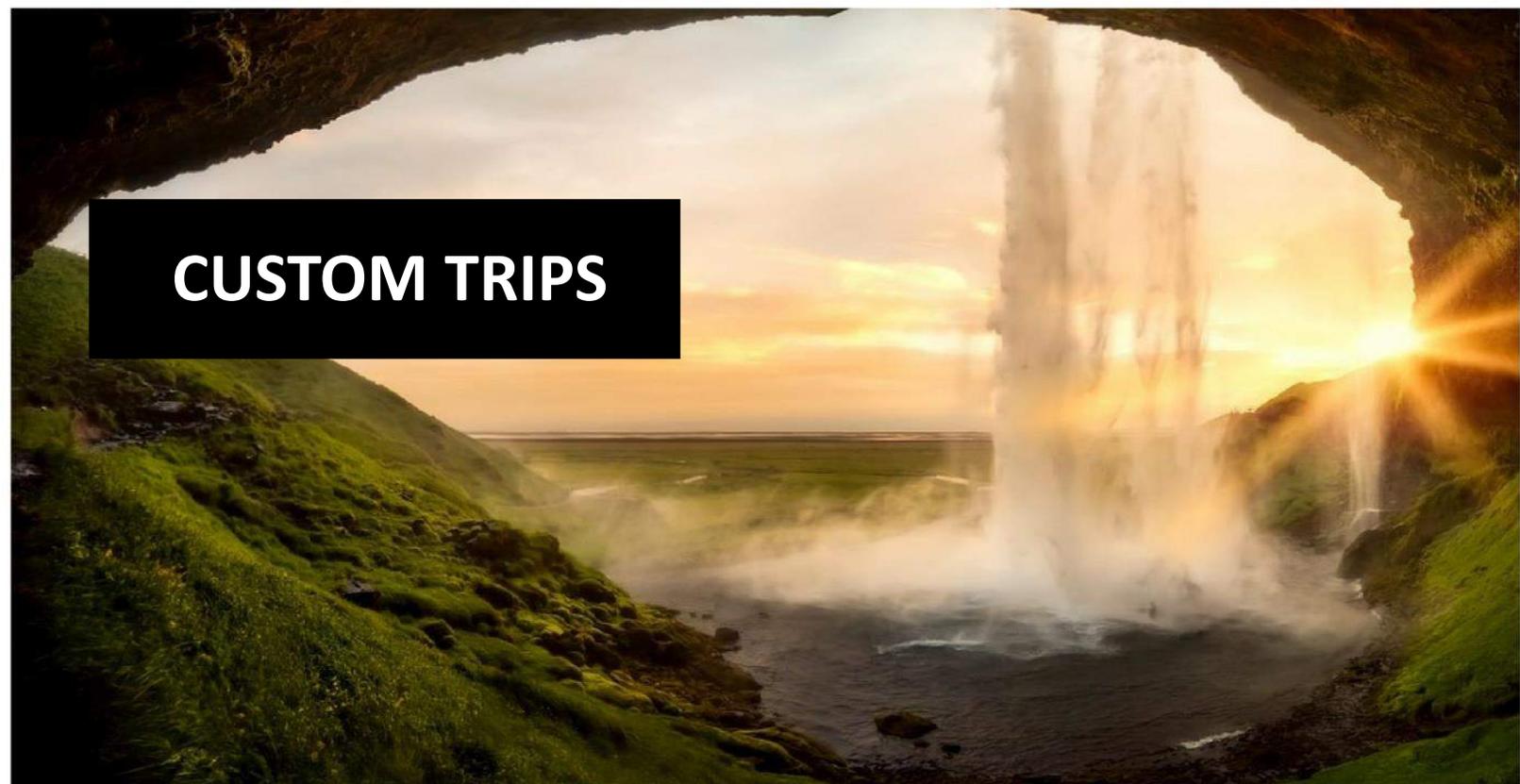


# CUSTOM TRIPS





# CUSTOM TRIPS

Here you will discover everything you need to know about planning a Custom Trip for your students.

All of our trips are customizable, we design fully custom trips to fit your specific needs. Based off of the answers that you provide, our experienced trip planners will work with you to design a trip customized to your educational needs. Through customization, each student will take part in authentic and engaging experiences that reinforce the goals of the trip.

## 1. BENEFITS OF A FOCUSED SCHOOL TRIP

By focusing on a specific area of focus, your trip will have a deeper meaning and outcome in regards to your school trip goals.

### a. EDUCATION

Experiential education is at the heart of all Evolve Tours Programs. Travelers focus on community engagement, critical thinking, leadership and reflection as they apply ideas learned on our trips to complex issues at home and in school.

### b. GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Evolve Tours Programs prepare travelers with 21st century skills to bring global concepts into the local sphere. We focus on sustainability, local environments, social justice and global competencies, all needed to create a better world.

### c. EXPLORATION

Sustainable local and global change depends on the power of relationships developed through adventure and exploration. Based on research and experience, we have developed best practices to simultaneously facilitate collaborative exploration and intercultural immersion on our Programs.



## 2. QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

### a. WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR THIS TRIP?

Do you want to see world-renowned sites? Do you want to share a meal with locals? What experiences do you want to have on this trip?

### b. HOW LONG WILL YOU BE TRAVELING?

Do you want your trip to be one week or a month long experience? Or even longer?

### c. HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL BE GOING?

Is this a solo adventure or a school trip? How many people are planning on going on this experience with you?

### d. WHAT TOPICS DO YOU WANT TO FOCUS ON DURING THE TRIP?

Do you want to focus on culture and history? Science and technology? Sports? Is this a family trip or a transformational gap experience?

### e. WHAT TYPES OF EXPERIENCES DO YOU WANT TO HAVE?

Are you a museum-aficionado or food connoisseur? Do you want to go surfing or skydiving? What about conducting important biological research? Or volunteering with an organization abroad?

### f. WHAT TIME OF YEAR DO YOU WANT TO TRAVEL?

Do you want to ski the Swiss Alps in the winter? What about Brazil during Carnival? Or China during the New Year Festivals?

### g. DO YOU HAVE A BUDGET? IF SO, WHAT IS THE LIMIT?

How much money are you willing and able to spend? What about everyone else on this trip with you? What is the total budget you have set? What can your institution cover?

### h. WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

Australian Outback? Countries in the Mediterranean Sea? What about Central and South America? Or even the Himalayas in Nepal and India?



### 3. TYPES OF TRAVEL

#### ART, MUSIC, DRAMA

Within Art, Music, and Drama trips there are obviously many areas of focus. Honing in on your focus will be up to you. Within this group we have organized two areas of focus including art (general) and music & drama.

#### HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

Within History and Geography trips there are obviously many areas of focus. Honing in on your focus will be up to you. Within this group we have organized three areas of focus including history, geography, and peace and conflict.

#### LANGUAGE IMMERSION

Within Language trips there are obviously many areas of focus. Honing in on your focus will be up to you. Within this group we have organized three areas of focus including language immersion, language and culture, and language and food.

#### SCIENCE

Within Science trips there are obviously many areas of focus. Honing in on your focus will be up to you. Within this group we have organized three areas of focus including biodiversity, geology, and technology and sustainability.

#### SPORTS

Within Sports trips there are obviously many areas of focus. Honing in on your focus will be up to you. Within this group we have organized two areas of focus including mainstream sports and adventure sports.

#### SERVICE LEARNING

Within Service Learning trips there are obviously many areas of focus. Honing in on your focus will be up to you. Within this group we have selected our most popular experiences.

#### CITY TRIPS

Within City trips there are obviously many areas of focus. Honing in on your focus will be up to you. Within this group we have selected some of our most popular cities that groups travel to each year.

#### FAMILY TRAVEL

Within Family Travel there are obviously many opportunities to take part in. Within this group we have selected some of our most popular destinations and experiences that families travel to each year.

#### GAP YEAR PROGRAM

Within the Gap Year Program there are obviously many areas of focus. Honing in on your focus will be up to you. Within this group we have organized three types of gap years including service, adventure, and transformational.



## 4. TOP DESTINATIONS

It would be tough for us to tell you the MUST go to destinations, there are just too many amazing places in the world to visit. So much culture, so much influence, so many choices. Based on what many schools have done in the past the following locations tend to be popular, cost effective and easy to get to.

### AUSTRALIA

Often known as the Land Down Under, Australia has a tropical climate on the coasts a massive desert outback within.

Pre-colonial Australia saw indigenous cultures take part in a well-developed oral tradition that has managed to survive to this day.

### CHINA

Throughout history China has been a land of innovation and creativity. From its earliest inventions including gunpowder, papermaking, and fireworks to its modern creations and focus on robotics, China continues to intertwine its traditional culture with forward thinking inventions.

### COSTA RICA

Costa Rica is the world's answer to a natural paradise. They have prioritized their natural environment over all else. Because of this Costa Rica is a combination of environmental beauty and outdoor adventure.

### CANADA

In recent years, Canada has stepped more fully onto the international stage. It has still managed, however, to fortify its natural areas and protect its cultural roots.

### ICELAND

The Land of Fire and Ice has truly come to deserve that moniker. Over 100 volcanoes call Iceland home along with over 250 glaciers. With its cultural roots in both Vikings and Celts, Iceland is an incredible destination for all to explore.

### GERMANY

Throughout the Western History, Germany has seen incredible achievement and incredible destruction. Since the devastation of World War 2, Germany has grown into an economic and cultural powerhouse while reconciling with its past.

### FRANCE

Home to mimes, the Seine, and romantic walks down the street, France is a cultural powerhouse. However, for those who seek a bit more adventure, its southern borders are home to incredible canyoneering and skiing routes.

### USA

The United States has been a key player in innovation for the better part of a century. From Southern Louisiana to the Badlands in the Dakota's, the stretch of the US is truly a melting pot for diverse experiences.



## AUSTRALIA

*Sydney ~ Melbourne ~ Adelaide ~ Brisbane*

“There’s an expression in Australia that’s called ‘Go Bush,’ which means to get out of the city and relax.” -Cate Blanchett

### EXPERIENCES TO HAVE

- Listen to the reverberations of orchestras at the Sydney Opera House
  - Explore Aboriginal bark paintings in the Art Gallery of NSW
    - Surf the day away on Bondi Beach in Sydney
- Taste fresh, local cuisine at Eumundi Markets north of Sunshine Coast
- Hike the Uloola track and see kookaburras in Royal National Park

#### THE GREAT OUTDOORS...

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

Twelve Apostles

Great Barrier Reef

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park

Capricorn Caves

#### ...AND THE ANIMALS WITHIN

Sugar Glider

Wombat

Platypus

Emu

Kangaroo

### CULTURE CORNER

**HEAR:**

- [Solid Rock - Goanna](#)
- [True Blue - John Williamson](#)
- [Down Under - Men at Work](#)
- [Aboriginal Music](#)

[Thunderstruck - AC/DC](#)

**READ:**

- [The Songlines - Bruce Chatwin](#)
- [The Thorn Birds - Colleen McCullough](#)
- [In a Sunburned Country - Bill Bryson](#)

**TASTE:**

- Pavlova
- Vegemite
- Australian Prawns
- Chiko Rolls

**WATCH:**

- Gallipoli - 1981
- Australia - 2008

**LISTEN:**

- [The Real Thing](#)
- [Away!](#)





## CHINA

*Xi'an ~ Beijing ~ Shanghai ~ Hong Kong*

“One learns more from traveling ten thousand miles than from reading ten thousand scrolls.” - Chinese Proverb

### **EXPERIENCES TO HAVE**

- Explore the history of Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City
  - Walk across time on the Great Wall of China
  - Watch traditional Kung Fu at the Red Theater
  - Visit the incredible Terracotta Warriors Museum in Xi'an
- Learn how to race a Dragon Boat during the Dragon Boat Festival

#### **THE GREAT OUTDOORS...**

Zhangye Danxia Landform

Yuanyang Rice Terraces

Yalong Bay

Jiuzhaigou

Tiger Leaping Gorge

#### **...AND THE ANIMALS WITHIN**

Giant Panda

Golden-Haired Monkey

White-Flag Dolphin

Chinese Alligator

South China Tiger

**CULTURE CORNER**

**HEAR:**

[Fisherman's Song at Dusk](#)

[Traditional Chinese Opera](#)

[Ko Ko Bop - EXO](#)

[Ballad of North Henan Province - Erhu](#)

**READ:**

[The Joy Luck Club - Amy Tan](#)

[Waiting - Ha Jin](#)

[Monkey: The Journey to the West - Wu Cheng'en](#)

**TASTE:**

Baobing

Wonton Soup

Jiaozi

Lazi Ji

Peking Roast Duck

**WATCH:**

Ip Man - 2008

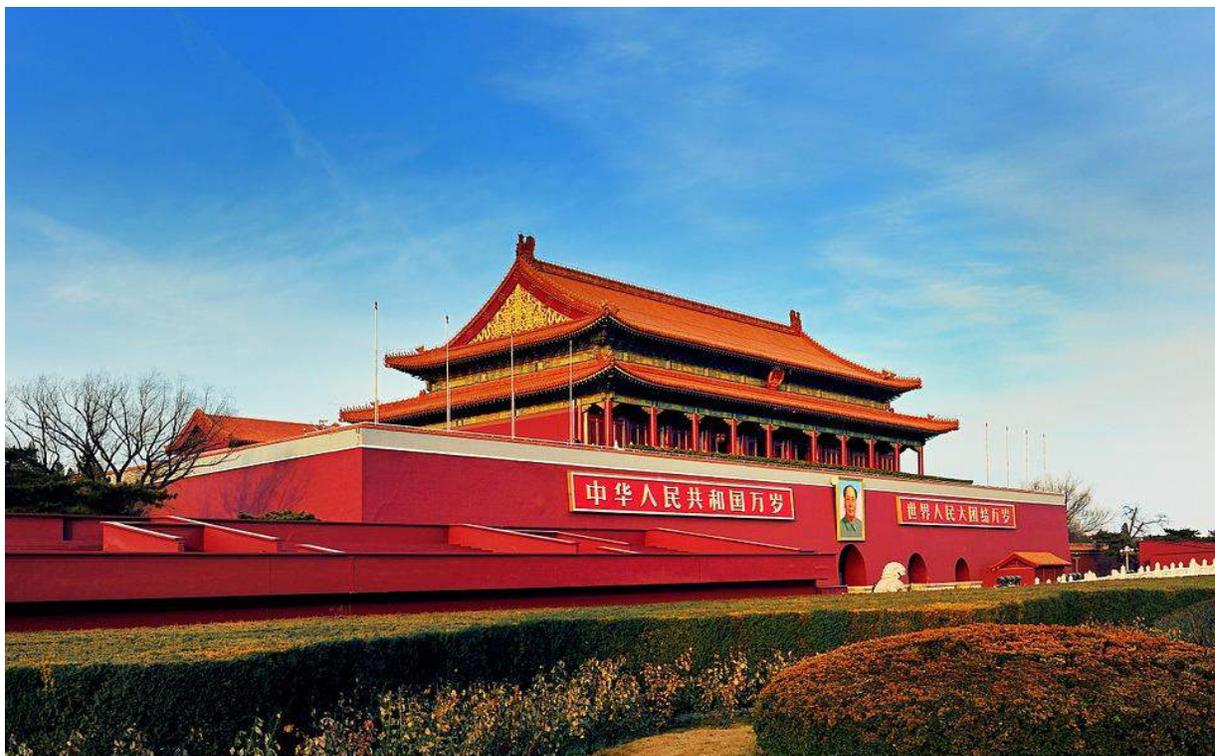
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon - 2000

The Last Emperor - 1987

**LISTEN:**

[Popup Chinese](#)

[Teacup Media](#)





## COSTA RICA

*San José ~ La Fortuna ~ Playa Tamarindo ~ Puerto Viejo de Talamanca*

“Costa Rica, with its tourist-based economy and lack of a national army, has focused on keeping safe its beaches, parks and other public draws.” -Laura Chinchilla

### **EXPERIENCES TO HAVE**

- Zipline through the rainforest on Volcán Rincon de la Vieja
  - Hike Cerro Chirripó, Costa Rica’s highest point
  - Explore the dense jungles of Tortuguero national Park
    - Snorkel off the coast of Tortuga Island
- Whitewater raft down the Pacuare River through Class III and IV rapids

### **THE GREAT OUTDOORS...**

Reserva Monteverde  
 Canales de Tortuguero  
 Cerro Chirripó  
 Volcán Arenal  
 Isla del Coco

### **...AND THE ANIMALS WITHIN**

Strawberry Poison Dart Frog  
 Chestnut-Mandibled Toucan  
 Mexican Tree Frog  
 Ocelot  
 Three-Toed Sloth

## CULTURE CORNER

**HEAR:**

[Marimba](#)

[Merengue](#)

[Avispa - La Banda](#)

[El Barrio de los Jazmines -](#)

[Malpaís](#)

**READ:**

[Green Phoenix - William](#)

[Allen](#)

[Monkeys are Made of](#)

[Chocolate - Jack Ewing](#)

[Costa Rica: A Traveler's Li-](#)

[terary Companion - Bar-](#)

[bara Ras](#)

**TASTE:**

Rondon

Cacao Fresco

Picadillo

Chifrijo

Coffee

**WATCH:**

Jurassic Park - 1993

El Regreso - 2012

The Blue Butterfly - 2004

**LISTEN:**

[This Week in Costa Rica](#)





## CANADA

*Montreal ~ Toronto ~ Vancouver ~ Quebec City*

“My dream is for people around the world to look up and to see Canada like a little jewel sitting at the top of the continent.” -Tommy Douglas

### **EXPERIENCES TO HAVE**

- Ride a ferry in the shadow of Niagara Falls
- Explore French Canadian culture in Old Quebec
- Hike in the backcountry wilderness of Banff and Jasper National Parks
  - Enjoy baseball stadium popcorn at a Blue Jays ball game
- Whale watch off through the Haro Strait for a chance to see Killer Whales

### **THE GREAT OUTDOORS...**

Columbia Icefields  
 Haida Gwaii  
 Niagara Falls  
 Moraine Lake  
 Mount Royal

### **...AND THE ANIMALS WITHIN**

Wolverine  
 Atlantic Puffin  
 Bighorn Sheep  
 Grizzly Bear  
 Polar Bear

**CULTURE CORNER**

**HEAR:**

- [Katajjaq - Inuit Throat Singing](#)
- [That's the Way It Is - Celine Dion](#)
- [Haven't Met You Yet - Michael Buble](#)
- [Heart of Gold - Neil Young](#)
- [Hallelujah - Leonard Cohen](#)
- [Everything Now - Arcade Fire](#)

**READ:**

- [The Blind Assassin - Margaret Atwood](#)
- [White Fang - Jack London](#)
- [Hatchet - Gary Paulsen](#)

**TASTE:**

- Poutine
- Nanaimo Bar
- Lobster Roll
- Smoked Salmon
- Caribou Stew

**WATCH:**

- One Week - 2008
- Les Boys - 1997
- Goin' Down the Road - 1970
- Scott Pilgrim vs The World - 2010

**LISTEN:**

- [Stop Podcasting Yourself](#)
- [Canadaland](#)





## ICELAND

*Reykjavik ~ Ísafjörður ~ Heimaey ~ Húsavík*

“In Iceland, you can see the contours of the mountains wherever you go, and the swell of the hills, and always beyond that the horizon. And there’s this strange thing: you’re never sort of hidden; you always feel exposed in that landscape. But it makes it very beautiful as well.” -Hannah Kent

### EXPERIENCES TO HAVE

- Travel to the three points of the Golden Circle: Þingvellir, Geysir and Gullfoss
  - Spend a morning wading in the Blue Lagoon and other hot springs
- Become a White Walker from ‘Game of Thrones’ in Þingvellir National Park
  - Explore the black sand beaches on Iceland’s southern coastline
    - Ice climb up Iceland’s Solheimajokull Glacier

#### THE GREAT OUTDOORS...

Northern Lights  
 Blue Lagoon  
 Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon  
 Gullfoss Waterfalls  
 Hekla Volcano

#### ...AND THE ANIMALS WITHIN

Arctic Fox  
 Bowhead Whale  
 Narwhal  
 Walrus  
 Sei Whale

## CULTURE CORNER

### HEAR:

[Kammersveit - Bjarni Þorsteinsson](#)

[Human Behavior - Björk](#)

[Hoppípolla - Sigur Rós](#)

[Birthday - The Sugarcubes](#)

### READ:

[I Remember You - Yrsa Sigurðardóttir](#)

[Burial Rites - Hannah Kent](#)

[Moonstone - Sjón](#)

### TASTE:

Skyr

Pylsur

Kæstur hákarl

Slátur

Laufabrauð

### WATCH:

Game of Thrones - Current

Rams - 2014

Children of Nature - 1991

### LISTEN:

[The Iceland Podcast](#)





## GERMANY

*Munich ~ Berlin ~ Hamburg ~ Dresden*

“Germany has become a country that many people abroad, associate with hope.”

-Angela Merkel

### ***EXPERIENCES TO HAVE***

- Explore the medieval castles and fortresses that dot the German countryside
  - See the limits of human cruelty at Dachau Concentration Camp
  - Ride a bike through Berlin, Munich, or any number of German cities
    - Dance and eat the day away at a summer Stadt Festival
    - Ski the Bavarian Alps on the southern border

### ***THE GREAT OUTDOORS...***

Black Forest  
 Bavarian Alps  
 Teutoburg Forest  
 Barbarossa Cave  
 Boddenlandschaft National Park

### ***...AND THE ANIMALS WITHIN***

Alpine Ibex  
 European Beaver  
 Eurasian Lynx  
 Eagle Owl  
 West European Hedgehog

**CULTURE CORNER**

**HEAR:**

[German Polka - Walter Ostranek](#)  
[Leiblingsmensch - Namika](#)  
[99 Luftballons - Nema](#)  
[German Classical Composers](#)

**READ:**

[The Book Thief - Markus Zusak](#)  
[The Boy in the Striped Pajamas - John Boyne](#)

[The Glass Bead Game -](#)

[Hermann Hesse](#)

[Slaughterhouse Five - Kurt](#)

[Vonnegut](#)

**TASTE:**

Schnitzel  
 Bratwurst  
 Lebkuchen  
 Streusel  
 Rouladen

**WATCH:**

[Good Bye Lenin! - 2003](#)  
[The Pianist - 2002](#)  
[Schindler's List - 1993](#)  
[The Baader Meinhof Complex - 2008](#)

**LISTEN:**

[History of Germany](#)  
[DW Podcast](#)  
[The Local German](#)





## FRANCE

*Paris ~ Marseille ~ Nice ~ Avignon*

“When I was a child and they burned me out of my home, I was frightened and I ran away. Eventually I ran far Away. It was to a place called France. Many of you have been there, and many have not. But I must tell you, ladies and gentlemen, in that country I never feared. It was like a fairyland place.” -Josephine Baker

### ***EXPERIENCES TO HAVE***

- Bike through Versailles and witness human ingenuity over nature
  - View the entire Paris cityscape atop the Eiffel Tower
  - Explore some of humanity’s greatest works at the Louvre
    - Witness history on the beaches of Normandy
  - Ski on the doorstep of the French Alps in Chamonix

### ***THE GREAT OUTDOORS...***

Mont Blanc  
 Aiguille du Dru  
 Gorges du Verdon  
 Étretat Cliffs  
 Camargue Salt Flats

### ***...AND THE ANIMALS WITHIN***

Minke Whale  
 Wildcat  
 Red Fox  
 Mediterranean Monk Seal  
 Mouflon

## CULTURE CORNER

### HEAR:

[Les Troyens - Berlioz](#)  
[Baroque](#)  
[Lose Yourself to Dance -  
Daft Punk](#)  
[Tilted - Christine and the  
Queens](#)

### READ:

[A Moveable Feast - Ernest  
Hemingway](#)

[The Flaneur - Edmund  
White](#)  
[My Life in France - Julia  
Child](#)

### TASTE:

Escargot  
Creme Brulee  
Moules Marinieres

Gougere Cheese  
Boeuf Bourguignon

### WATCH:

Amelie - 2001  
Julie & Julia - 2009  
Hugo - 2011  
The Artist - 2011

### LISTEN:

[Join Us in France](#)





## USA

*Washington D.C. ~ New York City ~ Chicago ~ Los Angeles*

“It is important to remember that our diversity has been - and will always be - our greatest source of strength and pride here in the United States.” -Michelle Obama

### **EXPERIENCES TO HAVE**

- Hike and see the melting glaciers of Glacier National Park
- Experience a live theater performance on Broadway in New York City
- Visit Alcatraz, the nations home to some of the most notorious crime bosses
- Explore US history through the Smithsonian and Monuments of Washington D.C.
  - Follow a brass band parade down the streets of New Orleans

### **THE GREAT OUTDOORS...**

Muir Woods National Monument  
 Shenandoah National Park  
 Arches National Park  
 Yosemite National Park  
 Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

### **...AND THE ANIMALS WITHIN**

American Bison  
 American Alligator  
 Striped Skunk  
 Cuvier's Beaked Whale  
 Mongoose

**CULTURE CORNER**

**HEAR:**

- [Formation - Beyoncé](#)
- [Humble - Kendrick Lamar](#)
- [Shi' Na-Sha - Navaio Lullaby](#)
- [Ain't No Way - Aretha Franklin](#)
- [Fly me to the Moon - Frank Sinatra](#)
- [Jailhouse Rock - Elvis Presley](#)
- [Thriller - Michael Jackson](#)

**READ:**

- Beloved - Toni Morrison
- The Shining - Stephen King
- Absalom, Absalom! - William Faulkner

**TASTE:**

- Apple Pie
- New York Style Pizza
- Biscuits and Gravy
- Clam Chowder
- Barbecue

**WATCH:**

- Forrest Gump - 1994
- Jaws - 1975
- Lady Bird - 2017
- The Dark Knight - 2008
- Vertigo - 1958

**LISTEN:**

- [Pod Save America](#)
- [The Daily](#)



## 5. KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

### a. WHERE TO STAY

Our trips are jam packed affairs, we really only use our accommodations to sleep for the night; the rest of the day we are out touring, exploring, and experiencing! Nevertheless, we you stay on your trip certainly is an important component as well.

There are many considerations that go into where you should stay on your trip. For example:

- If you are travelling by private coach bus, it oftentimes makes sense to stay on the outskirts of the city. These hotels are more economical, helping to keep the price of the trip lower, and offer a space for your bus to park for the night
- If you are travelling by public transportation during the trip, then you are better off staying in the heart of the city, easily accessible to transit options. We work with a number of student friendly hostels and B&Bs that provide a quaint, comfortable, and central home away from home.

### b. HOW TO GET AROUND

Evolve personally organizes your trip to match what makes sense for your group! For trips that include a number of different cities, or many activities on the outskirts of the city, having a private coach bus usually makes most sense. Alternatively, if you are flying into one city and spending your whole trip there (i.e. New York City), it actually usually makes more sense to organize the trip around public transit - less sitting in traffic, more time experiencing the true city! No matter your destination or desires, we'll create a program that matches your exact needs and desires.



### c. WHO GUIDES THE TRIPS

You will have an Evolve Tour Director with you for the duration of your trip. Our tour directors are artists and musicians and actors as well, so they bring their own energy and enthusiasm to all the great activities ahead! Evolve Tour Directors are leaders, youth workers, teachers, and travelers. Only the most qualified candidates pass through our rigorous interview process, and then all tour directors undergo thorough training to ensure the smoothest and most fun trip for your group! You will also likely be led by additional local guides at museums, activities, and tours as well.

## 6. HOW MANY TRAVELERS; WHAT IS THE COST?



This is totally variable - based on where you are travelling to, from where, how many travelers, time of year, activities included, etc. The best way for us to give you an idea of costing is for us to discuss the right program for your group, and then put together a customized proposal for you to review. Generally speaking, the more students you are able to

sign up, the more economical the trip will be per student. Our programs include essentially every component of the trip: travel, accommodation, all activities, even most meals (we can adjust this as you desire). Teacher chaperones travel for free on all trips!

## 6. HOW DO I BEGIN?

The first step is gaging interest amongst your students - is there desire within your school culture to organize such a trip? The first trip is the hardest to get off the ground. Once the first one is done, you'll have students begging you to organize the next one before you've even caught your breath from the first.

Next you need to acquire administration approval, or whatever processes are required on your end. We are here to help provide documentation and resources to facilitate this process.

Once the green light is given, it's time to start promoting! Hanging flyers in the school, announcements over the P.A, newsletter write ups - whatever is available to you at your school.

Organize a student-parent information night. We can provide you with a PowerPoint presentation, and all steps to move forward getting students registered and signed up from here.





## *Evolve Tours*

At Evolve Tours, we've been running student trips around the world since 2006 and have been perfecting the trip planning process ever since. After deciding you want your students to experience educational travel, there's a lot involved in organizing a trip before hopping on that bus. There's the logistics of accommodations, transportation, meals, activities and more- when planned properly they come together to ensure an incredible and memorable student trip.

If you have any questions about any of the content in this guide, please email us at [info@evolvetours.com](mailto:info@evolvetours.com), or call us at 1.888.222.5066 (Toll Free)

You can also check out sample itineraries of our trips online at [www.evolvetours.com](http://www.evolvetours.com)

We'd be happy to work together to plan your student trip, or just talk travel!

Happy Travels!

Evolve Tours

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