



MKA
global
experience

TRAVEL OVERVIEW 2019-20

2019-2020 TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

	Trip	Leader	Dates*
February	Québec Winter Wonderland	Meg Slotkin Michael Houston	Feb. 13-17, 2020
Spring Break	Community in Guatemala	Peter Jensen	March 13-21, 2020
	Clean Energy Iceland	Ben Rich	March 13-21, 2020
May Term	Growing Up + Old: Japan	Cort Bosc	May 16-29, 2020
	Slow Food Italy	TBD	May 15-26, 2020
Summer	Global Leadership Tanzania	Emily Tompsett	June 8-26, 2020
	England by the Book	Patty Forbes	June 9-20, 2020
	Chilean Exchange	Spanish Dept.	June 8-July 8, 2020
	China: Language + Culture	River He	June 8-19, 2020

All Dates are approximate at the moment and will be confirmed by November 14th.

IMPORTANT DATES:

October 3rd – Trip Registration Opens

October 29th – Global Information Night

November 14th – Trip Registration & Application Forms Due

November 15th – Financial Aid Applications Due

November 25th – Financial Aid Notifications

November 25th – All Trip Groups Confirmed

December 2nd – Final Date to Withdraw from a Trip

Turn all forms into Mr. Bosc's Office OR Ms. Califano in the Main Office

QUÉBEC: WINTER WONDERLAND

French Language and Culture

Trip Leaders: Meg Slotkin and Michael Houston

Trip Length: February 13 – February 17, 2020

Approximate Trip Cost: \$1,400

Trip Mission: MKA students will spend President's Day weekend travelling north first to Québec City, then a day in Montréal on our way home. During this trip, they will experience the atmosphere of Québec at its most beautiful time of the year, WINTER! Through a variety of indoor and outdoor activities, they will become familiar with Québec's food, history, culture and especially its language. Our guide will be completely bilingual, and will engage students to explore as much Québec as we can include in such a short time.

Trip Highlights: Winter in Québec is a unique experience. It may very well be the coldest weather students will ever experience, but that will not keep us from spending most of our time outside having fun. Activities include: Québec's Winter Carnival Parade, dog sledding, snow shoeing, ice skating, tobogganing, and exploring the history and cuisine of Québec. We'll eat poutine, experience a lumberjack meal (including music and dancing) at a *Cabane à sucre*, learn about the history of the indigenous people and western settling of the region. We'll also get to visit a Québec high school so our students can see how much they have in common with our neighbors to the north. In Montréal, we'll explore the old city as well as the science museum in the former Olympic stadium.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: GUATEMALA

From Houses to Homes

Trip Leaders: Peter Jensen

Trip Length: March 13 – March 21, 2020

Approximate Trip Cost: \$2,800

Trip Mission: The purpose of this program connect with the community surrounding Antigua, Guatemala through work with the local NGO, Houses to Homes. Students ultimately help to build four houses for families with children in the outskirts of Antigua and explore the complex concerns of their community – access to education and health care, affordable housing, etc.

Trip Specifics and Highlights:

- The trip will NOT interfere with spring sports travel.
- You do NOT need to be enrolled in Spanish at MKA, but should you wish to practice, there will be plenty of opportunities.
- We stay in Antigua, Guatemala, which is a beautiful colonial city in the highlands about 50 km outside of the Guatemala City. However, the worksites are on the outskirts of Antigua.
- We begin the trip with a personalized tour of the city to get a sense of its history.
- Day two sees us hike a volcano!
- Students will have the evenings to explore Antigua on their own (including meals), or join the chaperones for dinner.
- One day will be spent visiting the two other key aspects of Houses to Homes work in the region – the medical clinic and the primary school.
- The trip ends with a joint soccer match including all of the members of our team and community!



CLEAN ENERGY FUTURES: ICELAND

Climate Change and the Power of the Earth

Trip Leaders: Ben Rich

Trip Length: March 13 – March 21, 2020

Approximate Trip Cost: \$4,500

Iceland's capital, Reykjavik, is one of the most sustainable cities in the world. Every building is fueled using clean, geothermal power. Iceland is lucky--most countries don't have an abundance of geothermal activity to turn into energy. On the other hand, because they are relatively isolated, Icelanders own more cars and fly more miles than their European counterparts. These seeming contradictions raise the question: Which parts of Iceland's clean energy economy could enhance sustainability efforts in our area and around the world? Iceland's unique geography, combined with its political will and technological focus, contribute to its national, renewable energy system. By exploring this system, we will work to understand how similar systems could be explored back home in the States or even on campus.

We will explore how different energy sources in Iceland and globally, from coal to geothermal, are creating environmental, economic, and political tensions. We will get a sense of Iceland's geology by visiting key, geothermal spots and Icelandic landmarks. In Reykjavik, we will meet with local experts on sustainability and clean energy -- to get an expert opinion on the engineering, technology, and political impact of creating a clean energy system. We will then conduct our own research on attitudes towards energy and local climate impacts. All the while pushing ourselves physically to explore Iceland's rugged geography and see firsthand the impacts of climate change and the power of the Earth.



SLOW, NOT FAST FOOD: ITALY

Sustainability, History, Slow Living

Trip Leaders: TBD

Trip Length: May 15 – May 26, 2020

Approximate Trip Cost: \$4,300

How did Italian culture and geography give rise to the slow food movement? The fast food culture that originated in the United States is now a global phenomena; however, in Italy a counter-movement has begun. Fueled by passionate Italian journalists, chefs, educators, farmers, and activists, the Slow Food Movement challenges people around the world to reconsider what they are eating and where it comes from. The movement has been especially successful in Italy, where culinary traditions are an integral part of cultural identity and have a history stretching back to before the Roman Empire.

On this trip, we'll explore the relationship between geography, environment, food, history, and culture as we investigate the origins of the Slow Food Movement in one of the world's most iconic cuisines and cultures. How do cooking and farming strengthen communities? Why is Italian pasta still the best in the world? How is "real" mozzarella made? In a fast food world, how are Italians keeping their slow food culture alive? And just how ancient is this way of life?

Students will meet with local farmers and learn how their local crops are transformed into classic and unusual Italian dishes. They will visit old Roman cities and ruins to consider how ancient Rome shapes modern Italy. And probably most importantly they'll live and work on Italian farms while we complete our own projects about the slow food movement.



GROWING UP & GROWING OLD IN JAPAN

Generational Culture, History, Photography

Trip Leaders: Cort Bosc

Trip Length: May 16 – May 29, 2020

Approximate Trip Cost: \$5,000

Japan is a relatively small set of islands with nearly 130 million people. But unlike many nations, the country is shrinking. As the country ages, stories of growing up are compounding the stories of growing old. This reality is a product of Japanese history, culture, and values. On this program we will examine this reality in multiple locations but ultimately work to craft photo and video centered projects to confront the questions of aging in Japan.

Investigating the demographics of Japan opens up a host of issues with which the group will tackle through interviews and conversations with local leaders, entrepreneurs, government officials, and tourists. Gender and equality are at play as the push to get more women in the workforce has come along with an increase in the number of Japanese women who do not want to have children. Accessibility has also become an important focus for a country where stairs and crowded transportation are everywhere. Furthermore, what impact has three decades of stagnant economic growth had on youth culture? How is history being remembered and lived and is the presence of so many of an older generation allowing it to preserve it better than perhaps other nations?

Students will also experience traditional Japanese life as we connect with locals and sleep in a Ryokan as well as confront history and accessibility with a visit to Hiroshima and the newly opened atomic bomb museum.



SPANISH LANGUAGE IMMERSION

Chilean Exchange Program in San Felipe

Trip Leaders: Spanish Teacher

Trip Length: June 8 – July 8, 2020

Approximate Trip Cost: \$3,000

Speak, Learn, Explore:

Students studying in Spanish 2 Honors or above are eligible to participate in this immersion program. The students will travel to Santiago Chile and spend three days in the capital city with an MKA chaperone. The rest of their time is on their own, studying at the Instituto Abdón Cifuentes in San Felipe, Chile. They will attend classes, participate in extracurricular activities, do community service and travel in the nearby areas. Each student will live with a host student and family. Students will practice their Spanish skills in a real life setting and be immersed in daily Chilean life.

Build a Family Across Continents:

We also need hosts for this truly unique exchange. Six students from Instituto Abdón Cifuentes will join our community from late January through the first week in March and they will need families to stay with during that time. These students will go to classes, participate in community engagement opportunities and house competitions, attend sporting events, etc. It is a great opportunity to practice your Spanish skills and form lifelong bonds. So, if you're considering travelling to Chile in the summer or just want to gain a perspective of a different culture, please sign up to host!



CHINA: LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Chinese Language Immersion Program

Trip Leaders: River He

Trip Length: June 8 – June 19, 2020

Approximate Trip Cost: \$5,300

Trip Goals: Practicing Chinese language efficiency in line with our curriculum is one of our main goals of this trip. However, this trip also seeks to expose students to the unique culture of China in both its ancient and modern forms and does not have a Chinese language requirement. This year we have combined the previous May Term Experience with that of a language experience.

In Xi'an Students will...

- Visit Jinyuan International School and complete a two-day homestay.
- Work with primary school students at Jinfutu School.
- Visit and volunteer at the Terra-Cotta Warriors Museum.
- Visit and volunteer at the Nature Reserve and Animal Rescue and Research Center.
- Bicycle on the 3000-year City Wall.
- Visit the Muslim Square Street and Night Market.

In Beijing Students will...

- Visit the Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square, and Forbidden City
- Practice meditation with Daoist Bai Yun Guan and visit the Buddhist Lama Temple
- Hike the secluded Jin Shan Ling Section of the Great Wall.
- Take a cooking class at Beijing International Vocational Education School



ENGLAND BY THE BOOK

History, Myth, and Legend

Trip Leaders: Patty Forbes

Trip Length: June 9 – June 20, 2020

Approximate Trip Cost: \$5,300

Student Experiences: A Literary Tour of England is an embarrassment of attractive possibilities! A sampling of those options includes London by day and by night: a grizzly tour of Jack the Ripper's haunts, walking tours through meticulous gardens, cobbled streets, the Tower, Harrod's, and historic pubs. Add in a tour of the Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey, and of course a play at The Globe and there you have it—a dream come true trip.

Destinations and Beyond:

To truly experience England's literary destinations, we will have a few days in Bath and the Jane Austen House Museum at Chawton. Outside of Bath, we will view Stonehenge high atop a look out and then on to Salisbury Cathedral, which houses The Magna Carta. We will move on to Oxford, called by some "the jewel in the literary crown." The Dean of Mathematics at Christchurch College was Charles Dodgson, better known as Lewis Carroll. "Alice" is everywhere here. We will lunch at the ancient pub in the town center where the Inklings (CS Lewis, Tolkien...) met to talk. And then we will travel to the north and the moors—Howarth the home of the Bronte sisters and Whitby, the setting for *Dracula*! There will be other places and lots of unscheduled stops to take in the depth and breadth of England's rich literary history.



GLOBAL LEADERSHIP: TANZANIA

Community Engagement with the Tumaini School

Trip Leaders: Emily Tompsett

Trip Length: June 8 – June 26, 2020

Approximate Trip Cost: \$5,400

Trip Highlights: Upon arrival, we begin our orientation at the West Kili Lodge near the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro. We will explore our surroundings and go through orientation. On day two or three, we will transfer to Karatu to meet our host students and begin a four day homestay program. Students will have time to pursue specific interests, such as cultural activities and playing sports, or to explore and deepen personal bonds with community members. On many evenings the group will reconvene for Learning Sessions designed to promote the understanding of global issues, leadership and local culture. Then we depart to our host community where we will be staying in the dorms of Tumaini Senior School. In the mornings, we work on the primary Community Project, which will be designed in consultation with the needs and desires of the local community. The trip ends with a game drive to Ngorongoro Crater where we descend as a group into the crater in hopes of spotting lions, elephants, rhinos, wildebeest and more.

On this experience we partner with World Leadership School (WLS). The mission of World Leadership School is to empower young leaders to find innovative solutions to the world's pressing problems. They do this by partnering with K-12 schools to make the shift to 21st century learning. WLS help schools create student-centered learning environments where they learn to think critically, communicate across cultures, collaborate and find creative solutions to problems.



2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
February Break			
	Quebec Winter Carnival		Quebec Winter Carnival
March Break			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Community Engagement (Cuba) • French Language Immersion & Community Engagement (Guadeloupe) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Community Engagement (Antigua, Guatemala) • Project Based Outdoor Experience (Iceland) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Community Engagement (Cuba) • French Language Immersion & Community Engagement (Guadeloupe) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Community Engagement (Guatemala) • <i>Project Based Outdoor Experience (TBD)</i>
May Term			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean Energy Futures (Iceland) • Equity and Justice in America • Tradition and Culture (China) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Project Based Design Experience (Italy)</i> • <i>F&PA Project Based Design Experience (Japan)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tradition and Culture (China) • <i>Project Based Design Experience (TBD)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Project Based Design Experience (TBD)</i> • <i>F&PA Project Based Design Experience (TBD)</i>
Summer			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Community Engagement (Blackfeet Nation, MT) • Development by Design (Balkans) • Spanish Immersion & Exchange (Chile) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Leadership (Tanzania) • Spanish Immersion (Chile) • Mandarin Language Immersion (Xian) • World Literature Exploration (UK) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Community Engagement (Blackfeet Nation, MT) • <i>Spanish Immersion & Exchange (TBD)</i> • <i>Project Based Design Experience (TBD)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Global Leadership (TBD)</i> • Spanish Immersion (Chile) • Mandarin Language Immersion (Xian) • <i>World Literature Exploration (TBD)</i>



Global Experience at MKA
empowers our students to think
critically about and cultivate
empathy for the classroom
beyond our walls in order to gain
the skills necessary to be more
informed, ethical, and
purposeful global citizens.