

Winterim

at GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN

Travel offers Students Unique Learning Opportunities

Winterim 2020 Trips — January 6-17

- Alaska: Camping, Caribou, Kayaking
- The Arizona Trail: Backpacking and Trailbuilding
- Bahamas: Atlantis and Island School
- China: Walk the Wall and More!
- Costa Rica: Touch of the Tropics
- Dominican Republic: Serve, Rest, Grow
- Ecuador: Andes and Amazon Adventure
- France, Belgium and Germany: World War II Tour
- Hawaii: Hotspots, History & Island Hopping
- Jamaica: Jamaican Deaf Village
- New York City: Destination Portrait Photography
- San Francisco: Food Frenzy
- Singapore: Lion City
- South Africa: Beautiful Gate Orphanage
- Europe's Great Cities: London, Paris, Florence, & Rome [Previously Filled]



Alaska: Camping, Caribou & Kayaking

Largely untouched by man and frozen for half the year, Alaska is truly one of the last remaining frontiers. Join us as we travel to the northernmost state to visit the famous Denali National Park, home of the highest mountain in North America. After camping and exploring the tundra surrounding Denali, we will travel south to Seward where we will sea kayak around glaciers and sleep in tents on the shores of Aialik and Resurrection Bay. Come experience nature and wildlife up close and personal. Caribou, bears, orcas, dolphins, seals and many others all call Alaska home. **(Note: Because Alaska is cold and dark in January, the travel portion of this expedition will take place in early June while the Winterim term will be dedicated to preparing for this trip.)**

Trip Leader: Tom Peterson and Tim Stapert

Number of Students: 15

Approximate Cost: \$2,500-3,000

The Arizona Trail: Backpacking and Trailbuilding

Join us as we trek through the hearty and surprising environment that makes up the desert Southwest landscape. Passing through sandstone canyons, over rocky mountains, and winding through oasis-like drainages, you will see this landscape as few have ever seen it!

Trip Leader: Kevin Van Harn

Number of Students: 14

Approximate Cost: \$1,400

Bahamas: Atlantis & Island School

Do you want to live the island life? Join us for a fun-filled, jam-packed, amazing adventure to the Bahamas. Scuba diving, snorkeling, swimming, cliff jumping, and so much more awaits you at The Island School in Rock Sound, Eleuthera. At the Island School, we will live on a sustainable campus all while studying marine ecology, environmental sustainability, and explore the beautiful deep ocean. You will see ocean life like you have never seen before! **Scuba Certification Training (included in price) will be scheduled for late summer/fall.**

Trip Leader: Jonathan Quist and Sarah VanderVeen

Number of Students: 18

Approximate Cost: \$3,500

China: Walk the Wall and More!

This is a once-in-a-lifetime tour to China, where we will experience firsthand one of the great, ancient civilizations of the world. From the ancient buildings of Beijing to the artistic wonder of Xi'an and finally the modern, bustling city of Shanghai, our visit will provide an overview of China's history and culture. Walk through China's vast Tiananmen Square, view the Forbidden Palace, see pandas in the Beijing zoo, travel to the Great Wall of China and see the life-size Terracotta soldiers in Xi'an. We will also visit the Olympic buildings of the Bird's Nest and the Water Cube and so much more. Ever traveled overnight in a super-fast train? Here's your opportunity. This trip is perfect for anyone interested in history, the arts, Mandarin, or if you describe yourself as a culture-buff, and it will provide you with so much to see and do that you would otherwise never experience.

Trip Leader: Eve Ricketts and Gezi Cox

Number of Students: 15-20

Approximate Cost: \$3700

Costa Rica: Touch of the Tropics

This tour is an amazing mix of ecosystem exploration and cultural experiences! We will explore ecosystems with towering volcanoes, steaming hot springs, huge waterfalls, cloud forests, a butterfly sanctuary, national parks, rainforests, canopy adventures, and more! In addition, we will experience the cultural aspects of Costa Rica with visits to a coffee plantation, a local school, a nature reserve, and a folklore evening. Where else can you experience a cloud forest with howler monkeys and tropical birds while on horseback, get the thrill of whitewater rafting, zip line through a cloud forest, and so much more? Join us for the adventure of a lifetime!

Trip Leader: Kara Kits

Number of Students: 24

Approximate Cost: \$2,600

Dominican Republic: Serve, Rest, Grow

Do you want to make a significant impact during *Winterim* 2020 while building new friendships and serving in a beautiful country? How about getting to know a new culture and practicing your Spanish skills? God has a deep love for His people, and we want to be open to His work in the world. Join us as we explore God's Kingdom in the Dominican Republic. We will **SERVE** children in a community school founded by a local mission. We will also build relationships, teach Bible lessons, play, serve food, and work on light construction projects. We will take time to physically and spiritually **REST** – hiking to waterfalls, enjoying time at the beach, and touring the historic colonial district of the capital city. We will rest from busyness and pay attention to the work God is already doing in our midst. Lastly, we will **GROW** through daily time in devotions and worship as well as in building community with each other. We desire to take time to listen to God's voice so that we can live out His calling.

Trip Leader: Frank Padilla

Number of Students: 16

Approximate Cost: \$2,000

Ecuador: Andes and Amazon Adventure

A once-in-a-lifetime experience, Ecuador has a biodiversity and geography that is unique to the world. Though not as well known as other South American countries such as Brazil and Argentina, Ecuador offers the opportunity to see cloud forests, the Andes mountains, the Amazon rainforest, hot springs and several active volcanoes. Our plans include a fifteen mile whitewater rafting excursion down the Napo River in the heart of the Amazon, volunteering at the Amazon Animal Rescue Center, exploring Quito, along with many hiking adventures. Be ready for exercise, adventure, and the opportunity to see unique flora and fauna found nowhere else on earth. Along the way, we will be introduced to various cultural aspects of Ecuador, including a visit with the Kichwa, an indigenous tribe of the Ecuadorian Amazon that is working hard to protect the rainforest from misuse and destruction.

Trip Leader: Paul Diekema

Number of Students: 24

Approximate Cost: \$3,000

France, Belgium & Germany: Sights and Stories in Western Europe

This tour will visit three countries in Western Europe and explore many of the important historical and cultural sites in France, Belgium and Germany. We will begin in France at the D-Day beaches of Normandy and visit important sites and towns along the coast. We will also travel to the magical Mont St. Michel, a medieval city that becomes an island at high tide. We will go to Paris and visit the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, the Latin Quarter and Notre Dame Cathedral. From there we will travel to Belgium and visit some of the Battle of the Bulge sites around Bastogne. Finally, we will head to Cologne Germany for a short visit before taking a fast train to Berlin where we will visit many incredible sites including the Berlin Wall and a German concentration camp. The trip will expose students to Western history, art, culture and language and bring alive many incredible experiences with foreign people, food and ideas!

Trip Leader: Seth Davies and Joe Brower

Number of Students: 24

Approximate Cost: \$3,800

Hawaii: Hotspots, History & Island Hopping

Come with us as we explore the Hawaiian Islands! Hawaii is more than a vacation destination. It's a vibrant and beautiful, ecologically-unique part of the US. We'll study marine biology and conservation at the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, learn about sustainability at several farms, explore volcanic hotspots & tropical rainforests, and discover Hawaii's rich history. We'll hike, beach, snorkel, island hop, and stargaze.

Trip Leader: Jillian Konyndyk and Stephanie Boven

Number of Students: 22

Approximate Cost: \$2,500-3,000

Jamaica: Jamaican Deaf Village

The Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf is a ministry that brings the gospel of Jesus Christ to the deaf community of Jamaica. Through this ministry, the organization teaches deaf people a language, provides a basic education, and promotes outreach, community, worship, and continuing education...and they could use our help! So, if you feel called to work with this community, and if you can handle 80 degree weather in January, this might be the trip for you! We will work in the Deaf Village, get to know the residents there and at the local school for the deaf, visit YS Falls, eat fantastic local food, and spend a couple of days relaxing in Montego Bay. Join us for what will be an incredible 10 days in Jamaica! (And no sign language skills needed!)

Trip Leader: Jenifer Gunnink

Number of Students: 24

Approximate Cost: \$1,800-2,000

New York City: Destination Portrait Photography

New York City is one of the most iconic destinations for photography in the world! Think Times Square, Central Park, 5th Avenue, Brooklyn Bridge and so much more.... Students will be immersed in the bustle of the city, tour iconic locales, eat amazing food, and learn to shoot like a PRO. Every student will have the chance to be both photographer and model. Photographer Carrie Anne will also be arranging shoots with actual NYC models for on-location photo sessions! Prior to the trip, students will plan dream boards, color schemes, textures, wardrobe, hair and make-up— all the things that make for a perfect photo shoot. 12th grade students will come home with professional senior portraits taken IN THE BIG CITY by your peers and by Carrie Anne. Upon returning to GR you'll build a portfolio of your best images (with you as photographer) and you'll receive the best images of you.

Trip Leader: Krista Krygsman and Carrie Anne Chaffer

Number of Students: 20

Approximate Cost: \$2,000

San Francisco: Food Frenzy

There are only two types of people in this world: those who like food, and those who don't. If you are in the first group, then this is the *Winterim* trip for you. Food Frenzy San Francisco, led by Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Kwastaniet, is a food-lover's dream, featuring 8 days in sunny San Francisco, California exploring the wonderful world of everything edible. Our trip will hit foodie hot spots like the world-famous Museum of Icecream, the Ghiradelli Chocolate Factory, and the Golden Gate Fortune Cookie Factory. We'll feast on a wide range of foods, from vegan dishes to fresh seafood, take professional cooking lessons from a real chef, shop SF's farmers markets, tour urban farms in Berkeley, and volunteer in soup kitchens -- when we're not exploring San Francisco highlights like the Golden Gate Bridge and Chinatown. All experience levels are welcome on this trip, but keep in mind that all students will have to cook during the tour, so being willing to roll up your sleeves and try new things is a must!

Trip Leader: Jill Davis and Becky Kwastaniet

Number of Students: 20

Approximate Cost: \$2,000

Singapore: Lion City

Singapore, which roughly translates to "Lion City," is a tropical city-state located off the coast of Malaysia. It boasts a wide array of ethnic groups including Malay, Indian, and Chinese along with religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam; all diverse groups dwell in unity making Singapore the 8th most peaceful country in the world. Once we reach the island we will begin our rich cross-cultural experience with a visit to the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple in Chinatown then to Sri Veeramakaliamman Hindu temple in Little India. We will explore the country's natural beauty touring the orchids at the botanical garden and hiking through the rainforest of the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve where monkeys can be seen in the trees. Other activities include a day excursion to Sentosa Island, a tour of the supertrees of Gardens by the Bay, and ending each day eating Singaporean street cuisine under the warmth of the evening sun.

Trip Leader: Rona Das

Number of Students: 20

Approximate Cost: \$3,450

South Africa: Beautiful Gate Orphanage

Come with us on an amazing trip to Lesotho and South Africa to practice a part of missionary work that is sometimes overlooked, people-oriented care and Christian love that is necessary for all of God's work we are called to do. We will be emphasizing relational growth between our students and the staff and children of the Beautiful Gate as well as the mothers who are cared for by their missions work as well. We will also be worshiping and spending time with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Christian Revival Church. Throughout this trip, we hope to experience God's creation by going on an African Safari and meeting people who live with so little but still have an indescribable joy, well as learn about this history about this country and continent that has made it one of the most dynamic and interesting histories on earth.

Trip Leader: Bryce Lutke

Number of Students: 15

Approximate Cost: \$3,600

**God has given each of you a gift
from his great variety of spiritual gifts.
Use them well to serve one another. 1 Peter 4:10**

Winterim Trips FAQs

1. How is travel a relevant educational opportunity?

Winterim travel aligns with GRCS's mission of *preparing students to be effective servants of Christ in contemporary society*, providing unique opportunities to learn and serve in the global community alongside GRCHS staff. Winterim travel opens students' eyes to God's amazing world and reveals glimpses of how God might call students to serve Him in the future.

2. How are trip destinations decided?

Staff submit trip proposals to the Winterim Committee for approval. The committee is committed to providing trips that vary in both cost and purpose.

3. Can I afford to travel?

GRCS is committed to providing travel opportunities for all families who want this learning experience. There is financial aid for families who qualify. Some trips are service-oriented and may qualify as tax-deductible donations.

4. How do I request financial aid?

Submit the Winterim trip application by March 8 and check the box requesting consideration for financial aid for Winterim trip. If you have applied for GRCS variable tuition for 2019-2020, no further action is necessary. If you have not applied for GRCS variable tuition, you will be asked for a copy of your most recent tax return to determine a potential trip award. Families that do not receive a variable tuition rate are still eligible to apply for a Winterim trip award. Families will be notified of Winterim trip award amounts (via email), prior to the trip selection process, which will begin on March 18. Be sure to discuss as a family which trips are a good fit, both by trip destination and cost, and select your trip accordingly.

5. Is fundraising available?

There are some limited opportunities for students to raise money through the New2You share program and other programs. Read morning announcements and emails from trip leaders and the Winterim Coordinator for more information. Students are encouraged to fundraise on their own, and the earlier students begin to fundraise the better.

6. Who can travel?

Sophomores, juniors, and seniors can apply for travel. Only about 25% of our students travel each year. Winterim provides many other unique opportunities for students who don't travel.

7. Can winter sport athletes travel?

Each winter sport coach has established a Winterim travel policy. Coaches may change this policy each year, and the policy may vary by grade level. Contact the Athletic Director at jheerema@grcs.org with questions about a specific sport.

8. What if I don't hold a U.S. Passport?

Students and their families are solely responsible for obtaining any necessary travel documents including passports and visas. It is HIGHLY recommended that students requiring a visa application to travel purchase premium travel insurance.

9. How do I apply?

Students will complete a general online trip application. Each application will be reviewed to determine travel eligibility.

10. How are trip rosters selected?

Trip rosters will be selected using a seniority-based lottery system. Interested and approved travelers will complete an online Trip Selection Form listing their order of preference for trips. On March 18, a lottery will take place of current juniors who applied to travel. As each name is drawn, they will be placed in their most preferred trip as space allows. The process will repeat on March 19 for sophomores, and on March 20 for freshman.

2020 Winterim Trip Timeline

- February 19 - Winterim Trips Announced in Chapel
- February 26 - Winterim TripFest & Meeting at Lunch
- March 4 - Winterim Trip Parent Meeting at 7pm
- March 8 - Winterim trip Applications Due at 3pm
- March 18 - Junior Trip Selection Form due by 8am
- March 19 - Sophomore Trip Selection Form due by 8am
- March 20 - Freshman Trip Selection Form due by 8am
- March 27 - Winterim Enrollment Contracts Due

