

2025-26 PENNINGTON UPPER SCHOOL

Travel Opportunities for Experiential Learning

In 2025-26, we are offering many opportunities for students to enjoy academic experiences that connect classroom knowledge with real-world learning. All travel opportunities have a student application process. Those selected for each trip must commit to attending four pre-travel and two post-travel academic sessions, as well as to developing a project that will expand their knowledge and then sharing it with the School community upon their return. Applications for every trip listed below are due by October 5, 2025. Deposits will be due in mid-October for all trips in order to secure flights and other necessary reservations. pennington.org/academics/upper-school/travel-opportunities

SPRING BREAK ACADEMIC TRIPS

Spring trip experiences are academic programs designed to help students learn new skills, deepen existing knowledge, and explore areas of interest. Academic trips require a commitment to three preparation sessions before departure and two follow-up sessions after returning. This experience offers a valuable opportunity for students to explore new themes and deepen their understanding.

Estimated costs listed below include program fees, travel (round-trip airfare from New York or Philadelphia), and most meals. Faculty members accompany students on these trips.

Italy: Rome Reimagined

Was Rome really the foundation of the Western world? On this trip, we will explore how Rome shaped history, as well as how it was shaped by African, Eastern, and Mediterranean cultures. We will spend several nights in the beautiful countryside of Campania at the Villa Vergiliana, exploring the wealth of archaeological sites in the area before concluding our trip in Rome. As we walk the streets of the ancient cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum and take in the wonders of the Empire's capital, we'll uncover the stories of immigrants, workers, and everyday people. Students will come away with a new view of the Roman world as a place of movement, diversity, and cultural exchange.

Tentative Dates: March 7-14, 2026

Estimated cost: \$3500

Students eligible: First preference will be given to students currently enrolled in Latin or World History.

Trip leader: Dr. William Dingie

South Africa: Power, Progress, and Preservation

Discover South Africa, where the legacy of apartheid meets economic leadership and stunning natural beauty. Explore Johannesburg and Cape Town through the lenses of social justice, economic development, and environmental conservation. Visit sites like the Apartheid Museum and Robben Island, engage with local communities, and experience South Africa's role as a modern African powerhouse. From vibrant cities to wildlife reserves, this immersive trip offers a dynamic view of a nation shaped by its past and driving its future.

Tentative Dates: March 7-16, 2026

Estimated cost: \$3500

Students eligible: Grades 9-12

Trip leader: Mr. Chad Bridges

Costa Rica: Environmental Discovery and Cultural Connections

Experience the natural beauty and vibrant culture of Costa Rica on an inspiring adventure. From lush rainforests and active volcanoes to coastal ecosystems and conservation efforts, students will explore one of the world's most biodiverse countries. Connect with local communities through food, traditions, and shared experiences. This trip offers a powerful blend of environmental discovery and meaningful cultural connection in the heart of Central America.

Tentative Dates: March 7-16, 2026

Estimated cost: \$3500

Students eligible: Grades 9-12

Trip leader: Dr. Margo Andrews

SPRING BREAK ADVENTURE TRIPS

Adventure trips are designed to provide hands-on outdoor learning opportunities in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Puerto Rico: Ecology and Adventure

Designed especially for international students, this trip offers a vibrant and enriching experience during spring break. Explore Puerto Rico's breathtaking natural landscapes—from crystalline beaches and lush rainforests to glowing bioluminescent bays and rich marine life around Vieques or Culebra. Filled with adventure and ecological discovery, this journey offers a deep connection to the island's unique tropical ecosystems and culture.

Tentative Dates: March 10-20, 2026; International students will have the opportunity to stay on campus before and after the trip.

Estimated cost: \$4200

Trip leader: Ms. Griselle Laborde

SUMMER 2026 EXPERIENCES

Shakespeare Alive: Pennington in London

Get ready: Theatre at Pennington is returning to London! Students will perform an abridged version of a Shakespeare play in two local UK schools, offering a unique chance to share their talents overseas. Along the way, enjoy world-class theatre productions, take part in acting workshops, tour backstage facilities, explore British museums rich in art and culture, and visit Stratford-upon-Avon to discover more about Shakespeare's life. Please note: Only students selected through an audition process will be eligible to participate in the trip.

Tentative Dates: June 11-20, 2026

Estimated cost: \$3000

Students eligible: Grades 9-12

Trip leader: Ms. Suzanne Houston

Pathways of Portugal: Camino de Santiago and Exploring Lisbon and Porto

Embark on a transformative journey walking sections of the historic Camino de Santiago, immersing yourself in the natural beauty and spiritual tradition of this ancient pilgrimage route. Along the way, explore the vibrant cities of Lisbon and Porto, where rich culture, stunning architecture, and delicious cuisine await. This trip offers a unique blend of reflection, adventure, and discovery, connecting the timeless path of the Camino with the dynamic energy of Portugal's iconic cities.

Tentative Dates: June 6-14, 2026

Estimated cost: \$3500

Students eligible: Grades 9-12

Trip leader: Dr. Nate Van Yperen





Links to applications for the trips listed below can be found on our website:

pennington.org/academics/travel-opportunities

Art Summer Intensive: Art and Culture

This four-week course, designed for students rising to Grades 9, 10, and 11 in the fall of 2026, offers students the opportunity to earn one academic credit in Art through a dynamic blend of studio practice and cultural immersion. The program begins with two weeks of intensive studio work at Pennington, where students will explore foundational and experimental techniques in sketching and printmaking. The experience continues with an eight-day immersive trip to Mexico City—a vibrant cultural hub celebrated for its rich artistic traditions, contemporary art scene, and striking architecture. Students will visit iconic sites such as the Frida Kahlo Museum, ancient ruins, and mural-filled neighborhoods, using sketching and on-site studies to document and interpret their experiences. The course culminates during the final week back at Pennington, where students will complete their studio work and present a final portfolio showcasing their artistic growth and cultural insights. This unique opportunity invites passionate young artists to expand their creative vision while engaging deeply with the art, history, and spirit of Mexico.

Tentative Dates: June 27-July 24, 2026

Estimated cost: \$4650

Students eligible: Grades 9-12

Trip leader: Mr. Jamie Moore

College Tour: Discovering Your Path in New England

Join us for a six-day college tour through the New England region, designed to help students explore a diverse range of universities. Participants will visit a variety of campuses, urban and suburban, large and small, to gain firsthand insight into academic programs, campus life, and the admissions process. This immersive experience will support students in clarifying their college goals, asking meaningful questions, and envisioning their next academic steps in one of the most historic and academically rich regions of the country. The trip will also include time to enjoy the cultural and historical highlights of the selected region, offering a well-rounded and inspiring introduction to college life.

Tentative Dates: June 7-13, 2026

Estimated cost: \$2300

Trip leader: Mr. Adam Materasso

STEM Experience in Malawi

Students will use their STEM skills to bring innovative solutions to low-resource communities in Malawi. This year, on our fifth trip to this region, students will continue to work on designing a water filter, soap, and a hybrid sanitary napkin, along with a supportive economic infrastructure, and they will also blueprint an art classroom and co-author a children’s book. Students will engage in cultural and educational activities while executing their project work. The trip is open to all students who are working on at least one of the Malawi projects during this academic year.

Tentative Dates: June - 10 days (Exact days TBD)

Estimated Cost: \$3,250

Trip Leader: Ms. Wirsig

LANGUAGE INTENSIVE IMMERSION PROGRAM:

Spanish, Mandarin, French, and German

This three-week immersion program is designed to foster language fluency, deepen cultural understanding, and promote global awareness in an authentic setting. Upper School students will have

the opportunity to live and study in a country where their target language is spoken. Students will be fully immersed in the language and culture while living on campus at accredited language institutions. For Spanish and Mandarin, program locations will be determined by student interest and enrollment and a Pennington faculty member may accompany the group, depending on the number of participants. For German and French, students will have the opportunity to select from a range of immersion programs to pursue independently. These experiences are not part of a School-organized trip and will take place without a Pennington chaperone, allowing for greater flexibility and individual exploration.

Tentative Dates: June 20-July 11, 2026

Estimated cost: \$3900

STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Grades 9 and 10

Pennington offers a four-week international exchange opportunity for students in Grades 9 and 10. Travel dates are flexible, with the exact timing of the exchange determined by the destination and each student’s academic schedule. Interested students should consult with Mr. Peeler, their academic advisor, and Dr. Castro to identify the most suitable window for participation. Most exchanges are based on host family arrangements and require reciprocal hosting: Pennington students stay with a family abroad and, in turn, their families will host a student from the partner institution when they visit Pennington.

During the exchange, students are expected to remain fully engaged with their coursework and meet all academic responsibilities at Pennington. All partner schools are accredited international institutions with instruction in English; some also offer additional language immersion opportunities in Spanish, French, or German.

Admission to the program is selective and determined through an application and interview process conducted by a faculty committee. Applications are due by September 30. For more information, and to view Partner Schools, check the FAQ online.

Tentative Dates: Four weeks

Estimated cost: Round-trip ticket to destination plus incidental expenses

Grade 11

During the school year, juniors may participate in a one-week exchange program, with the option to extend their stay to up to three weeks by coordinating with Thanksgiving or spring break. As part of the exchange, students are expected to host a visiting student from the partner school during the other student’s return visit to Pennington.

In the summer, rising juniors and rising seniors may take part in Pennington’s four-week cultural immersion program at one of our Round Square international partner schools in Chile, Australia, South Africa, or Japan. These experiences are designed to deepen global understanding and foster meaningful cross-cultural connections.

Admission to the program is selective and determined through an application and interview process conducted by a faculty committee. Applications are due by September 30. For more information, check the FAQ.

Tentative Dates: June-July

Estimated cost: Round-trip ticket to destination plus incidental expenses

QUESTIONS? Contact Lida Castro at lcastro@pennington.org

The Pennington School | 112 West Delaware Avenue, Pennington, NJ 08534 | www.pennington.org



2025-26

PENNINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Travel Opportunities for Experiential Learning

FRENCH AND SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE TRIPS

Middle School students will have the opportunity to join one of two immersive travel experiences: one focused on French, the other on Spanish language and culture. Each trip will offer students a chance to build their language skills while exploring the daily life, traditions, and history of the Francophone or Hispanic world. Through local interactions, hands-on cultural activities, and unforgettable adventures, students will deepen their global understanding and spark a lifelong love for language learning.

Deposits will be due in mid-October.

Discover Montreal and Quebec City: French Language and Culture

Discover French language and culture in Canada—visit a traditional sugar shack, take part in a cooking class, connect with First Nations heritage, enjoy the natural beauty of Quebec City, and have fun with exciting winter outdoor activities. A week filled with cultural discovery, language practice, and authentic experiences! Open to all Middle School students, with preference given to those enrolled in the French program.

Estimated cost: \$3200

Tentative Dates: March 7-13, 2026

Trip leader: Ms. Maria Capelle-Burny

Experience Costa Rica- Spanish Language and Culture

Explore the heart of Costa Rica—hike the Arenal Volcano, relax in natural hot springs, visit a cacao farm, take a cooking class, swim at waterfalls, and experience the beauty of San José, La Fortuna, Monteverde, and Guanacaste. A week of language immersion, adventure, and unforgettable cultural connections! Open to all Middle School students, with preference given to those enrolled in the Spanish program.

Estimated cost: \$3500

Tentative Dates: March 7-13, 2026

Trip leader: Ms. Tracy Kuser

QUESTIONS? Contact Lida Castro at lcastro@pennington.org

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