

International Travel Program Proposal

A.L. Fortune Secondary / Mark Marino



Paris, Florence & Rome

Requested: Thursday, March 19, 2026 – Friday, March 27, 2026 https://www.eftours.ca/tour-website/2802248FY

Your partner in travel-based learning

EF Education First is the world leader in international education. For over 55 years, we've partnered with educators around the world to help more than 15 million students gain new perspectives and build skills for the future through experiential learning.

Our mission is to empower educators to do their best work. At EF Educational Tours, we're working to define the modern educational tour experience. Our itineraries are more than places to go and things to see. We build programs that challenge assumptions, spark connections, and inspire curiosity in young students. Students will expand their knowledge of the world around them, discover more about themselves, grow more confident and independent, and understand new people, places, and cultures.

We take care of every last detail of the tour experience—transportation and lodging, meal reservations and menus, museum tickets and local tour guides, and much more. That also includes behind-the-scenes elements, like safety checks at hotels and background checks on adult travelers. With all that taken care of, educators, travelers and parents can focus on the bigger picture.

You'll find all the details and more on the next few pages.

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Safety

Your students' safety is our number one priority. We would never send a traveller to a location we believe to be unsafe—and with our extensive global presence, our best-in-the-industry experience, and our close working relationships with Canadian and international authorities, that's a statement we can back up with real insight.

We follow travel restrictions worldwide and it is EF's policy that we will never operate any tour to a destination which is under an active "Avoid All Travel" Government of Canada Travel Warning. Whether it's a worldwide pandemic or a sprained ankle, a missed flight or confusing medical paperwork, we've seen it all and we have the resources to handle it. In other words, whatever happens, we're ready.

*For specific information on EF's response to COVID-19, visit eftours.ca/health-and-safety

Worldwide presence

EF's global presence is truly unmatched. We have staff on the ground 365 days a year in over 50 countries. And we don't just work in those countries—we call them home. EF team members live in nearly every one of our tour destinations, meaning we have the local knowledge to help keep our groups safe. That presence allows us to be there to support you on the ground wherever and whenever you need us.

24/7 emergency support

In the event that anything on tour goes wrong, EF staff is always available to help. Your Tour Director is your group's constant companion and first point of contact in an emergency. Additionally, our fully trained support teams are on hand 24/7 to walk teachers through any issues and provide the resources necessary to get things back on track. Our Safety and Incident Response Team—comprised of industry experts, healthcare experts, and even former FBI personnel—is ready to spring into action 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. And when they aren't directly helping EF travelers, they're actively innovating on and shaping the new worldwide standards for cleanliness and safety.

Your team

This group is fully committed to your school's trip and the safety of every traveler.

Operations Safety & Incident Response Team – This team is strategically based in our Toronto, Boston, Panama, Tokyo, Zurich, and Sydney offices to accommodate for all time zones. Available 24 hours a day, every day of the year, they are trained to react quickly if travellers need help. The team uses a combination of extensive training, simulations, incident response planning, and previous experience to manage emergencies. As needed, they can facilitate additional support for groups on tour, solve operational issues, arrange assistance from outside specialists, and liaise with local and international authorities.

Emergency Services & Support Team -

Our support team is available 24/7 to help resolve any issue, from a missed flight to a lost passport to more serious on-tour incidents. They also facilitate communication between travellers and families in the event of an emergency at home. The team is made up of highly trained and dedicated EF staff in our Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver offices who are equipped to solve problems and answer questions that may come up, even outside of regular business hours.

Tour Director – Assigned exclusively to your tour for the length of the stay at your destination, your Tour Director meets your group at the airport and travels with you until your departure. All Tour Directors undergo a background check as permissible by local law every two years and are required to participate in ongoing EF safety trainings. They're the first point of contact in an emergency and also communicate information to help travellers stay safe in a foreign destination. Tour Directors assist Group Leaders with hotel check-ins, coordinate meals, facilitate excursions with local guides, and much more. They're also

culturally connected and expertly trained to support impactful learning experiences.

Tour Consultant – This itinerary expert is devoted to the growth of your students. They are your school's partner, working with you on everything from finding the perfect tour and enrolling students to offering fundraising advice and creating long-term travel programs for your school community. They work directly alongside the Group Leader (a.k.a. local teacher), right up until the moment of departure to make sure everything goes smoothly.

Traveller Support – Our team of support specialists are readily available to help students and families prepare for travel as well as answer questions about payment plans, food allergy issues, and any other topics that arise.

Chaperones – EF provides a free Chaperone spot on your tour for every 6-10 students that register (your exact student to chaperone ratio is your choice!). Chaperone places are provided to assist Group Leaders with supervision of students to help keep them safe. Who you designate as a chaperone is your choice!

Protection for travelers, schools, and districts

We understand that unpredictable things can happen, either on tour or before departure. We offer a variety of protections, programs, and policies to make sure that, no matter what happens, travelers, schools, and districts are covered. We're doing everything we can to make planning for the future as flexible as possible.

General liability insurance

All Group Leaders, schools, and districts who travel with EF are automatically added as additional insureds under our \$50 million General Liability Policy, regardless of whether or not the tour is affiliated with the school. EF's liability coverage is primary and non-contributory for covered third-party claims. The policy helps safeguard Group Leaders and their schools for covered third-party claims related to bodily injury or property damage, which includes providing a legal defense and covering legal costs for such claims. In addition, all travelers are required to sign EF's Release and Agreement, which includes a release of liability of their Group Leader, school, and school board.

Flexibility to change tours

The world is always changing. And while our belief in the positive impact of travel is unwavering, it can feel hard to predict what life, here in Canada and abroad, will look like several months, a year, or even two years from now. When you decide to travel with EF, we want you to feel secure in that decision. That's why these benefits are built into every EF program.

Peace of Mind Program

Provided to all groups

We understand that plans can change due to unforeseen circumstances. EF provides this exclusive program to account for such situations. It provides groups with flexibility to change the dates and destination of their tours in uncertain times. This program accounts for such circumstances and can be enacted up to 45 days prior to departure at the group level for any reason, including terrorism or other world events.

Protection for individual travelers

Travelers can help protect their investment and themselves from certain unexpected events and expenses while on tour with the Global Travel Protection Plan and EF Cancel for Any Reason Plan.

Global Travel Protection Plan

Available to all travelers

Designed specifically with EF travelers in mind, this plan provides both pre-departure and post-departure insurance benefits, including medical expense coverage that may apply on tour and tour cancellation for specified reasons.

Cancel for Any Reason Plan

Available to all travelers

Along with the benefits offered in the Global Travel Protection Plan, individuals can add the Cancel for Any Reason Plan to their account up to 30 days after enrolment, allowing them to receive an enhanced refund under this cancellation waiver benefit in the event of a pre-tour cancellation.

Background checks for adult travelers

EF reserves the right to conduct a background check on all adult travelers (20 years and older) prior to travel. This provides a safer tour experience for all travelers and aligns with the process and expectations of many school districts for adults who volunteer in schools or chaperone school activities. The secure process, provided by a leading professional provider, only identifies those individuals who could present a risk to student travelers while on tour. Background checks are fully funded by EF and are at no cost to your school.

Affordability

We believe every student should have the opportunity to travel. That's why we're dedicated to providing the lowest prices possible and giving travelers multiple resources for managing payments.

Tour Consultants work closely with teachers to build a tour that's exactly right for your students. Through discussions with your teacher, they take into account learning objectives, cost, timing considerations, and any other factors to craft a tour that's accessible to as many students as possible.

Resources for managing cost and payments

Automatic Payment Plan - Our recommended payment plan offers the ability to break the tour fee into smaller installments. With most tours planned well in advance, travelers can enroll for only \$199, then pay over a long period of time—often up to 18 months or two years—with final payment due 30 days before departure. Families make payments directly to EF, with no payments going through the school.

Personal Donation pages - Each student has access to their own unique and customizable donation page. The easy-to-share page makes it simple for friends and family to contribute a little something that is automatically applied to the balance of the tour, with no fees whatsoever.

Early Enrolment Discounts - Students who enroll prior to 365 days before their tour date are eligible to receive an "Early Enrollment Discount" and lock in the lowest price.

Uplift: - Uplift makes budgeting easy, so families can manage expenses over time, with even lower monthly payments than available on the Automatic Payment Plan. Uplift's monthly payments begin at the date of booking and continue past the return date of their trip to help distribute the cost over a greater period of time and increase the affordability of travel for all.

Our Global Learning Model

About EF

Founded in Sweden in 1965, EF has built itself on a foundation of education for the past 55+ years. EF has helped millions of people see new places, experience different cultures, and discover things about themselves and the world. Our experiential, educational tours are designed to spark curiosity, confidence, and awareness, and have always been guided by our mission of **Opening the World Through Education**.

Travel is for everybody

Everyone should experience the life-changing impact of educational travel. That's why we're driven by our vision for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB). We're constantly growing, learning, and reflecting—just like our travelers do—so we can increase access to our programming for all, while committing to expanding who we work with and the perspectives we celebrate on our tours.

Our educational philosophy

Preparing students for *the* future and *their* futures

We're an education company first. Experiential travel is simply how we bring learning to life. That's why we design each of our physical journeys to spark even more powerful personal ones—helping students learn more about the world, themselves, and the impact they can make in the world.

EF tours amplify the lessons educators teach in the classroom by enabling handson, real-world experiences that open students' minds and encourage them to become more well-rounded. Our programs, backed by research and designed with travel-based learning outcomes in mind, help students emerge from tour with a unique perspective.

Each traveler gains something different when they travel with us—whether that's newfound confidence or a greater sense of empathy that inspires them to have deeper conversations in their own communities. However, one thing remains the same: students return home with accelerated potential to take on the world and dive into ever-expanding growth.

Every EF program features four types of travel-based educational pillars that inform our tour design. We've consulted with educators and school administrators across Canada to make sure these pillars connect to classroom learnings and support the development of travelers through connection, reflection, and action.

Educational outcomes

The four pillars of our tours



Growth Mindset

Travelers will learn to embrace new opportunities and challenges with an open mind

Global Perspective

Travelers will understand the value of building global awareness by engaging with other cultures.

They will:

- ✓ Expand their sense of wonder, curiosity, and creativity
- ✓ Participate in new and authentic experiences
- ✓ Become more adaptable and flexible while embracing challenges

They will:

- ✓ Reflect on similarities and differences through cross-cultural connections
- Broaden their worldview while exploring cultural customs, beliefs, and languages
- ✓ Engage with cultural, social, ethical, and environmental matters as world citizens

Personal Development

Travelers will develop both personal and interpersonal skills through self-reflection when they expand their horizons abroad

They will:

- ✓ Increase their independence, confidence, empathy, and self-awareness
- ✓ Practice critical thinking skills and increase their problem-solving abilities
- ✓ Learn to engage with peers, educators, and local communities in a global context

Inspiration & Action

Travelers will be prompted to consider their impact and influence in an ever-changing world.

. They will:

- Connect their experiences to their classroom and broader community
- Consider initiating change and advocating for causes they're passionate about
- ✓ Be inspired to apply their newfound capabilities and expanded viewpoints to their own lives

Key learning opportunities

How we achieve our educational outcomes on tour

Inspired by our mission of Opening the World Through Education, we create travel experiences that change people's lives. We help learners prepare for the future by teaching them more about the world, themselves, and themselves in the world. Each tour includes these four key opportunities that help foster global competencies in every traveler, making an impact on students for decades to come.

Cultural engagement

By connecting with locals and the broader community, our programs offer meaningful, authentic experiences that help travellers develop new perspectives while immersed in a different culture.

Guided learning

From participating in guided sightseeing to interactive discussions, our programs emphasize deep, intentional learning and development facilitated by local experts who help bring learning to life.

Active learning

Our itineraries are designed to ignite curiosity and creativity through hands-on experiences. Whether it's navigating a new city, ordering lunch in a different language, or taking part in an environmental restoration project, we introduce travellers to new opportunities, concepts, and perspectives that apply skills to the real world and promote critical thinking.

Independent discovery

Safe and structured time to explore is just as important as group participation. Our tours foster independence and self-knowledge, so travelers develop a sense of responsibility while becoming more aware of themselves in the world.

Itinerary specifics

For more robust details, the complete itinerary is attached to this document. It includes specific locations, each day's activities, travel plans, and more.

Price of the proposed tour

The tour program price covers a wide range of services that ensure students have an incredible experience. It includes all the planning and preparation that leads up to departure, travel and accommodations, plus logistical support, and details once the group reaches their destination.

Paris, Florence & Rome	
Program Price 1	\$5,115
 Includes: Round trip economy class flights and on tour transportation Hotels with private bathrooms roomed in triples or quads Breakfast and dinner (see your itinerary for meal details) Full-time Tour Director Daily activities, tours and entrances to attractions 	
Versailles	\$119
Global Travel Protection Plan	\$199
CFAR Insurance Add-On	\$149
EF's Peace of Mind Program *	Free
Total for Students (under 20) 17 monthly payments	\$5,582 \$317/mo

You can find EF's Booking Conditions at <u>eftours.ca/bc</u> which outline the tour inclusions, payment schedule, cancellation and refund policies. Amounts above do not include add-ons that may be available to travelers during enrolment. Full quote available online at **eftours.ca**. **Quote created on: 09/23/2024**

Sample hotels

Every hotel we work with must meet our high standards for safety, quality, and cleanliness. Hotels are vetted by our team to make sure they meet our requirements and are subsequently inspected regularly to ensure they continue to satisfy those parameters. Please note that hotels abroad may have different amenities than travelers are accustomed to in Canada.

Here are some examples of hotels students might stay in on tour:

Paris | Ibis Porte d'Orleans

33 Rue Barbès, 92120 Montrouge, France

https://all.accor.com/hotel/0635/index.de.shtml

The Ibis Porte d'Orleans is conveniently located in central Montrouge, where many restaurants and shops are waiting to be explored. The hotel's 402 rooms all have lovely street views. Paris is just 4.5 kilometers away- making a trip to the City of Light easy.

Florence | Hotel Prati

Viale Rosselli 27, 51016, Montecatini, Italy

www.hotel-prati.it

The family-run Hotel Prati is located just a short walk from the centre of Montecatini Terme, the "pearl" of Tuscany whose mineral water springs have made it one of the most popular spa towns in Italy. Located just 45 minutes outside of Florence, Hotel Prati features functional, contemporary décor.

Rome | Quality Hotel Green Palace

Via Salaria 207, 00015, Monterotondo, Italy

http://www.qualitygreenpalace.it/

The Quality Hotel Green Palace is situated in the town of Monterotondo, a picturesque community boasting views of the Tevere River and easy access to Rome by train. This modern 4-star property features elegant rooms equipped with all the modern comforts, such as air conditioning, satellite television, and hair dryers.

Sample meals

Meals are selected to establish a more immersive cultural experience and give students an idea of how locals eat. Below are some examples of what travelers can expect at the destination that your teacher has chosen, but please note that meals can vary from tour to tour.







Italy: Sample Meals

Tomato bruschetta, cannellini beans with garlic and sage, lasagna, gelato Spaghetti with pesto, pork loin with spinach and potatoes, fruit salad

France: Sample Meals

Cheese quiche, turkey with rice, mushrooms and beans, apple tart Salad, flammekueche, chocolate mousse

How I can help with next steps

My name is Stef Carlson and I am A.L. Fortune Secondary's dedicated Tour Consultant. That means I'll be working with Mark Marino every step of the way to make sure everything is perfectly planned.

I hope this overview has given you the information you need to feel confident in EF as an educational travel provider. Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly. EF is excited to partner with your school to bring this life-changing experiential learning opportunity to your students.

Respectfully,

Stef Carlson Senior Tour Consultant 604-256-0819 stef.carlson@ef.com "I've been with the school board for the past 30 years, and one of the things I'm most proud of is our relationship with EF Educational Tours and the work we've done to introduce our students to the world. EF has been a fabulous partner in making that happen."

Brian B., Director (Retired), Simcoe Muskoka Catholic

"EF is a world leader in travel...and it is evidenced in the care which is shown in the details of their tours. Student safety is paramount every step of the way and education is embedded in each moment of the tour."

Lynn H., Educator, Quebec

"This was a very positive experience for my child. It not only educated her about other cultures, I feel that it gave her a deeper sense of her family roots. This tour went above and beyond her expectations."

Tammy B., Parent, Newfoundland

EF Educational Tours 80 Bloor St. West, 16th Floor Toronto, ON M5S 2V1 EF Educational Tours 407 McGill St. #400 Montreal, QC, H2Y 2G3 EF Educational Tours 110 Cambie St. Suite 300 Vancouver, BC V6B 2M8