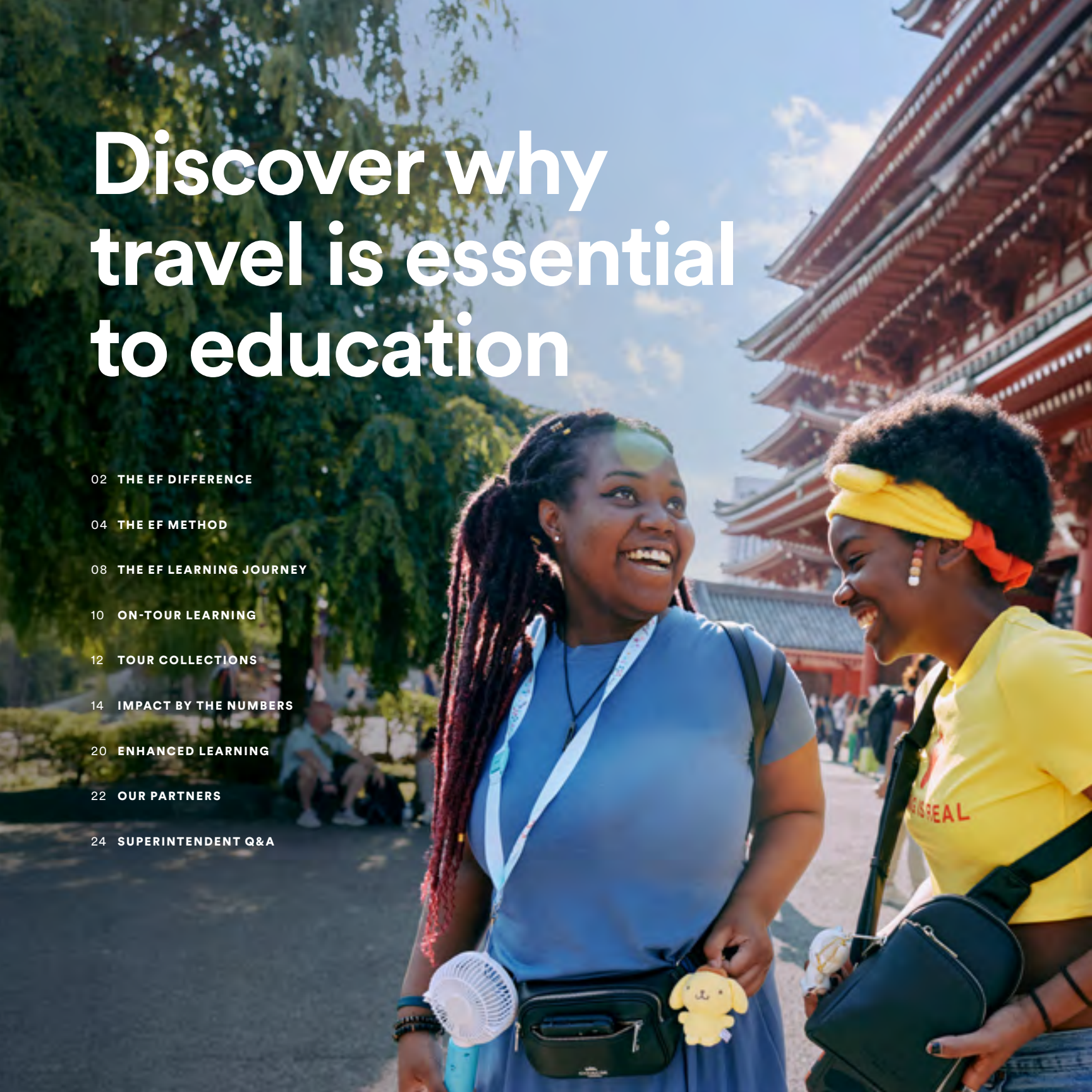




EDUCATIONAL
TOURS

Educational Impact Report

Student growth on
EF tours and the power
of travel-based learning



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Discover why travel is essential to education

Dear fellow educators,

After 38 years in education, I've discovered that the most powerful learning happens when students step outside familiar boundaries and see themselves as part of something larger.

We're all navigating challenges right now: workforce shortages, budget constraints, and an urgency to prepare students for a world that looks nothing like the one we grew up in. Amid these pressures, it's tempting to cut what feels optional.

Educational travel isn't optional, it's integral to developing future-ready graduates.

My district's Portrait of a Graduate identifies competencies like global awareness, critical thinking, and adaptability, but that frameworks only matters if students have authentic opportunities to develop those skills. That's where educational travel comes in.

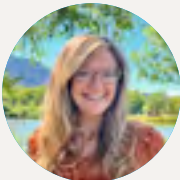
When students navigate unfamiliar cities, communicate across cultures, and adapt to unexpected situations, they're building real-world skills that traditional classrooms struggle to cultivate—and practicing the exact skills employers and colleges are looking for.

We partner with EF because they don't just offer trips—they offer educational experiences grounded in research and designed around clear learning outcomes. EF understands that travel is a means to learning, not an end in itself, which makes them a true partner in our educational mission.

If you're curious about educational travel but wondering if now is the right time, I'd offer this: we can't afford to wait. The world our students are inheriting demands global awareness, cultural agility, and the confidence to navigate complexity.

The students in your district deserve to see themselves as citizens of the world, not just their hometown. Educational travel makes that shift possible, and I've dedicated my career to ensuring every student has access to experiences that open doors they didn't even know existed.

With respect and solidarity,



A handwritten signature in black ink.

DR. KAREN CHESER, ED.D.
SUPERINTENDENT
DURANGO, COLORADO

THE EF DIFFERENCE

Defining experiential learning since 1965

Our student tours are powered by more than travel expertise. They're built on EF's foundation of industry-leading experience as educators and shaped by an ecosystem of academic innovation. For over 60 years, EF has helped millions of people see new places, explore new cultures, and learn new things about the world and about themselves—all driven by the belief that the world is better when people try to understand one another.



“Educational travel strengthens human connection and prepares students for the future. It’s where learning meets life.”

ALEX HUBER, EF EDUCATIONAL TOURS PRESIDENT

01 Educational travel

Partnering with educators, EF leads expertly guided tours to the world’s greatest sights and landscapes. Itineraries are tailored to the needs of teachers and students at all levels. We also develop adventures and travel experiences for people of all ages and interests.

02 Academic study

EF owns and operates private, four-year high schools in the U.S. and UK that feature an International Bacclaureate (IB) curriculum. We are also associated with Hult International Business School, renowned for its top-ranked graduate and undergraduate programs.



03 Language learning

An EF language course can help you talk to the world, in English and other widely spoken languages. We have fully accredited schools in 50 of the world’s most exciting cities, as well as EF English Live: the world’s largest online English school.

04 Cultural exchange

EF offers exchange programs that give young adults the chance to experience America as a local. Host families provide safe and secure homes in U.S. communities for our high school students choosing to study for a year abroad.



We value the same educational outcomes as your school

Our proven method, developed over 60 years, enhances what students are taught in the classroom with immersive, hands-on learning that builds the future readiness skills essential for success —in college, the career world, and adult life.

THE EF METHOD

01 Explore the world

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

EF takes students safely out of their comfort zones to experience the world firsthand



Cultural awareness

Cultural sensitivity
Open-mindedness

Adaptability

Curiosity
Growth mindset

02 Discover yourself

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

This exploration transforms how students think and feel, leading to more self-discovery



Self-awareness

Individual impact
Resilience

Agency

Confidence

03 Make a difference

ACTION & IMPACT

Students are empowered to take action and have a positive impact on the world



Communication

Active listening
Authentic connection

Collaboration

Empathy
Flexibility

EF GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Understand more about the world



93%

OF EF STUDENT TRAVELERS SAY THEY EXPANDED THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD

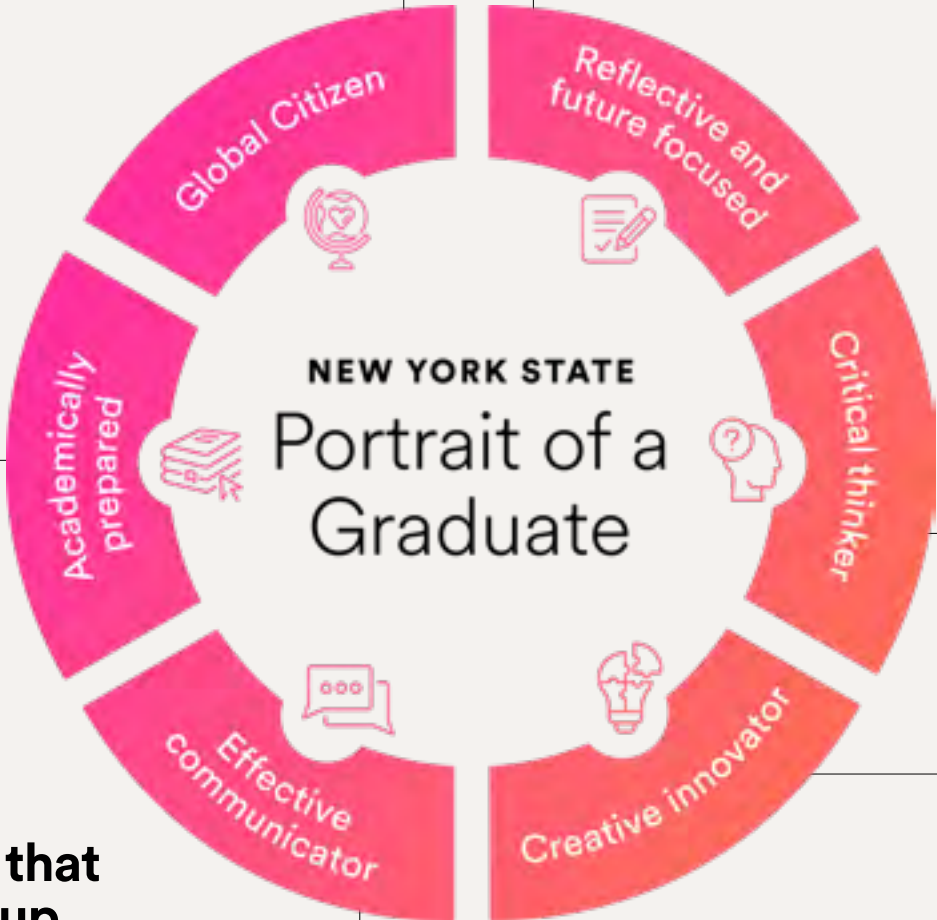
EF PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Discover more about yourself



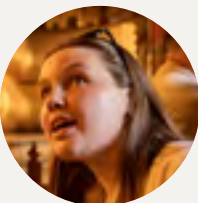
84%

OF EF STUDENT TRAVELERS SAY THEY GREW AS PEOPLE



A method that measures up

The EF Method is designed to help students develop the skills, competencies, and dispositions that schools, districts, and states throughout the country identify as critical to future readiness for students post-graduation.



84%

OF EF STUDENT TRAVELERS SAY THEIR TOUR INSPIRED THEM

EF ACTION & IMPACT

Make a difference in the world

A young man and woman are shown from the chest up, looking upwards towards a snowy mountain peak. The man, on the left, is wearing a dark jacket and sunglasses. The woman, on the right, is wearing a brown fur-lined parka, a red scarf, and a fur hat. The background is a bright, snowy mountain landscape.

“

It is essential for today's students to understand the interconnectedness of our world, and **travel provides a powerful opportunity for them to do so.**

MITCH SPRINGER, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, GEORGIA



THE EF LEARNING JOURNEY

Intentional learning every step of the way

On every EF educational tour, students and educators embark on a co-learning journey that extends beyond the itinerary. With opportunities for growth before, during, and after immersion, the integrated EF tour experience ensures our travelers don't just observe the world. They engage with it, learn from it, and start to discover their place in it.

STUDENTS	BEFORE TOUR	DURING TOUR		AFTER TOUR	STUDENTS
	Practical skills Students practice useful life skills, like securing passports, budgeting their spending money, and packing their suitcases. Preparation for immersion Students are encouraged to study the culture, practice basic phrases in the local language, and adopt a curious mindset.	Professionally guided travel Cultivates active listening and flexibility Exploring with peers Encourages teamwork and a sense of belonging	Immersion in new environments Promotes cultural sensitivity and open-mindedness Learning from subject experts Strengthens cultural awareness and builds knowledge	Actionable reflection Students are encouraged to reflect on their growth and build on what they've learned—taking action to make an impact in their own lives, their communities, and the world around them. Credits and certificates Students can complete credit-bearing courses related to their tour. They can also submit a project to earn a certificate from EF and the Nobel Prize Museum. (See pp. 20 for enhanced learning opportunities.)	
EDUCATORS	Comprehensive support In addition to working with their EF Travel Team, educators connect with experienced Group Leaders who provide insights, share tips, and answer questions. Training and resources Educators are supported with resources and lessons designed to help prepare students for immersion. First-time Group Leaders can also travel on a teacher-only training tour.	Team-based activities Improve communication and collaboration Authentic cultural exchange Builds empathy and respect	Independent discovery Develops confidence and independence Hands-on experiences Foster a growth mindset	Development opportunities Educators can complete relevant coursework to earn professional development hours and graduate-level credits. (See pp. 20 for academic enhancement opportunities.) Scholarships and other benefits By leading a tour with EF, educators can earn benefits for their students, their schools, and themselves, such as scholarships and continued professional development.	EDUCATORS

ON-TOUR LEARNING

We put education first on all our tours

No matter where in the world students travel with EF, our intentional learning journey ensures they'll enjoy meaningful moments of growth and discovery.

During tour, learning comes to life through immersive, hands-on experiences. For example, on our **Experience London & Paris** tour, students engage with the cultures and histories of two iconic European capitals through guided exploration, expert-led workshops, and more.

London

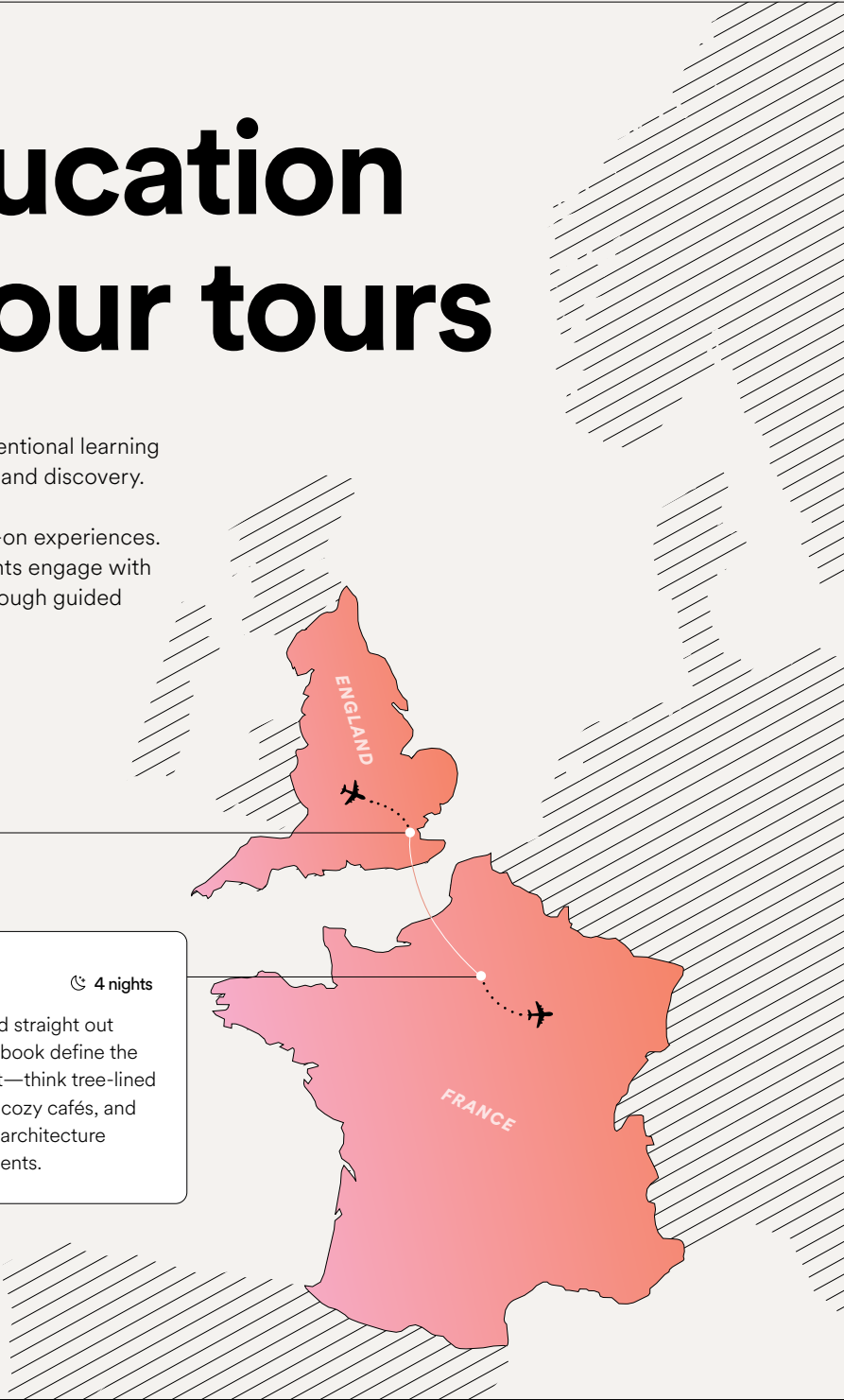
🕒 4 nights

World-famous galleries, stately palaces, and welcoming markets await. Every quintessential neighborhood in London has a distinct personality all its own.

Paris

🕒 4 nights

Scenes lifted straight out of a picture book define the City of Light—think tree-lined boulevards, cozy cafés, and illuminating architecture and monuments.



Take a closer look at travel-based learning on **Experience London & Paris** →

LEARNING FROM SUBJECT EXPERTS

Craft a masterpiece with Parisian artists

Students create their own artwork while engaging with French culture firsthand in an open-air workshop led by Parisian artists in the beautiful Jardins du Luxembourg.



TEAM-BASED ACTIVITES

Learn to play cricket like a pro in London

During an interactive lesson at Lord's Cricket Club, students learn the rules of one of England's most popular sports before hitting the field to practice their cricket skills.



PROFESSIONALLY GUIDED TRAVEL

Explore the iconic landmarks of Paris

Led by an expert local guide, students take in the City of Light's most celebrated sights—including the Eiffel Tower, the Champs-Élysées, and the Arc de Triomphe.





Discover our Career Readiness collection

Where exploration becomes experience

Our immersive Career Readiness tours offer students firsthand industry exposure that is designed to shape their career paths and open doors to purposeful futures.

Through hands-on activities and exhibits led by field experts, travelers deepen their knowledge across Career Technical Education pathways while recognizing the impact that global experiences have on job opportunities.



STEM

Develop creative solutions to current global problems through critical thinking and hands-on workshops.



AUTOMOTIVE

Shift your curiosity into high gear as you explore automotive production and the history of major brands.



BUSINESS

See how industry and innovation intersect while visiting one of the world's leading business hubs.



HEALTH SCIENCES

Discover how medical innovations from the past shaped the healthcare landscape today.



CULINARY

Dive fork-first into an authentic exploration of cuisine while learning about local culture and history along the way.



AGRICULTURE

Get your hands dirty while visiting local farms and learning about organic and sustainable agricultural practices.



TOUR COLLECTIONS

Take a tour of our tours

Itineraries as unique as your educational goals

EF offers hundreds of educational tours around the world. Beyond our incredible collection of cross-curricular tours, our curated collections span a diverse range of subjects, themes, and destinations—making it easy for educators to find an itinerary that aligns with their curricular and experiential goals.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

Measurable outcomes with meaningful impact

The difference just one EF tour makes

EF is committed to helping students build the skills that matter most for future readiness in a globally connected world. To measure on-tour skill development, EF is conducting a multi-year study in partnership with OccPsyence, internationally respected growth science experts. Building on IQ (Intelligence Quotient) and EQ (Emotional Quotient), we’ve created the EF WQ (World Quotient). This scientifically rigorous and statistically sound data model evaluates student growth in key future-ready skills to predict world readiness: the ability to adapt and thrive across cultures.

Initial results are exciting and statistically significant. On a typical eight- to ten-day EF tour, students grow an average of +4% across a dozen future-ready skills. For students with little to no prior cross-cultural exposure, the average growth more than doubles to +9.5% (shown to the right). Importantly, these outcomes are not isolated. Each skill reinforces the others, compounding to support holistic growth. Students return home more culturally aware, self-confident, and empowered to make a difference. And this growth is just the beginning. These results continue to build as students engage in more educational travel opportunities.

Source: 2025 WQ testing conducted by EF Educational Tours in collaboration with OccPsyence, a psychological measurement specialist firm based in the UK.



98%

of educators say their EF tour helped their students grow as people

98.9%

of educators said their tour expanded their students' worldview

97%

of educators said their tour encouraged their students to embrace new challenges

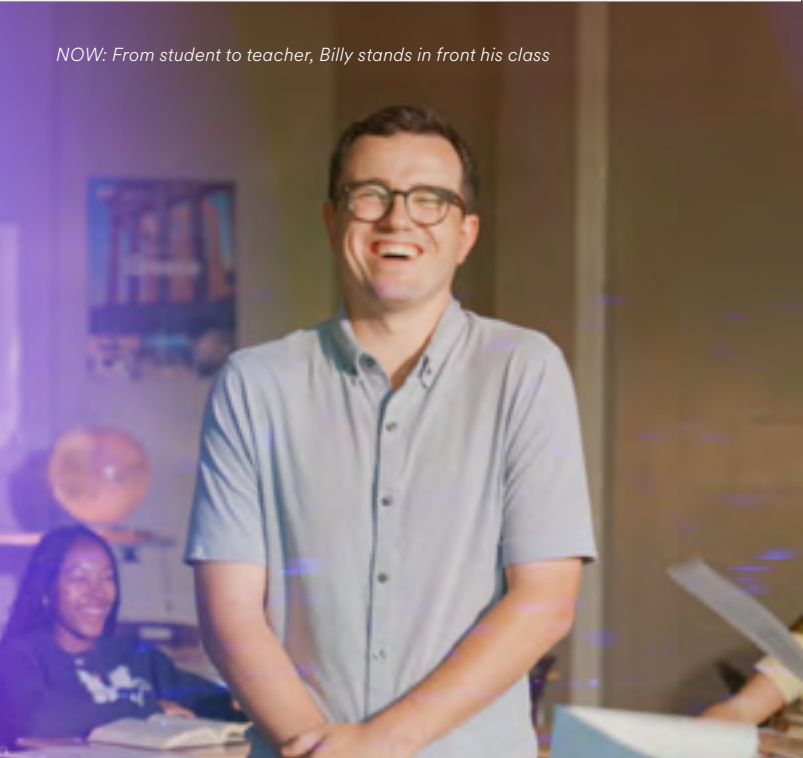
95.8%

of educators said their tour inspired their students

Source: 2025 EF Educational Tours Group Leader Post-Tour Survey



THEN: Billy on an EF tour with his Group Leader (and dad!)



NOW: From student to teacher, Billy stands in front his class

A student traveler turned educator on experiencing growth during tour



READ THE FULL STORY HERE

The most meaningful moments of travel often happen between destinations. They show up in quiet realizations as students see themselves respond to the unfamiliar. These moments ultimately lead to an understanding of who they are.

That’s what happened to **Billy S.**, whose first EF tour as a student became the beginning of a much larger journey. What started as excitement over seeing Europe for the first time turned into an appreciation for other cultures and a strong sense of self.

Years later, Billy returned to that same tour, this time as a teacher. Watching his own students experience those same moments of realization. As they stepped outside their comfort zones, he saw them grow not just as learners, but as people.

88%

of students say they grew more confident

93.8%

of students said their tour expanded their worldview

84%

of students said their tour helped them grow as a person

84.1%

of students said they were inspired while on tour

Source: 2025 EF Educational Tours Student Post-Tour Survey

How a student gained the confidence to build her dream career



READ THE FULL STORY HERE

During an EF tour to Spain, **Murugi T.** began documenting her experience through photography. What started as an interest quickly became a spark for personal growth.

Navigating unfamiliar environments, engaging with new cultures, and approaching strangers to capture their stories pushed her beyond her comfort zone. She reflects on how that tour inspired many “yeses” to new adventures and opportunities long after returning from Spain.

The self-assurance Murugi developed on tour became the foundation for her career in travel storytelling. Today, she is an Emmy-nominated visual journalist working with global brands like Google and National Geographic, a trajectory she traces back to the confidence she gained through traveling with EF.



THEN: Murugi captures moments from her EF tour in Spain



NOW: Thriving in her career as a photographic storyteller

Amplify the impact of the on-tour experience

Opportunities for academic enrichment

COLLEGE CREDIT

In partnership with Southern New Hampshire University, EF offers students the opportunity to earn three college credits at a fraction of the usual cost through an exclusive online course.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

Students can complete optional coursework before, during, and after their EF tour to deepen their learning experience and earn elective credit.

EF | NOBEL PRIZE MUSEUM
GLOBAL CITIZEN CERTIFICATE

By completing a multimedia project that addresses a tour-related prompt, students can earn a certificate to use on their resumes, LinkedIn, and more.

RESUME BUILDING

The essential skills gained on an EF tour align with the qualities colleges and employers value most. Students can leverage their experience into a robust resume or use EF's Uncommon App to craft a stand-out admissions essay.



TEACHER-ONLY TRAINING TOUR

Hosted in cities around the world, our no-cost training tours provide new Group Leaders with a firsthand understanding of the EF tour experience, preparing them to integrate tour elements into their curriculum and confidently manage student safety on tour. Educators can unlock their spot by enrolling at least 10 paying travelers on their first student tour.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING HOURS

Educators can earn 25 professional learning hours or points by participating in a training tour with EF. They can earn 45 professional learning hours or points by leading an EF tour and completing a travel-based course.

VIRTUAL GLOBAL EDUCATOR SERIES

This virtual event gives educators the chance to expand their network of peers, engage with educational thought leaders, and explore new ways of thinking that can be applied to their own institutions.

GRADUATE CREDIT

Through our partnership with Southern New Hampshire University, educators can enroll in a graduate-level course at a reduced cost for the opportunity to earn 3 or 6 credits.



Learn more about these opportunities at [→ eftours.com/credit](https://eftours.com/credit)

OUR PARTNERS

We collaborate with world-class organizations

To create opportunities that go beyond traditional travel

anne frank house

Committed to preserving the place where Anne Frank went into hiding and wrote her diary during the Second World War, this organization shares Anne’s life and legacy, raising awareness of the dangers of antisemitism.



EF partners with the Department of Applied Linguistics at the University of Cambridge to push boundaries and promote research in English as a second language, as well as innovation in language teaching.

NOBEL PRIZE MUSEUM

EF’s longstanding partnership with the Nobel Prize Museum is rooted in our shared belief in the power of education. We create educational programs that inspire students from all walks of life to think big and take action.



Through our exclusive partnership with the UNA-USA, we have developed educational programs that support UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and encourage students to take action and have impact.



Pictured (left to right): Antonella C., Damian D., Amon M., Cameron D., Carolyn C., Callie H., Areti V., Olivia J.

A winning vision for the future

The student project that earned a spot at the Nobel Prize Museum

EF Global Leadership Summits combine international travel with a three-day global leadership conference. Every Summit concludes with a live pitch-off, where the winning project is showcased at the **Nobel Prize Museum** in Stockholm, Sweden. During EF’s 2025 Summit, this winning team of eight students identified a problem related to the theme, *Future Readiness in a Changing World*, and pitched a solution and prototype.

The concept, *Visionary*, was inspired by Thomas, a persona created by the team to represent a blind teenager navigating a world not designed for him. As society accelerates toward digitization, accessibility is falling behind—leaving millions like Thomas without the tools to move independently.

The group designed a pair of AI-powered gloves with cameras and sensors embedded in the fingertips (pictured on the left). When the user raises a hand, the gloves scan the environment using object and face recognition, delivering real-time audio feedback through an earpiece with information like identifying a friend or signaling when it’s safe to cross the street. Through *Visionary*, these students challenged us to rethink who the future is built for.



SUPERINTENDENT Q&A

How this district made educational travel a priority

What steps does your district take to foster a culture of travel?

First, we prioritize focused leadership. Secondly, we celebrate educational travel experiences across our communication platforms to show the value of EF tours and build excitement. Lastly, we strive to make educational travel accessible by offering a range of destinations and trip lengths and promoting EF's scholarship opportunities.

How is educational travel integrated into your curriculum?

EF tours enable authentic learning that enhances specific course content and the durable skills outlined in our *Portrait of an Eagle*—serving as an extension of our curriculum rather than an add-on.

For example, our Agricultural Science students travel to Costa Rica to engage in course-aligned projects, and our language students accelerate fluency through immersion. These experiences transform theoretical concepts into practical applications, strengthening academic understanding.

How has traveling with EF impacted your students?

Educational travel pushes students into situations that require adaptability, problem-solving, and independence. When students return, they are more confident in their ability to navigate new experiences and challenges. That confidence translates into a willingness to take academic and personal risks, which has lasting implications for their future learning and leadership.

How has educational travel impacted your community?

In a large district, developing a strong sense of community can be challenging. Our EF travel program creates shared learning experiences that bring students, families, and educators closer together. These experiences strengthen trust, deepen connections, and create lasting bonds.

Do you have advice for districts considering educational travel?

Start small! Launch a trip to a popular destination with a respected teacher, work hard to fill seats, then leverage that success to build momentum. I also encourage administrators to partner with EF. They manage the complexity of travel logistics responsibly and efficiently, which allows districts to focus on learning rather than logistics.



MARK BLANCHARD
SUPERINTENDENT
MECHANICSBURG, PA

“

I always say students need to ‘break the fourth wall of the classroom’ to truly learn. Partnering with EF allows me to put that into action.

ANNA C., WORLD LANGUAGES COORDINATOR, GEORGIA



60 years in education
52,000+ team members
100+ countries
600+ schools



We are proud to be accredited, just like your school,
by America's most respected organizations.



Discover the genuine impact travel-based learning has on
students, educators, and communities—then learn how EF can
help you bring those opportunities to your school or district.



→ [EFTOURS.COM](https://www.ef-tours.com)

→ 800-637-8222