for lunch.
- Take a deep breath and relax during a guided Zen meditation experience.

Day 6: Takayama region | Shirakawa-go | Kanazawa

- Visit the Takayama morning market, a market that's been held everyday for centuries.
- Travel to Kanazawa.
- Make a stop to learn about Samurai-style mountain architecture.

Day 7: Kanazawa

- Visit Kanazawa Castle for a look at feudal Japanese life and architecture.
- Learn the six qualities of the perfect landscape garden at Kenroku-en Garden.
- Discover how gold leaf is created, then make your own gold-leaf chopsticks to take home.

Day 8: Kanazawa | Tokyo

- Travel to Tokyo by bullet train.
- Take an expert-led tour of Tokyo including the Imperial Palace Plaza grounds, Harajuku shopping district, and the Metropolitan Government Building.
- Counteract the bustle of Tokyo's streets with a visit to the Meiji Shinto Shrine. Quiet and stillness reign inside its elaborate Inner Garden, a wooded oasis in the middle of the city.
- Take a walking tour of Shibuya, a major commercial and finance center with a famously crowded pedestrian crossing.
- Discover the world of Japanese gaming culture with a visit to a local arcade.
- Spend time seeing more of Tokyo or [enjoy an authentic karaoke experience.](#)

Day 9: Tokyo

- Take a tour of Akihabara Electric Town.
- Visit Asakusa Kannon Temple, the city's largest Buddhist temple. Here, restaurants, theaters, and cinemas surround a five-story pagoda—a perfect symbol of Tokyo's enduring past and ultramodern future. Take a moment to reflect as a group on what you all have learned while traveling through this country of contrasts together.

Day 10: Depart for home

3-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Day 10: Tokyo | Seoul

- Travel to Seoul, a modern city that stays close to its ancient roots.
- View the gorgeous Seoul landscape, including Namsan Mountain, from N Seoul Tower.

Day 11: Seoul

- Enjoy Tour Director-led sightseeing of Seoul, and see Cheonggyecheon Stream, a scenic and beloved urban waterway that winds through downtown Seoul. Continue to Cheonggye Plaza, which commemorates the restoration of the stream. Then, visit Gwanghwamun Square which features statues of Admiral Yi Sun-sin and King Sejong the Great. Explore the Gyeongbokgung Palace, where you might have a chance to witness a guard-changing ceremony.
- Prepare a traditional Korean meal during a cooking class.
- Explore the narrow alleys and hanoks of the 600-year-old Bukchon Hanok Village.
- Visit Hyundai Motorstudio to see Hyundai's cutting-edge car models and get a peek into the future of mobility.

Day 12: Seoul

- Explore Seoul on your own or [take a full-day tour of Korea's Demilitarized Zone.](#)

Day 13: Depart for home

This was an amazing trip! I highly recommend it to everyone! We saw and experienced so many things. Japan is a beautiful country with very welcoming people. Looking forward to my next EF Tour!

– JENNIFER, GROUP LEADER



This was the best trip I have ever been on. Japan was absolutely beautiful and so very clean. The dining experiences were fascinating and something I would like to dive into again. The shopping in Kyoto and Tokyo were fantastic. Everything in Japan is just so...so...efficient!

– SAMANTHA, TRAVELER



TOP THREE THINGS I WILL SEE, DO, TRY, OR EXPLORE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

— The easiest ways to —

ENROLL TODAY



Enroll on our website
eftours.com/enroll



Enroll by phone
800-665-5364



Enroll by mail
EF Educational Tours
Two Education Circle
Cambridge, MA 02141

My daughter has gained such an amazing view of the world and history from this experience. She has not stopped talking since I picked her up at the airport. Thank you for all the organization, helpful hints, flexible payment plan, and knowledgeable tour guides.

—CHARLOTTE, PARENT OF TRAVELER



THE WORLD LEADER IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

For over 55 years, EF has been working toward one global mission: *Opening the World Through Education*. Your teacher has partnered with EF because of our unmatched worldwide presence, our focus on affordability, and our commitment to providing experiences that teach critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and global competence. What's more:

- **We always offer the lowest prices** so more students can travel.
- **We're fully accredited, just like your school**, so you can earn credit while on tour.
- **All of our educational tours feature experiential learning activities** and visits to the best sites.
- **We're completely committed to your safety.** We have more than 600 schools and offices in over 50 countries around the world, so local EF staff members can react quickly and in person wherever you travel.
- **Your full-time Tour Director is with your group** every step of the way on tour, providing insight about your destinations as well as great local tips.



Education First



EDUCATIONAL
TOURS

Global Travel Program Proposal



Your partner in travel-based learning

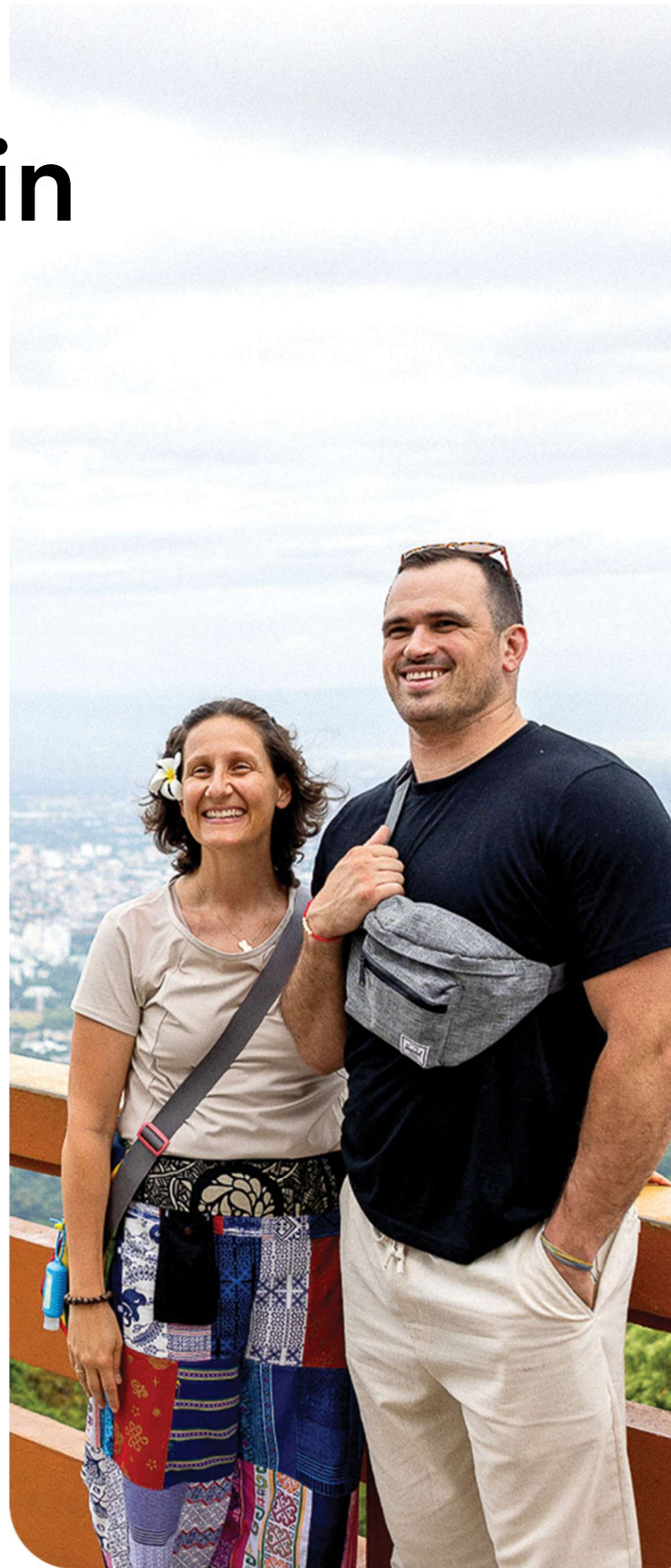
Our mission

We're educators, just like you. And we're dedicated to helping students become more future ready.

EF stands for Education First. For almost 60 years, we've worked in service of our mission, *Opening the World Through Education*, to help learners of all ages overcome barriers of culture, language, and geography to increase global understanding. We partner with educators to provide innovative, immersive programs that prepare students to succeed in college, in their careers, and throughout their adult lives. Here's how we'll collaborate with your school to create meaningful learning experiences.

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This proposal is property of EF Education First and the educator/school for which it was intended. Distributing, copying, and/or sharing it are prohibited. The proposal, including pricing, is valid for the educator, tour, and date(s) specifically mentioned herein. For additions, subtractions, or modifications, please contact your EF Tour Consultant.

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Learning outcomes

It's our goal to put “education first” in every single tour. That's why we carefully design our itineraries to complement your teaching, offering students hands-on experiences that deepen their understanding, build essential skills, and inspire them to apply their learning in meaningful ways.

Our method

We enhance what you teach with relevant experiences outside the classroom.

Our proven travel-based learning method safely takes students out of their comfort zones and helps them understand more about themselves and the world around them. It sparks a true journey of self-discovery, empowering them to take action and make a positive impact in their communities and beyond.

Our programs

We design every EF program with a curriculum of immersive, hands-on learning that builds essential skills.

EF learning journeys offer incredible growth opportunities. Through professionally guided travel, authentic cultural exchange, experiential learning, and independent discovery, students develop critical skills they'll carry with them through the rest of their lives.



Learning outcomes

Continued

EF students build essential skills in these key growth areas:

Cultural awareness

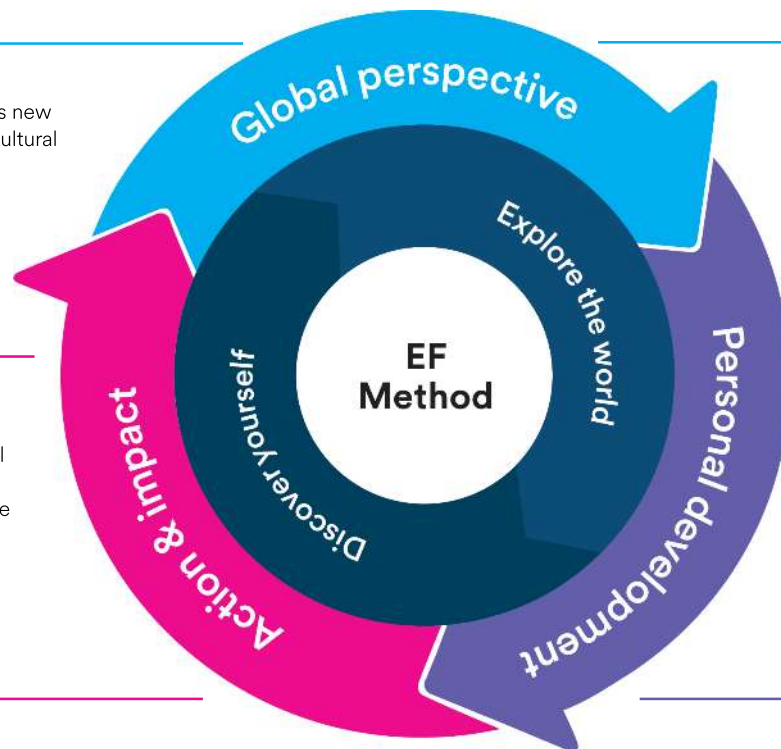
Changing your context creates new experiences that build cross-cultural knowledge and skills

Collaboration

You develop the interpersonal skills to flourish in multicultural teams: to find new and better solutions, take action, and have real impact

Communication

You connect with others more deeply by listening, empathizing, and appreciating—then sharing your own point of view



Growth mindset

Broadening your worldview helps you become more curious, open, and adaptable; you embrace becoming a lifelong learner

Self-awareness

Connecting with others in meaningful ways reflects your own biases and beliefs back to you, leading to a change of mindset

Agency

Knowing yourself helps you decide who you want to be and the mark you want to make—and enables you to become a better advocate for your dreams

Academic credit & professional learning

We provide opportunities for students to earn academic credit and for educators to pursue professional development, supplementing their travel experiences with real-world educational achievements.

EF is an accredited institution

We echo your commitment to education. Our travel-based learning approach is designed to blend classroom and experiential learning. This allows us to meet the same rigorous standards as schools like yours, ensuring students gain valuable experiences that transform the way they look at the world.



Academic credit for students

EF makes it easy for students to turn their tour experience into high school credit, college credit, or to get a head start on their college essays, further enriching their travel experiences.

- Students in grades 6–12 can earn half an elective high school credit by successfully completing the final project that's part of EF's Personalized Learning Guide. Tuition is free.
- Students in grades 9–12 can earn 3.0 undergraduate credits, along with the confidence that comes with taking a college course, by completing a series of assignments and a final research project with our partner, Southern New Hampshire University—all for just \$360.

Professional learning for educators

We're equally invested in giving educators professional development opportunities that will change their lives. Experiencing an EF tour allows your teaching staff to grow in countless ways and equips them with fresh perspectives to bring back to their classrooms.

- Group Leaders can earn **25 professional learning hours** by participating in the seminars and scheduled activities on an EF training tour.
- Group Leaders can earn **45 professional learning hours** by completing EF's in-house course, "Cultures, Comparisons & Connections." This includes pre-tour research and coursework.
- Group Leaders can earn **3 or 6 graduate-level credits** (\$360/\$720) upon the completion of a 16-week, online course, "Leading Global Discussions," with Southern New Hampshire University the year after their tour.

To learn more about EF's educational philosophy, visit eftours.com/education

Building equitable travel programs

One tour can open up countless possibilities for a group of students. A sustainable, multi-tour travel program extends those possibilities to even more students—year after year. It also promotes greater equity by giving families time to fund travel and by offering options that cater to different interests.

A multi-tour program could include:

2025

London, Paris & Rome (Summer)

Japan: Land of the Rising Sun (Summer)

2026

Belize: Conservation from Ridge to Reef (Spring)

Greece & Italy (Summer)

Culture & Service in Thailand (Summer)

2027

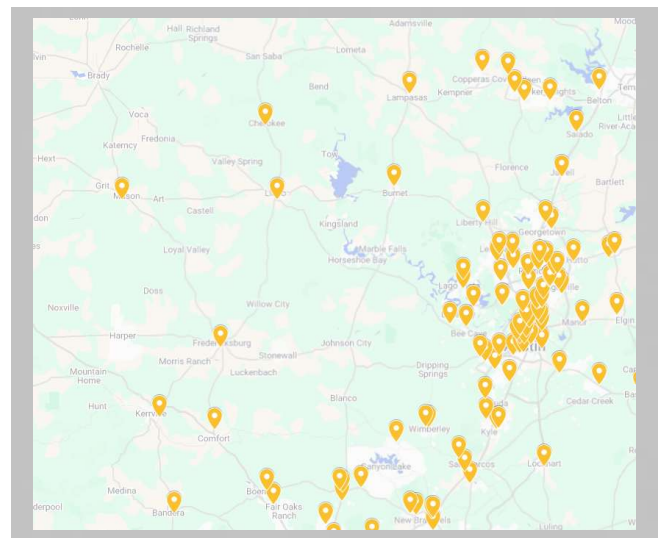
Costa Rican Explorer (Spring)

Language Immersion through Spain (Summer)

Marine Conservation in the Dominican Republic (Summer)

Travel programs in your region

Here are the other districts in your region that have embraced travel-based learning opportunities. Read on to discover how you can help the students in your community access these same life-changing experiences.



Managing cost & payments

We believe in the life-changing power of educational travel and want as many students as possible to be able to experience it. With flexible payment options, fundraising tools, and scholarships, we aim to make these transformative experiences more widely accessible.

Automatic Payment Plan

Our recommended payment plan allows travelers to break their tour fee into manageable installments. Since most tours are planned well in advance, travelers can enroll for only \$95 and then spread the tour cost over an extended period—often up to 18 months or two years—with the final payment due 30 days before departure. Families make payments directly to EF, with no payments going through the school.

Fundraising pages

Each student receives their own unique and customizable fundraising page. This easy-to-share page makes it simple for friends and family to contribute directly to the tour cost, with no fees

Global Citizen Scholarship Fund

Every year, EF Educational Tours awards \$100,000 in scholarships to students across the country. Any student can apply for the Global Citizen Scholarship, which is granted on both a merit and needs basis.

Risk-Free Enrollment Period

New travelers who enroll can cancel for any reason up to 7 days after enrollment for a full refund of 100% of the money paid to EF. Travelers must pay in full or enroll in our Automatic Payment Plan at the time of program enrollment and must remain either paid in full or enrolled in our Automatic Payment Plan and in good financial standing at the time of cancellation to remain eligible. To be eligible, the traveler must enroll on a tour at least 110 days prior to the scheduled departure date.



Safety

Our travelers' safety is our top priority. With an extensive global presence, industry-leading experience, and close relationships with U.S. and international authorities, that's a statement we can back up with confidence. We ensure that every situation is managed with the utmost care.

Worldwide presence

EF's global presence is truly unmatched. We have staff on the ground 365 days a year in over 50 countries around the world. And we don't just work in those countries—we call them home. Better yet, EF has team members in nearly every one of our tour destinations, providing local knowledge and ensuring the safety of our groups. This presence allows us to support travelers wherever and whenever they need us.

24/7 emergency support

In the event that anything on tour goes wrong, EF staff are always available to help. Your Tour Director serves as your group's constant companion and first point of contact in an emergency. Our fully trained support teams are also on call 24/7, ready to assist teachers with any issues and provide the necessary resources to get things back on track. Finally our Safety and Incident Response Team—comprised of industry experts, healthcare experts, and even former FBI personnel—is ready to spring into action 365 days a year.



Safety

Continued

Your school's team

These EF staff are fully committed to your school's travel program and the safety of every student.

OPERATIONS SAFETY & INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM

This team is strategically based in our Boston, Panama, and Zurich offices to accommodate all time zones. Available 24 hours a day, every day of the year, they are trained to react quickly if travelers need help. The team uses a combination of extensive training, simulations, incident response planning, and experience to manage emergencies. They also facilitate additional support for groups on tour, solve operational issues, arrange assistance from outside specialists, and liaise with local and international authorities as needed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES & SUPPORT TEAM

Our support team is also available 24/7 to help resolve any issue, from a missed flight or a lost passport to more serious on-tour incidents. They're also the ones facilitating communication between travelers and families in the event of an emergency at home. The team is made up of highly trained and dedicated EF staff in our Boston and Denver offices who are equipped to solve problems and answer questions that may come up, even outside of regular business hours.

TOUR DIRECTOR

Tour Directors are assigned exclusively to each tour for the duration of the trip. They meet your group at the airport and stay with them until their departure home. All Tour Directors undergo a background check as permissible by local law every two years and are required to participate in ongoing EF safety trainings.

They're the first point of contact in an emergency and provide safety information to the travelers in their group. Tour Directors assist Group Leaders with hotel check-ins, coordinate meals, facilitate excursions with local guides, and much more. They're culturally connected and expertly trained to support impactful learning experiences.

EF TRAVEL TEAM

This team—comprised of a Tour Consultant and an EF Experience Specialist—is your school's main point of contact at EF. The Tour Consultant serves as your itinerary expert and is devoted to making sure your students get the most out of their travel experience. They partner with your school on everything from finding the perfect tour and enrolling travelers to developing long-term programs for your district and community. The EF Experience Specialist handles the finer details that make your experience with EF seamless. They work directly with Group Leaders (your teachers) right up until the moment of departure, ensuring everything goes smoothly.

TRAVELER SUPPORT

Our team of Travel Support Specialists are readily available to walk families through insurance inquiries, payment plans, food allergy issues, and any other topics that arise.

CHAPERONES

For every six travelers who enroll on a school's tour, the group is eligible to bring along a chaperone for free (with the first spot reserved for the Group Leader). This creates a 6:1 student-to-chaperone ratio, and allows chaperones to assist Group Leaders in supervising students.

Protection for travelers, schools & districts

We understand that unpredictable situations can happen, whether on tour or before departure. That's why we offer a range of protections to make sure travelers, schools, and districts are covered no matter what. We do everything we can to make planning for the future as flexible as possible.

General liability insurance

All Group Leaders, schools, and districts who travel with EF are added as additional insureds under our **\$50 million General Liability Policy**, whether or not the tour is considered a school event. EF's liability coverage is primary and non-contributory for covered third-party claims. The policy helps safeguard Group Leaders and their schools for covered third-party claims related to bodily injury or property damage, which includes providing a legal defense and covering legal costs for such claims. In addition, all travelers are required to sign EF's Release and Agreement which includes a release of liability of their Group Leader, school, and school board.

Peace of Mind Program

Provided to all groups

When your school decides to travel with EF, we want you to feel secure in that decision. This benefit, built into every EF program, gives groups the flexibility to change their tour dates or destination. It can be enacted up to 59 days prior to departure for any reason, including terrorism or other world events.



Protection for travelers, schools & districts

[Continued](#)

Protection for individual travelers

While on tour, travelers can help protect their investment and themselves from certain unexpected events and expenses with our Global Travel Protection and Global Travel Protection Plus plans.

GLOBAL TRAVEL PROTECTION

Available to all travelers

Designed specifically with EF travelers in mind, this plan provides both pre-departure and post-departure benefits, including medical expense coverage that may apply on tour and tour cancellation coverage for specified reasons.

GLOBAL TRAVEL PROTECTION PLUS

Available to all travelers

This plan provides all of the benefits included in the Global Travel Protection Plan as well as expanded cancellation protection.

Background checks for adult travelers

EF requires all adults (20 years and older) to pass a criminal background check before travelling on our student tours. This provides a safer tour experience for all and aligns with the process many school districts have for adults who volunteer or chaperone school activities. Conducted by a leading professional provider, the secure background check only flags individuals who could present a risk to student travelers while on tour.



Travel logistics





Proposed tour for Lindsey Todesco in Summer 2027

Price of this tour

The tour program price covers a wide range of services that ensure students have an incredible travel experience. It includes all the planning and preparation that leads up to departure, travel and accommodations, and logistical support once the group reaches their destination.

Full, flexible travel window: May 29 - June 12

Requested travel dates: June 1 - June 9

STUDENT	ADULT
\$5,709 or \$281/ 20 mos	\$6,439 or \$318/ 20 mos
Program Price	\$5,719
Global Travel Protection	\$190
Early Enrollment Discount	-\$200
For every 6 paying travelers, 1 chaperone travels free.	
YOUR TOUR	TEAM & SUPPORT
 Airfare & transportation	
 Hotels	
 Regional-style meals	
 Entrances	

Travel logistics

Continued

Hotels

Every hotel we partner with must meet our strict standards for safety, quality, and cleanliness. Hotels are thoroughly vetted by our team and they're regularly inspected to ensure they continue to meet these standards. It's important to note that hotels abroad may have different amenities than travelers may be accustomed to in the United States. Below are expectations & examples of hotels travelers may encounter at your proposed destination:

Tokyo, Japan

Hotels are generally business-style with modern amenities like elevators, air-conditioning, and television, but the rooms are often small. Some groups may stay at a hotel that echoes the traditional inn called a ryokan. When staying in a ryokan, students under the age of 20 will share rooms with around five or six people of the same gender. The most common power outlets in Japan are type A and type B with a standard voltage of 100V.

Hotel IL Fiore Kasai

<http://www.hotelilfiore.com/en/>

Address: Higashi Kasai 6-5-8 Edogawa-ku, Tokyo

Meals

Meals are chosen to provide a more immersive cultural experience, giving students the chance to sample traditional cuisine and experience local dining customs. Below are examples of dishes travelers may encounter at your proposed destination:

Japan: Sample Meals

Staples: rice, noodles, soup, salad, potatoes

Proteins: beef/ hamburger, chicken, shrimp, fish, seafood, tofu

Vegetables: vegetables/ tempura vegetables, mushrooms, eggplant, etc

On tour, breakfast is typically simple and served at the hotel, either plated or buffet-style. Lunch usually gives travelers the opportunity to explore the local cuisine on their own. Dinners will be a mix of familiar dishes and local specialties, all served from a pre-set group menu.

Next steps

My name is Matt Pryor and I'm the dedicated Tour Consultant for Marble Falls High School. I'll be working closely with your Group Leader, Lindsey Todesco, every step of the way to make sure your student tour is perfectly planned. If you have any questions or need additional information, don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Matt Pryor
Educational Travel Manager
matt.pryor@ef.com

“

Student travel strengthens our mission of making future graduates into global citizens. After their travels, our students return more well-rounded and success-driven because they now understand the connections between what is taught in the classroom and what is needed in the global market.

Mitch S., Administrator

