



MKA
global
experience

TRAVEL PROGRAM OVERVIEW

COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP: EASTERN SHORE

History, the Environment, and Justice

Trip Leaders: TBD

Trip Length: March 13 – March 19, 2022*

Approximate Trip Cost: \$2,050*

The Eastern Shore of Virginia and Maryland is a living classroom for exploring social and environmental justice in a local context. Colonial plantations on the Eastern Shore plantations received some of the first slaves forcefully transported to the “New World” in the early 1600s. Today’s residents of the Eastern Shore are a mix of Black, White, and Latinx and continue to grapple with racial justice and the legacy of slavery. Industrial farming and poultry production drive the local economy and also threaten the Shore’s unique ecosystem.

The group will travel from MKA to the eastern shore of Maryland and stay in the Pecometh Retreat Center along the Chester River. The Eastern Shore is an interesting case study on how industrial agriculture is threatening the most pristine Atlantic coastline in the continental United States and how small communities around the country are still dealing with their past. Students will learn about environmental issues as well as have the opportunity to see examples of small-scale organic and community-based farms, as well as the work of widely respected scientists.

Each community deals with its past in a different way, some chose to ignore it, and some, like Cambridge, Maryland are confronting it. We partner with local leaders to investigate the racial history on the Eastern Shore and use it as a case study to create long-lasting systemic change.



THE ICELANDIC WAY: Climate Change and the Power of the Earth

Trip Leaders: TBD

Trip Length: March 11 – March 19, 2022

Approximate Trip Cost: \$4,800

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.





ULTIMATE SOUTHWEST ADVENTURE

Backpacking + Wilderness Leadership in Utah

Trip Leaders: TBD

Trip Length: May 16 – May 29, 2022*

Approximate Trip Cost: \$4,200*

Discover the stunning canyons, buttes, and vistas of the American Southwest while refining your leadership and wilderness skills on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. We start our journey in Zion National Park where we discover deep, twisting canyons and red rock fins carved by the seemingly docile Virgin River. While soaking in and exploring the majestic landscape of Zion we complete our Wilderness First Aid course which teaches us important emergency care techniques when medical care is not immediately available. Through hands-on scenarios we learn patient assessment and stabilization, wound care, and improvised splinting in one of America's most picturesque landscapes. After the completion of our WFA course, we depart Zion and head for the remote canyons and mesas of Grand Staircase-Escalante. We don our backpacks and sense of adventure as we tackle this red-rock labyrinthine on a five-day backpack. As we trek through one of the most remote areas in the U.S. we discover towering sandstone walls, ancient petroglyphs, hidden slot canyons, and awe-spining rock arches and alcoves. Upon finishing our backpacking component we take time to celebrate our success by exploring two of the world's most famous slot canyons and visiting the famous hoodoos of Bryce Canyon National Park. Our epic adventure is sure to test our wilderness and leadership skills but the memories of this dramatic landscape will live forever in our memories.





LEADERSHIP IN THE LAST FRONTIER

Backpacking + Wilderness Leadership in Alaska

Trip Leaders: TBD

Trip Length: June 15 – July 2, 2022*

Approximate Trip Cost: \$5,300*

Build your leadership and wilderness skills by exploring the untouched wilderness of America’s “Last Frontier,” Alaska. After a day of exploration and preparation in Anchorage we head north to the famous Matanuska Glacier. Partnering with local experts we get the unique opportunity to explore the glacier while building our technical wilderness skills. Through guided instruction we learn the art of glacier travel and how to properly use an ice axe, tie specialty climbing knots, and belay our adventure partners while climbing a shimmering wall of ice.

After our thrilling glacier adventures, we head further north to Denali State Park. Here we pack our large backpacks for a five-day trek through the alpine tundra and a kaleidoscope of wildflowers. During our backcountry experience we focus on Leave No Trace principles and leadership skills, while savoring the sight of the Alaska Range stretching for hundreds of miles. We finish out our epic explorations by keeping our eyes peeled for grizzly bears on a tour through Denali National Park and having the chance to tackle the class III rapids on the Nenana River. Our adventure comes to an end back in Anchorage where we celebrate our incredible foray into one of the most remote places in North America and with Alaska forever stamped on our hearts.





DEVELOPMENT BY DESIGN

Prosperity, Identity & Entrepreneurship: Balkans

Trip Leaders: TBD

Trip Length: June 17 – July 1, 2022*

Approximate Trip Cost: \$4,900*

On this trip, students will develop research and design skills as they explore the complex challenge of development, economic growth and current social/political dynamics in Croatia and Bosnia, 26 years after the Balkan wars. After decades under socialism as part of Yugoslavia, Croatia has developed a new, modern economy while Bosnia is still trying to. A couple of years ago the country joined the EU opening up new economic opportunities but also a series of challenges. Meanwhile Bosnia has spent the past decade pushing to join the EU. Today, as Croatia becomes a premiere tourist destination in Europe, national and local leaders are forced to balance the drive towards greater prosperity with cultural preservation. Without the long gorgeous Adriatic coastline Bosnia has had to take a very different path towards modern economic development. Bosnia, the focal point of much of the war in the 90s, also deals with far more religious and ethnic plurality. In this trip, we will explore how innovation, entrepreneurship and small business are being fostered, taking hold and impacting both countries.

The students will gain a context to the history and economic agenda of the Croatia before heading to Sarajevo for a compelling comparison. Then we head south to the Adriatic coast for hands-on and immersive research/design experience as they work on a project alongside local business owners and community leaders.



GLOBAL LEADERSHIP: COSTA RICA

Community Building in the Rainforest

Trip Leaders: TBD

Trip Length: June 18 – June 27, 2022*

Approximate Trip Cost: \$3,300*

Upon arrival, we begin our orientation at the Chilamate Eco-Retreat in the central highlands of Costa Rica. We will explore our surroundings and go through orientation. In the first five mornings, we work on the primary Community Project, which will be designed in consultation with the needs and desires of the local community. In the afternoons we will be meeting with community leaders and engaged in a variety of cultural activities. 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. The trip ends with a series of adventure activities including a zipline course and a white water rafting expedition.

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.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: MONTANA

Building Community with the Blackfeet

Trip Leaders: Thomas Jones

Trip Length: June 16 – June 25, 2022

Approximate Trip Cost: \$3,800

Mission:

This trip allows students to engage personally with the Blackfeet community and to recognize complexity and value empathy. It also will provide them the chance to change to strengthen their intellect, character and confidence and promote their active citizenship and leadership integrity.

Working with the Blackfeet:

In the high plains just east of Glacier National Park, live members of the Blackfeet Nation. The service program enables you to work alongside Native peoples and learn about their culture and day-to-day life. From cooking and serving meals at an assisted living center to reading aloud to children at the Boys and Girls Club or painting bleachers at a horse racing stadium, there are many ways to share your experiences and talents with the local community.

Trip Highlights include:

- 6 hours of service everyday
- Participation in community cultural events
- Visit Glacier National Park
- Horseback riding
- Living and working on an operating ranch





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.