



2024-2025 Academic Trips Overview

Quebec: French Language Studies

Date: Veterans' Day Weekend

Description: Travelers will be immersed in the rich linguistic and cultural tapestry of Quebec! Highlights include the European-inspired Old Quebec, Château Frontenac, and the Huron-Wendat Museum. We'll enjoy the culinary delights of French culture with chocolat chaud at le Café Paillard, the sugar shack Érablière du Cap, poutine, and the flavors of the First Nations in their beautiful restaurant La Traite. This interactive tour includes a theatre workshop, a market scavenger hunt, and a medallion-making class where participants will be encouraged to use (or learn) French.

Participants: This trip is geared primarily toward students enrolled in French; however, other students in the Class of 2030 or older are welcome to participate. Families are also welcome to join this unique experience.

Italy in the Footsteps of Augustine: Christmas and the Jubilee Year

Date: December, 2024 to January, 2025

Description: The Austin Prep Choir and the Classes of 2030 and 2031 have been invited to join their voices as part of the 8th Annual Youth Choir Festival in Rome and Vatican City. Students will have the opportunity to sing for Pope Francis and celebrate the Christmas season in the heart of the Eternal City. Students will also explore the wonders of ancient Rome and are scheduled to participate in a workshop with the Sistine Chapel Choir. The tour will include travels through Tuscany with visits to locations like Florence and visits to Pavia and Milan that will focus on Saint Augustine.

Participants: Families and non-choir members are welcome to join members of the Choir and Middle School classes on this pilgrimage and for the unique experience of being in Rome on ringing in the Jubilee Year of 2025. Students enrolled in the Latin program are strongly encouraged to consider this trip.

Japan: The Future of STEM

Date: March Break

Description: Students begin their travels in Tokyo to explore the latest advancements and applications in technology in the research hubs around Japan's dynamic capital. Highlights include visits to the Tokyo Rinkai Disaster Prevention Park, the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, the Toshiba Science Museum, Tsukuba and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, and Tokyo Disneyland. The second leg of the trip is in Kyoto, accessible by Shinkansen, the Japanese bullet train. Here, students will explore the home of Manga and participate in a series of hands-on workshops.

Participants: Students in the Class of 2028 or older. This experience is ideal for students who are interested in technology and its applications as well as students interested in Austin Prep's Giants of Asia history course.

Bermuda: Marine Science Research Experience

Date: March Break

Description: Students will be engaged in a week-long field lab experience alongside research scientists at Arizona State University's private facility in the tropical paradise of Bermuda. The sandy beaches and crystal clear waters are just feet from the dorm and will serve as our students' living laboratory for the week. Students will participate in a variety of labs during the day including plankton and reef fish identification, quantifying microplastics at Cooper's Island, and native & endemic flora restoration. In the evening, students will learn from and interact with lecturers and researchers.

Participants: Students in the Class of 2028 or older. This experience is tailored toward students who are interested in biology and life science. Limit of 24 students.

South Dakota: Service & the Great Outdoors

Date: June 2025

Description: The Black Hills are a sacred place to many indigenous groups of the northern Great Plains. On this outdoor adventure, students will experience an amazing landscape of ancestral origins, cultural traditions, and ancient beauty. Students will visit sites such as the Crazy Horse Monument, Wind Cave and Badlands National Parks, and Mount Rushmore. A highlight of the trip will be time spent on a service project to the benefit of the Lakota people at the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Participants: Students in the Class of 2029 or older.

United Kingdom: Independent Schools Cultural Alliance (ISCA) Middle School Study Abroad

Date: July 2025

Description: This three-week residential program outside of London is designed for Middle School students to take a journey through British history and culture as they develop an understanding of key historical events by exploring over 30 of the most significant landmark sites in the country. From a guided tour of Parliament to a scavenger hunt in medieval Winchester, a performance workshop at the Globe, viewing the Crown Jewels at the Tower of London, and exploring the decks of HMS *Victory* at Portsmouth, the trip presents a packed itinerary. Every third day, students remain on campus for sessions in British sports like cricket, netball, rounders, and fives as well as several workshops that make the sites they'll explore in London and beyond come alive.

Participants: Students in the Classes of 2029, 2030, or 2030.

If there is a trip of particular interest to you, please reach out to express that to help us advance our planning. In many cases, a minimum number of

*participants is needed for a trip to run. **Contact: Mr. Michael McLaughlin, Head of Middle School, at mmclaughlin@austinprep.org.** Detailed information, including trip itineraries, costs, and registration details, will be provided in the coming weeks.*