EXPLORE The World

2024 - 2025 TRAVEL GUIDE

Travel with Intention

Explore with purpose, grow through experience. Discover how travel shapes global citizens, fostering skills and understanding in our students' journey of personal development.

Trip Details

Embark on an educational adventure spanning five continents with our unique blend of curricular and experiential travel destinations. Our programs offer a mix of service trips, cultural immersion, and environmental study.

Registration

Enroll by completing the registration form by October 7. Registration closes when the trip roster is full. Program fees vary by trip and enrollment. A trip with financial aid involves an application and selection process.

CONTACT INFO

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Stuart Center for Global Leadership
EXPLORE WITH PURPOSE, GROW THROUGH EXPERIENCE

Through experiential travel, students practice global leadership skills engaging with local, regional, national, and international communities. By exploring diverse perspectives, cultures, and challenges, students deepen their understanding and learn to respond compassionately and responsibly to global issues.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trip Details</th>
<th>Curriculum</th>
<th>Experiential</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New York City</strong></td>
<td>Orchestra</td>
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<td>MARCH 6-9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bahamas</strong></td>
<td>AP Environmental Science</td>
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<td>MARCH 15-22</td>
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<td><strong>Martinique</strong></td>
<td>AP French Francophone Culture PAP</td>
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<td>MARCH 15-21</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Belize</strong></td>
<td>Community Service and Cultural Immersion</td>
<td>Limited Financial Aid Offered</td>
<td>MARCH 15-23</td>
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<td><strong>Ghana</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Greece</strong></td>
<td>Community Service and Cultural Immersion</td>
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<td>MARCH 15-25</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Peru</strong></td>
<td>Culture, Landscape, History, Customs, Cuisine</td>
<td></td>
<td>MARCH 15-24</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Puerto Rico</strong></td>
<td>Community Support &amp; Development, Culture &amp; Conservation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MARCH 15-26</td>
<td>Ancient traditions, contemporary influences, diverse landscapes</td>
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REGISTER

Travel Registration Form

[QR Code]
The cost of visas, passports, additional travel insurance, vaccinations, and trip specific supplies, if needed, are the responsibility of the student.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Fee Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>BELIZE</td>
<td>$3,000 Trip Fee, less $500 discount and financial aid consideration. Must apply for one of 8 spots.</td>
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<tr>
<td>GHANA</td>
<td>$4,000 + Vaccinations</td>
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<td>GREECE</td>
<td>$4,220</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERU</td>
<td>$4,700 - $5,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUERTO RICO</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, VIETNAM</td>
<td>$5,100 - $5,600</td>
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DAYS 1-2: BELIZE ARRIVAL AND COMMUNITY WELCOME
The group flies into the Philip S. W. Goldson International Airport (BZE) located in Belize City where our staff meets the group and provides transport to our ‘homebase lodging’ outside of Belmopan. The following day enjoy a meet and greet with the school and an orientation to the projects and workshops in days ahead.

DAYS 3-6: SCHOOL IMPACT PROJECTS & WORKSHOPS
Each morning, your Squad will volunteer in a school to improve educational outcomes through classroom support and small construction projects. In addition to providing valuable tutoring and classroom instruction, the group will complete a much needed school infrastructure project such as building bookshelves, furniture, courtyards, playground equipment, or painting educational murals. In addition the group will host educational workshops and recreational activities for students at the school.

AFTERNOON CULTURAL ACTIVITIES
Each afternoon, enjoy guided cultural activities that may include cooking lessons-cassava pudding & darasa ‘tamales’, traditional colorful ‘Cayetano’ inspired artwork, traditional drum lessons, Garifuna language and culture lessons.
DAY 7: MAYAN RUINS & CAVES BRANCH RIVER TUBING EXCURSION

After a week of unforgettable service enjoy exploring impressive Mayan ruins and a tubing float down the Caves Branch River to explore limestone caves and learn about the history and ecology of the region.

DAY 8: RETURN HOME

On the last day, group sessions are facilitated to reflect on what will undoubtedly be a life-changing experience and to re-acclimate to life back home. Friends and family will be excited to hear of the many amazing stories, friendships, and discoveries you made in Belize!

18+ YEARS OF EMPOWERING SCHOOL GROUPS TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND EDUCATION OUTCOMES ABROAD!

HOME-BASE ACCOMMODATIONS

At our private home-base, you’ll enjoy authentic local cuisine, connection with our year-round staff, and space to enjoy your downtime. Squads stay in same-sex rooms, accommodating 4-6 people, with private bathrooms. Private rooms for teachers and chaperones are typical and based on availability.

STAFFING

Our incredible team will be on call to support you every step of the way, as well as expertly-trained cooks, security guards, coordinators, and drivers. Our staff members (coordinators and translators) will be with the group at all times.

COMMUNICATION

Our staff can be reached 24/7 in the event of an emergency. Students will have access to the internet and phone for set periods of time on most evenings.

Applications Due Sept 6, Decisions Released Sept 20

Application Questions (Limit to 200 words per question):
1. What is your understanding of responsible travel and cultural sensitivity, and how will you apply these principles during the trip?
2. How has your involvement as a student at LFA prepared you for this experience?
3. In what ways do you hope the Belize trip will challenge and push you outside your comfort zone?

LFA SPONSORED TRAVEL

As part of its commitment to fostering the development of global citizenship skills among its students, LFA is providing limited financial assistance on this program. Students must apply and be selected to attend. Submit the application to the Travel Registration Form.

*Squads Abroad is part of the 501c3 non-profit Global Brigades and all donations are eligible for a tax deduction*
DAYS 1-2: GHANA ARRIVAL AND CAPE COAST ORIENTATION

Your Squad will fly into Kotoka International Airport in the capital, Accra, where you’ll be greeted by our local team and then transported by private bus to our home-base in the beautiful and historical town of Cape Coast. The home-base is in a safe area along the coast with beautiful views and expansive common areas. Our Program Directors will give an orientation about the local community, train on programming and prepare the group for the week ahead. The next day you’ll be welcomed by the community with a traditional Ghanaian ceremony and tour of the area.

DAYS 3-7: EDUCATION VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

Over the course of the next several days, your Squad will work in a local school to improve educational outcomes through classroom support and infrastructure projects. In addition to providing valuable tutoring and lessons, your squad will tangibly complete a small construction project such as building bookshelves, furniture, or painting educational murals. Site visits, guest speakers, and cultural activities will also be facilitated by trained staff and local professionals every afternoon or evening.

AFTERNOON CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Each weekday afternoon, enjoy guided cultural such as traditional drumming lessons, vibrant dance circles, batik fabric seaming, and visitations to local markets.
DAY 8-9: CAPE COAST CASTLE, KAKUM PARK & NZULEZU VILLAGE ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Visit the Cape Coast Slave Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Walk through the corridors of the historic and solemn castle, one of the oldest remaining forts from the slave trade era. Explore Ghana’s most accessible animal haven, Kakum National Park. Scale the treetops on a canopy tour to view wildlife. Experience Nzulezu Village on Lake Tadane, entirely made up of stilts and platforms it’s a major tourist attraction and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

DAY 10: REFLECTIONS AND RETURN HOME

On the last day, group sessions are facilitated to reflect on what will undoubtedly be a life-changing experience and to re-acclimate to life back home. Friends and family will be excited to hear of the many amazing stories, friendships, and discoveries you made in Ghana!

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COMMUNICATION

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LFA TRAVEL NOTES

Review vaccination requirements: Ghana - Traveler view | Travelers’ Health | CDC

Travel visas and vaccination costs are in addition to the program fee.
DAY 1: ATHENS ARRIVAL AND ORIENTATION

The group flies into the Athens International Airport where our staff meets the group and provides transport to the Home-base located in Glyfada, a beautiful and cosmopolitan suburb along the Athens coast. That evening, you will enjoy your first delicious meal and receive an orientation and overview of the week ahead.

DAYS 2-6 EMPOWERING REFUGEE SHELTERS

Alongside our experienced local staff, students volunteer in a local shelter for refugee youth in Athens. These shelters move children from the streets and camps to provide the safety and a holistic network of child protection services with the ultimate aim of social inclusion. The group will improve living conditions and access through much needed infrastructure projects such as building bookshelves, recreational facilities, gardens, or painting projects. Participate in educational workshops with the students and cultural and recreational exchanges with refugee youth.

CULTURAL & EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Meet with some of our refugee owned small businesses throughout the city and learn about the political and economic challenges faced by refugees. Enjoy guided cultural activities that include Greek conversational language lessons, Greek cuisine cooking lessons, local beaches, and recreational sport activities.
DAYS 7-8: THE ACROPOLIS, SARONIC GULF OR CAPE SOUNION & POSEIDON TOURS
After a week of unforgettable service, spend an extra couple days exploring the amazing sites of Athens! Full-day guided tours include famous Athens sites such as the Acropolis, Temple of Zeus, Panathenaic Stadium, Greek Parliament, and the famous Plaka for shopping and restaurants. Additionally the group will choose to experience a Saronic Gulf (Hydra – Poros – Aegina) Island Cruise and/or Cape Sounion & Poseidon Temple Tour.

DAY 10: RETURN HOME
On the last day, group sessions are facilitated to reflect on what will undoubtedly be a life-changing experience and to re-acclimate to life back home. Friends and family will be excited to hear of the many amazing stories, friendships, and discoveries you made in Greece!

15+ YEARS OF EMPOWERING SCHOOL GROUPS TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND ECONOMIC OUTCOMES ABROAD!

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LFA TRAVEL NOTES
Review CDC travel guidelines:
Greece - Traveler view | Travelers' Health | CDC
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Peru

Itinerary Includes
English-speaking tour escort throughout

Day 1: Arrival Lima
Arrival transfer

Day 2: Lima - Cuzco
Departure transfer, Flight Lima-Cuzco, Arrival transfer
Half-day city sightseeing in Cuzco: Local Guide, Visits to the Inca sites of Puca Pucara, Tambomachay, Qenko and Sacsayhuaman

Day 3: Cuzco
Visit to a local school (subject to availability)

Day 4: Cuzco
Excursion to the Sacred Valley of the Incas: Visit to the Inca ruins in Pisac, Local Guide, Visit to the Ollantaytambo Fortress, Maras salt ponds

Day 5: Cuzco
Excursion to Machu Picchu: Departure transfer, Round-trip train Ollanta-Aguas Calientes (Machupicchu Pueblo), Round-trip shuttle bus from train station to ruins, Visit to the Machu Picchu Citadel Ruins, Local Guide, Buffet lunch at the Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge, Arrival transfer

Day 6: Cuzco
Excursion to the Lamay Community: Pachamanka Cooking Lesson with the Lamay Community
Dinner on own

Day 7: Cuzco - Puno
Visit to the famous 17th-century Church of San Pedro, Visit to the Wiracocha Temple Ruins of Raqchi

Day 8: Puno
Boat excursion to Lake Titicaca’s Floating Islands: Round-trip transfers

Day 9: Puno - Home
Visit to the pre-Inca tombs of Sillustani, Flight Juliaca-Lima
| DAY 1 | ¡Bienvenidos y Bienvenidas!  
Arrival in San Juan and transfer to hotel.  
Welcome Dinner at El Jibarito and Orientation |
| DAY 2 | **El Viejo San Juan: The Fortress Gem of the Spanish Empire**  
A history of the island nation at the Universidad Carlos Albizu.  
Walking tour of Old San Juan, visit Castillo San Felipe del Morro. |
| DAY 3 | **Biodiversity and Conservation**  
Pinones Community and Mangrove Forest Reserve.  
El Yunque rain forest with guided hikes to La Mina Fall.  
Visit agroecological farm in Luquillo area. |
| DAY 4 | **Community Support & Development**  
Engage University of Puerto Rico students and visit Huerto de Semilla.  
Learn about community response after Hurricane Maria from the Centros de Apoyo Mutuo Caguas.  
Enjoy the Art Expression Workshop with Agua, Sol y Sereno Studio. |
| DAY 5 | **Casa Pueblo Model**  
Meet with Casa Pueblo, a grassroots organization protecting the natural, cultural, and human resources of Puerto Rico in Adjuntas.  
Community service in their coffee plantation. |
| DAY 6 | **AfroRoots & Culture**  
Excursion to Louiza for a historic overview and Bomba dance class.  
Artisan workshop to create keepsake Vejigantes mask.  
Farewell dinner with Puerto Rican Social and Solidarity Network. |
| DAY 7 | **Adios con el corazón y el arte**  
Transfer to SJU International Airport for return flight. |
DAY 1 - DEPARTURE
- Depart Home for Singapore

DAY 2 - ENROUTE
- Enroute to Singapore

DAY 3 - SINGAPORE
- Arrive in Singapore, hotel check in
- Lunch at the Maxwell Food Centre
- Visit the oldest temple in Singapore: Tian Hock Kent Temple
- Trace Singapore development at the Singapore City Gallery
- An orientation about the destination and the upcoming language/culture projects

DAY 4 - SINGAPORE
- Visit Singapore's Botanical Gardens and Clark Quay area with a Singapore river cruise to the Merlion
- Onward to Little India and Marina Bay to see evening shows at Gardens by the Bay
*Fun language activities throughout the day

DAY 5 - SINGAPORE | MALACCA
- Transfer to Malacca Malaysia (by bus)
- Half-day walking tour
- Learn about the Nyonya and Baba communities and visit the Malacca heritage centre
- “Welcome to Malacca” dinner

DAY 6 - MALACCA| KUALA LUMPUR
- Onward to Kuala Lumpur
- Explore Malaysia's largest mosque and dive into the heart of their national religion
- Welcome dinner

DAY 7 - KUALA LUMPUR
- Learn temple manners from locals at the famous Batu Caves
- Stop by the Pewter factory and experience the Batik workshop
- Return to the city and visit the Kuala Lumpur Tower to see the city from above!
- Enjoy group farewell dinner

DAY 8 - KUALA LUMPUR | DA NANG
- Arrive in Da Nang around noon
- Local culinary delight for lunch
- Explore vibrant Danang and enjoy pristine My Khe Beach
- Welcome dinner

DAY 9 - DA NANG
- Marvel at Bana Hills’ breathtaking beauty.
- Uncover the vibrant charm of Hoi An Ancient Town
- Group dinner

DAY 10 - DA NANG | HO CHI MINH CITY
- Transfer to the airport to Ho Chi Minh City
- Airport pickup
- City walk tour
- Welcome dinner

DAY 11 - HO CHI MINH CITY
- Visit Cu chi Tunnels
- Transfer to Mekong Delta and experience authentic Vietnamese village life
- Closing dinner

DAY 12 - HO CHI MINH CITY | CHICAGO
- Breakfast and hotel checkout
- Return home!