

Educational Impact Report



Travel-based learning that
inspires individual change
and global outcomes



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Educational travel that makes a lasting impact

Dear educators,

The world is at a turning point, with new ideas and technologies inspiring a future full of possibilities. As you prepare your students to go out into the world and navigate the future, an openness to new people, new cultures, and new ways of thinking becomes more important than ever.

On an educational tour with EF, students are surrounded by opportunities to learn by doing, with supportive teachers, knowledgeable locals, and unique environments helping to spark connections and expand perspectives. Research shows that this kind of experiential education builds social-emotional intelligence, strength in problem-solving, and adaptability—the future-ready skills critical for success in our dynamic world.

The data on the pages that follow, collected from students, teachers, and parents, tells a similar story (see pgs. 4–7). Students who travel are broadening their view of the world, deepening their ability to navigate it, and recognizing in themselves the confidence to not only feel prepared for the future, but to be the ones who shape it.

Throughout this report, we reflect on the impact of educational travel over the past year. At the same time, though, we also recognize that so much of its impact is impossible to measure—the “aha” moments and the new friendships and the memories that help shape students’ lives. Our gratitude for educators like you, who enable this impact in the work you do each and every day, is also wildly beyond measure. Partnerships with districts like Douglas County, in Georgia (see pg. 10), are essential in helping make this travel accessible to more young people across the U.S.

So here’s to another year of inspiring individual growth in our students and making positive change on a global scale. We’re so grateful for your commitment to our shared mission, and we can’t wait to see our shared impact continue to grow.

Alex Huber
President
EF Educational Tours

Traveling and exploring with peers

Traveling and living with peers

Students work together to build interpersonal skills like flexibility, adaptability, and compromise.

Immersion in new environments

Dive into destinations culturally, intellectually, and emotionally.

Professionally guided travel

DEngage more deeply with the culture and experiences as a result of the insightful context your Tour Director and local guides provide.

Learning from subject experts

Gain intercultural knowledge and skills from local experts in their fields.

Team-based activities

Promote student communication and collaboration with engaging group exercises.

Hands-on experiences

Multi-sensory learning at its best. See, hear, smell, taste, and *feel* what a new place can teach you.

Authentic cultural exchange

Engage in meaningful ways with the help of EF's longstanding, respectful relationships with our host communities.

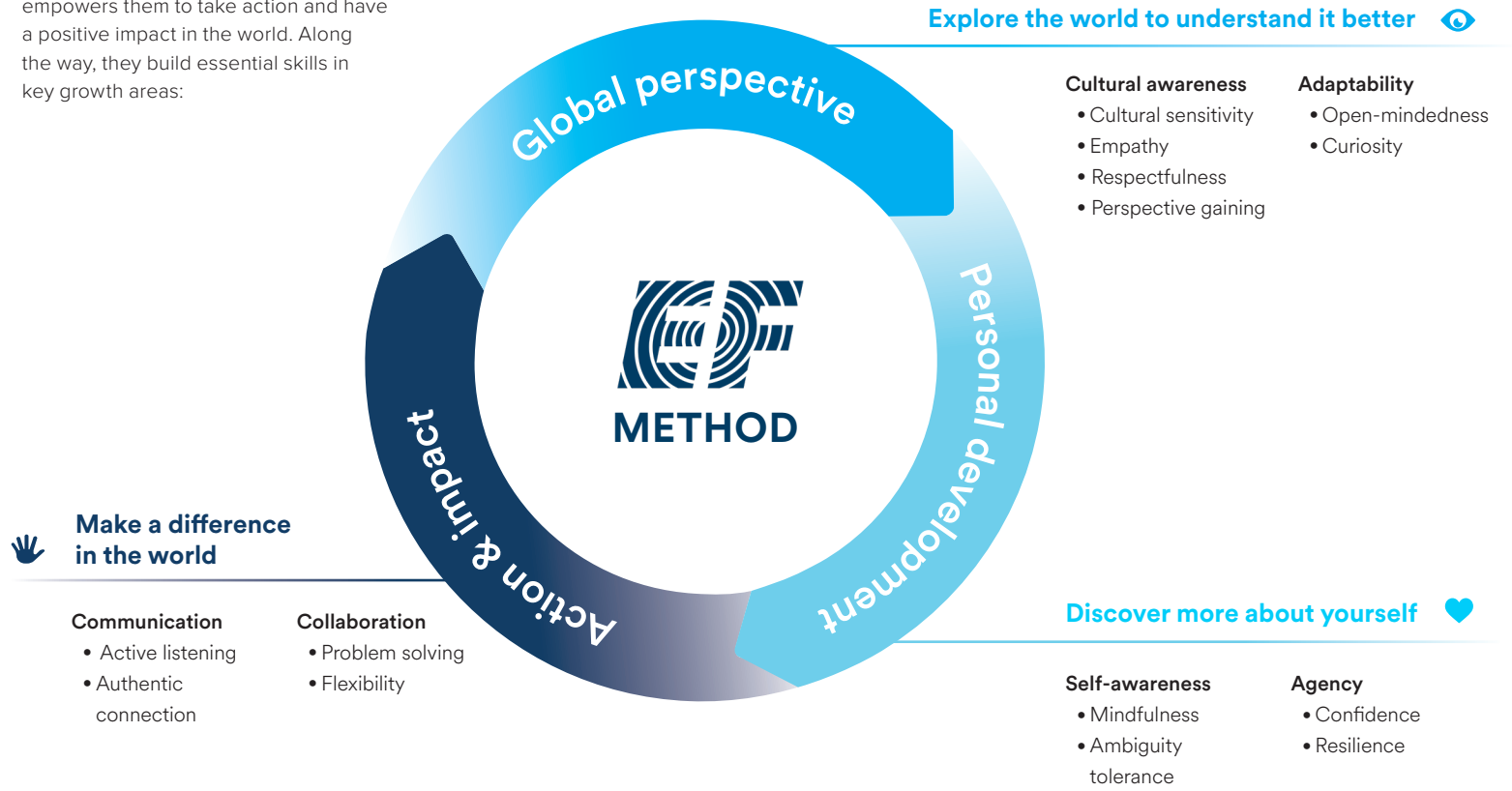
Independent exploration

Build confidence, independence, and problem-solving skills by making individual discoveries.



Immersive, hands-on learning on every tour

Our proven travel-based learning method takes students safely out of their comfort zones to explore the world firsthand, which leads to more self-discovery. This empowers them to take action and have a positive impact in the world. Along the way, they build essential skills in key growth areas:



We share your commitment to education. It's why we design tours that blend classroom and experiential learning, allowing us to meet the same rigorous standards as schools like yours.



“ Alexis K.
Student from Pennsylvania

As soon as I came back from my first trip, I began to take in other perspectives that I hadn't noticed before. I took more chances, I became a better global citizen, and I realized I had such potential to have an impact on the world.

Learning outcomes you can see, change you can feel

We've seen the benefits of travel-based learning firsthand and recognize all the ways these opportunities help prepare travelers for everything that's ahead. But don't just take our word for it. Read what educators and students had to say after their experiences on tour.

Sources:
EF Educational Tours 2023 Group Leader Evaluations
EF Educational Tours 2019 Post-Tour Student Survey

89% of students say they understand more about new people, places, and cultures

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It's one thing to learn about places in class, but it's totally different when you actually go there and learn about their cultures firsthand.

Kayla P., Student from Massachusetts



98% of educators say their tour helped their students broaden their worldview

93% of students say their tour expanded their knowledge of the world

92% of students say they discovered more about themselves

97% of educators say their tour helped students grow as people

97% of educators say their tour encouraged students to embrace new challenges

88% of students say they grew more confident and independent

75% of educators say their tour helped their students develop the ability to have an impact on the world

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What better way is there to experience social-emotional growth than letting kids experience something new?

Nickie M., Guidance counselor from Pennsylvania



How parents value travel-based learning

Here at EF, parents are one of our most valuable partners in helping students experience the world. As the numbers show, post-pandemic parents and caregivers want the hands-on education for their children that builds the social, emotional, and communication skills necessary to succeed through higher education and beyond. Parents are focused on future-readiness—and they agree that one of the best ways to prepare kids for the future is through educational travel.

Source:
EF's 2022 Parent Educational Values Survey
conducted online by The Harris Poll

90%
of parents think education-based travel can help students develop career-readiness skills like adaptability, social-emotional intelligence, and problem-solving

92%
of parents agree it's important for schools to incorporate class trips to reinvigorate student education and satisfaction

The parents we surveyed had household incomes ranging from less than \$50K to over \$100K, and even with such a varied income level, the results are clear:

More than
3 in 4
parents would put off other expenses to pay for education-based travel

62%
of parents want their children to appreciate another culture via language or travel by high school graduation



Reasons parents think education-based travel is beneficial for students

- 1 It introduces new ways of learning
- 2 It provides innovative, hands-on skills
- 3 It gets students off screens and interacting with the world
- 4 It complements the academic curriculum
- 5 It provides opportunity to discover one's life passion



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This experience took our daughter out of her comfort zone in so many ways. She came home changed.

Teresa R., Parent from North Carolina



Conducted by **The Harris Poll**

The sampling precision of Harris online polls is measured by using a Bayesian credible interval. This survey was conducted online within the United States by The Harris Poll on behalf of EF Educational Tours from September 7-13, 2022, among 932 parents of children in grades K-12. For this study, the sample data is accurate to within +/- 3.8 percentage using a 95 percent confidence level.

Life-changing professional learning for educators

Here at EF, we’re committed to helping teachers change their students’ lives. But we’re just as invested in giving educators professional development opportunities that will change their lives, too. Experiencing an EF tour helps educators grow in countless ways and prepares them to bring back a new perspective to their classrooms. And we’ve heard firsthand from school administrators that the professional development opportunities that come with a strong travel program increase teacher morale and retention, while also helping educators build stronger connections with their students.

Immersive training that prepares Group Leaders

We want educators to focus on their growth (and their students’ growth) and not worry about safety or logistics. That’s why we provide training and resources to all of our Group Leaders, including an immersive training tour. Led by EF staff and experienced educators, the training program enables educators to experience a tour before leading one, ensuring they are ready to facilitate and communicate all behavioral expectations and safety and security procedures. By going on the training tour and completing the accompanying blended-learning course, “Introduction to Global Education,” educators discover new ways to align travel-based learning with school curricula, make learning relevant, and incorporate global perspectives into their teaching practice.

Hear from educators who have been on training tours at eftours.com/training



A teacher experiencing the Louvre with his students on their EF tour

Graduate-level credit and professional learning hours

When educators participate in a training tour, EF issues an official transcript for 25 professional learning hours or points. Educators can also earn 45 professional learning hours or points when they lead an EF tour and complete a travel-based course. Additionally, educators have the opportunity to earn three or six graduate-level credits through our partners at Southern New Hampshire University.

The EF Global Education Symposium

EF’s Global Education Symposium—an exclusive opportunity for school and district leaders at the secondary level—brings administrators together to collaborate with peers across the globe, hear directly from thought leaders in the education space, participate in interactive discussions, and brainstorm ways to apply new ways of thinking to their own institutions. A similar event is also offered virtually each year, so that all educators across secondary education can access the benefits of the Symposium.

Learn more at eftours.com/professional-learning



“**Dr. Lorna Lewis**
Superintendent from New York

We want our graduates to have the social-emotional competencies to be not just college and career ready but life ready—a willingness to embrace the changes that are happening in the world. They know that they’ll come back changed. Changed for the better.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

Douglas County School System

EF is proud to partner with Mitch Springer, an assistant superintendent in Douglasville, Georgia, to offer educational travel opportunities to all students in the Douglas County School System. He runs a district-wide travel program that takes students on far-ranging educational tours, from *Portugal & Spain* to *Middle School: Explore Japan* to *Brazil & Argentina*. Like us, Mitch believes that travel plays a pivotal role in his students’ growth and development—and has the power to change the trajectory of their lives.



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Travel provides a different scope of influence. It shows students, ‘You can be this.’ Or, ‘You can do this. You’re not tied into one specific way of life.’

Mitch S., Administrator
Douglas County School System, Georgia

Prioritizing the travel program

Impactful travel programs come in all sizes. Mitch’s happens to be district-wide. He believes that teachers, parents, and guardians need to know that travel is supported from the very top. This top-level buy-in builds trust in the community, proving that educational travel is a priority.

Making travel accessible

At EF, we believe in making access to travel equitable. Partnerships like this one help ensure that students throughout a district are learning about travel opportunities and being given resources and tools to help make travel happen.

Building community

Mitch’s travel program goes to places ranging from Washington, D.C. to Tokyo, giving students the chance to connect with people whose experiences largely differ from their own. Travelers also get to connect with students from other schools in their area, since the program includes the whole district.

Expanding student perspectives

EF tours help Mitch’s students recognize they’re part of an interconnected, global society. When they travel, they observe the differences among people and places, but just as importantly discover the innate similarities we all share.



Mitch’s students in the Galápagos

Take a tour of our tours

EF offers hundreds of educational tours for all kinds of students and teachers in all kinds of countries. We have an incredible collection of core tours, but we also have the following collections that focus on specific subjects and areas of interest. No matter the location or theme, all of our tours lead to life-changing impact that sets students up for success.



STEM Tours

Each Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math-focused tour challenges students to develop imaginative solutions to real-world, global problems.



Service Learning Tours

Every activity on a Service Learning tour helps develop critical thinking, cultural awareness, and organizational skills as travelers build lasting solutions to empower communities.



Global Leadership Summit

At this conference, which is focused on a new theme each year, students hear from thought leaders and work in teams to create and present their own solutions to a global challenge.



Middle School Tours

While middle-schoolers can travel on any EF itinerary, our Middle School tours are specially designed to keep students aged 11 to 15 interested and actively learning.



Language & Culture Tours

EF’s Language & Culture tours are designed to give students the chance to explore the landscapes, landmarks, and languages they’ve learned about in the classroom.



Custom-Designed Tours

No one knows how to engage your students better than you—and we can help bring your ideas to life through our expertly crafted, custom-designed tours.

Our approach to travel and tour design



Curated by experts

Educators, world travelers, subject-matter specialists, and locals all come together to create itineraries you won’t find anywhere else.



Experiential learning

We build immersive experiences into every one of our tours, giving students the chance to personally interact with vibrant new cultures.



Compelling itineraries

From sites that are Instagram staples to secret spots only locals know about, students will explore everything a destination has to offer.

We believe travel is for everyone

We know how committed educators are to providing access and opportunities to their students. That’s why we partner with them to allow every student—regardless of gender identity, race, physical ability, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status—to experience the life-changing impact of educational travel.

Making tours accessible for all students

Ensuring equitable access to travel is a big job. That’s why we work with educators like Ernesto S., a high school graphic design teacher from Tucson, Arizona, and support his Group Leader journey every step of the way. His school is an hour from the U.S./Mexico border, with a 98.2% minority enrollment. With such a diverse student population, Ernesto has made it his mission to show students from all backgrounds that travel is possible. (And, he’s already led three tours with EF!)



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Being there in front of these attractions across the world, I think of that one kid who said, ‘I’m never gonna be able to travel.’ We can overcome everything.

Ernesto S.
Group Leader from Arizona

Why do you offer educational travel opportunities for your students?

My sister went on an EF tour to D.C., and I saw how amazing her experience was. I really wanted that for myself, and now for my students. Making these experiences possible is what brings me so much joy.

How do you ensure all kinds of students have access?

I have a student who’s wheelchair-bound. My EF Experience Specialist, Sarah—the best one!—helped their parent come along as a caretaker. Once I had only three out of 24 travelers who had ever been on an airplane before. When I’m offering a trip, I talk about what we can do and how we can make this trip work for them.

What about affordability? Is that a concern in your community?

The payment plans make it work. I also send out EF’s fundraising ideas and say, ‘I’m here to support you. If you want to do a concert [fundraiser] at school, I’ll book the auditorium.’ And, there’s EF’s Global Citizenship Scholarship. I help the kids who need help do what they need to do.

Have you had students who want to travel, but feel like they can’t?

Everyone wants to travel. But some don’t see themselves, as a person of color, being able to afford it. Some of my students are the breadwinners for their family. A lot of them are undocumented. It’s important for me to show students that, look: I was able to do it. You could do it as well.

Deepening the student learning experience

EF offers multiple ways for all kinds of learners to maximize their on-tour experience.

Confidence for college and beyond

Through EF’s partnership with Southern New Hampshire University, students can enroll in an exclusive online course, “Interculturalism and Global Exploration.” As they explore their destination, challenge their assumptions, and discover connections between cultures, they’ll earn three college credits—and a confidence-building taste of higher-ed success.

Read more at eftours.com/college

EF & the Nobel Prize Museum

EF is a proud sponsor of the Nobel Prize Museum and honored to partner with them on a number of educational initiatives. Most notably, students who attend our annual Global Leadership Summit compete in teams to come up with an innovative solution to a pressing global challenge. Then the winning team’s project is exhibited in the Nobel Prize Museum in Stockholm, Sweden!



Check out one student’s personalized learning project

Shannon R.’s research question:
How has human colonization affected the delicate ecosystem of the Galápagos Islands?

The research process:
“While traveling on *Charting the Galápagos Islands*, I was amazed by how the people seem to coexist easily with nature—until I learned about the introduction of invasive species and the effect of modernization, specifically fossil fuels and pollution. I focused my project on sharing preventative measures, such as the extensive screening process of anyone traveling into or between the islands, and the renewable energy sources that are growing more popular. To do that, I made a video showing how unique the environment is, the existing dangers, and the ways people are taking action.”

Educational opportunities for every stage of life and learning

EF Educational Tours is just one of EF’s incredible offerings. We’re committed to opening the world through education, which means we have something for everyone—from middle-schoolers to working professionals. And our experiences can take you anywhere, from Puerto Rico to Portugal, Cartagena to Chiang Mai, and all the many beyonds.

With you every step of the way

600+

EF schools and offices across 50 countries

59

years EF has been in business

52,000+

Tour Directors, team members & educators



EF Explore America

Middle school and high school

EF Explore America’s immersive class trips bring lessons to life for middle and high school students on educational tours throughout North America.

efexploreamerica.com



EF Study Abroad

College

EF Study Abroad develops custom, scalable, and short-term study abroad programs that help institutional partners maximize travel opportunities.

efstudyabroad.com



EF Educational Tours

Middle school and high school

EF Educational Tours expands middle and high school students’ perspectives through international travel that prepares them for their futures.

eftours.com



Hult International Business School

Grad school

Hult International Business School uses learning-by-doing experiences to transform students into job-ready candidates upon graduation.

hult.edu



EF Gap Year

Post-high school

EF Gap Year gives 18–22 year olds the future-ready skills that will help them thrive in their lives and careers through global experiential programs.

efgapyear.com



EF International Language Campuses

Post-grad

EF International Language Campuses allow anyone to learn a language faster by experiencing the language instead of just studying it.

ef.edu

Together, we make a world of difference

EF is dedicated to making positive change that spans the globe. Through our sustainability efforts, we're addressing our carbon footprint and leading the travel industry in animal welfare best practices.



World Animal Protection

As the first international education company to collaborate with World Animal Protection, EF ensures animal welfare best practices in all our programs and avoids attractions that don't meet animal welfare standards.

Learn more at eftours.com/animal-protection

The Hult Prize Foundation

Hult Prize holds a global, year-long competition to inspire young people to solve the world's biggest challenges through social entrepreneurship. Every year, the winning team receives \$1 million in funding to make their idea a reality. 2023's Hult Prize Challenge was to launch an innovative, for-profit social venture to make the fashion industry more sustainable. The 2024 challenge is "Unlimited," meaning students can pitch any social enterprise idea that's aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Learn more at hultprize.org



Featured Hult Prize Foundation Project: Banofi Leather

Banofi Leather, founded by a team from Yale University, produces plant-based leather from banana crop waste. The enterprise is supplying the fashion industry with a vegan leather alternative that, when compared to animal leather, reduces water usage by 95% and carbon emissions by 90%, while also eliminating toxic waste.

EF Forest Initiative

We launched the EF Forest Initiative in 2021 to restore healthy forests and support economic opportunities in rural communities worldwide. So far, through our partnership with Eden Reforestation Projects, local community members have planted more than 9 million mangrove trees on our behalf in Kenya, Madagascar, and Mozambique.

Learn more at ef.com/impact



A world of impact

EF strives to positively impact people, communities, and the planet. Our approach to changing the world is based on three pillars:

People

People are at the heart of everything we do. Human connection and the power it holds to change lives is core to every program we offer.

Communities

We're committed to providing economic, social, and environmental benefits to all of the communities we interact with, and seek to collaborate with them to support local economies and preserve local cultures.

Planet

We embrace eco-friendly practices by supporting local conservation efforts, reducing and recycling waste, and minimizing our carbon footprint to help ensure a more sustainable and peaceful future for all.



At EF, we're committed to running our programs in responsible and sustainable ways. We created the *EF Impact Report* to share stories and data about how we're doing just that, and inspire others to also effect positive change.

ef.com/impact



Image provided by Eden Reforestation Projects



Student travel strengthens our school system's mission of making our future graduates global citizens. After their travels, our students return more well-rounded and success-driven because they now understand the connections between what is taught in the classroom and what is needed in the global market.



Trent North, Superintendent
Douglas County School System
Douglas County, Georgia

Discover the genuine impact EF educational tours have on students, educators, and local and global communities—then learn how you can bring the same opportunities to your school or district.



eftours.com



800-637-8222