

Spain and Italy- 2019

Spring Break Tour
4/12 - 4/21

Teacher Sponsors:
Rachel Stender, Engineering
Mira Chung, Science
Kerry Chon, Science

Parent & Student Guide



Contact Information:

Rachel Stender (Joint Coordinator) – Walt Whitman High school
Email: Rachel_A_Stender@mcpsmd.org or restender2000@yahoo.com
Home: 361-548-8207

EF Customer Service: 1-800-665-5364

EF Website: www.eftours.com

Tour Website: www.eftours.com/2112002VA

Travel Dates:

Our tour is slated for 4/12/19 thru 4/21/19. With these dates, students will miss 2 days of school. The absences are preapproved for educational travel.

Enrollment: www.eftours.com/2112002VA

Frequently Asked Questions:**Where will we be visiting/doing in Spain and Italy?**

This tour is geared towards the language, architecture, culture and history of southern Spain, Florence and Milan. During our 10 day tour we will explore the art, architecture and culture of 4 amazing cities: Madrid, Barcelona, Florence and Milan. Some of the on tour activities:

Walking tours of Madrid and Barcelona

Guided tours of Madrid, Barcelona, Florence, Pisa and Milan

Tapas making class in Madrid and cooking class in Florence

Mosaic class in Barcelona and charcoal drawing class in Florence

Entrances to: Prado, Reina Sofia, Picasso, Uffizi and Accademia museums

Free time in each city

Who will be attending this tour?

The trip is directed towards students who will be 7th thru 12th graders in 2019. The tour is also open to friends, parents, and siblings. (My own 6th and 12 graders will travel, too!)

How many travelers will go on the tour?

For the best on tour experience, we limit the travel group to one private tour bus. This way we have our own tour director and have the ability to get to know each other. Many of the prior spring break tours had a waiting list. Students and parents can enroll on a first come-first served basis. We anticipate having 30-35 travelers.

What is included in the cost?

Round trip airfare, bus, train and air flights while in Spain and Italy, taxes and fees, air-conditioned tour bus, 3-4 star hotel stays each night (with private bath) in a central, walkable location, upgraded breakfast and dinner each day, guided tours in each city, entrances to museums and other sites, on tour activities (cooking classes, art classes), guaranteed departure date, weekend travel supplements, and a full time, bilingual tour director that remains with us from the time we arrive in the country until we depart.

What is not included in the initial cost?

Lunch each day, souvenirs, transportation during free time. Anticipate about \$30 per day. Gratuities are an additional \$100.

Why did we choose EF Tours?

EF Educational tours is an internationally accredited organization that has been running educational tours for over 50 years. EF Tours, through its accreditation, enables us offer either high school or college credit to those who participate and complete assignments before, during and after the experience. These credits will not count on your students' Walt Whitman transcripts but can be used with college applications and for college credit. Please check out their website at www.eftours.com for more information and comments from previous travelers.

Do I have to work for credit on this trip?

No. This is simply an option that we are offering for students who are interested in either high school or college credit.

What is the role of the teacher sponsors on this trip?

The teacher sponsors are responsible for all items prior, during and after the trip in relation to student needs. Before going, they plan the pre tour activities such as information sessions, movie nights, and fundraisers as well as outside class sessions for those who intend to earn credit. During the tour, teachers offer an enhanced educational experience by planning and executing activities during "free time". Teachers also take care of wake-up and lights-out times during the trip and ensure a safe and educational environment for those attending. After the trip, teachers will help students who are earning credit to complete their assignments. We then will grade the assignments and submit grades for their transcripts.

Do the teacher sponsors get paid for leading this trip?

This trip is not school affiliated. Rather, Pyle and Whitman teachers are coordinating this tour with EF Educational Tours to provide an awesome language, cultural, architectural and historical educational travel opportunity for students, siblings and parents. Teachers do not get paid while on tour.

What travel documents do I need?

When traveling to Spain and Italy, you simply need a passport that is valid at least 6 months after our return date. If you are a US citizen, there is no need for a visa. If you are a non US citizen, please research Visa requirements for your nationality. I can help you with the needed paperwork.

If I have to cancel my participation in the trip, can I get a refund?

YES. You can receive the majority of your money back within 150 days out from our tour departure. You will be refunded all of your money except for the \$95 deposit and the trip insurance fee (if you elect for insurance). \$300 will also be charged as a cancellation fee if your spot cannot be filled. There are no refunds within 30 days of the trip without medical documentation. Between 30 and 150 days from travel there are prorated cancellation refunds. Please see the EF website. You may cancel at any time for medical reasons.

This all sounds great, how much does this cost?

Please see the next page for the full breakdown of the tour cost.

I missed the parent meeting, who can answer my questions?

You can e-mail Rachel at Rachel_A_Stender@mcpsmd.org.

How can I sign up my student to attend the Spain and Italy 2019 Spring Break tour?

You may sign up online at www.eftours.com/2112002VA

Cost and Payments:

Tour Cost: **\$4,076**

Includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- On tour train and flight
- Private bus
- Central hotels with private bathrooms
- Breakfast and upgraded dinner daily
- Full-time Tour Director
- Local tour guides
- Daily activities, tours and entrances to attractions
- Workshops and classes
- Private Group
- Guaranteed departure date and weekend supplements

Total for Students (under 21) **\$4,076**

11 monthly payments **\$344**/month

Adult Supplement **\$500**

Total for Adults **\$4,376**

Payment Options:

Option 1:

Sign-up for autopay. \$344/ month for 11 months.

www.eftours.com/autopay

This option will automatically charge your account each month so your payments are never late.

Option 2:

Pay in full.

We receive price quotes from many student travel organizations. EF consistently offers the best price for amazing service and experiences. And, we have a full time tour director who is an Italian native (who also speaks English, French, Spanish, Portuguese). We have traveled with her on 3 other tours. She is an amazing tour director!

Money for the Trip:

Tips:

~\$7 per day for tour director and local guide (\$70)

~\$3 per day for bus drivers and transfers (\$30)

We will collect the \$100 from each participant before we go so that we can present the tips at the end of our tour as one lump sum to each of the aforementioned.

Daily Expenses: (about ~\$300)

Expect \$30 per day

- This will cover:
 - o Lunch that you choose to catch during free time
 - o Souvenirs

Method of Money:

Credit Card/ Debit Card

Cash - Euro

Note: Most US banks will convert US dollars to European currency. It would be wise to contact your bank as it may take a week's notice for this transaction. If using a credit card, please ask your credit card company for a card with the European chip. The easiest way to get Spanish and Italian currency (Euro) is to withdraw cash at an ATM in Spain or Italy.

What you do and don't need:

You **DO** need:

- Valid passport (must be valid at least until 60 days after our trip)
 - o We will carry a copy of your passport in case it is lost on the trip
- Travel Insurance
 - o Provided through EF Tours. Suggested for all students traveling without an adult.

You do **NOT** need:

- Travel Visa if US Citizen
- Any vaccinations

Optional Elective Credit:

If you desire, you can earn one elective credit on our educational tour. Students can travel with a focus on what is called the "Global Citizen" by the National Council of the Social Studies. Students will focus on varying aspects of their experience through culture, the economy, international relations, the media, gender roles etc. This program is completely optional and open to all of our participants. You can decide to complete work for credit up until **2 weeks** before we leave. However, it is important to realize that there is a good deal of work to complete prior to our departure, so that the sooner you decide to begin the program the less rush you will have at the end. There will be optional meetings to help those who are working for credit prior to the trip to help keep them on track and get organized so as to not feel overwhelmed by the opportunity.

Earning Credit Overview:

Pre-tour:

- Read 4 Global Connections trade books of your choosing
- Begin your travel journal
- Research 2 non-fiction sources on our destinations

As we get closer to our travel date, we will have optional bi-weekly meetings to help get students organized in their pre-tour requirements

On Tour:

- Meet local people (speak with our tour director, museum guides, etc.)
- Collect local artifacts
- Take pictures or buy postcards for your final project (30 pictures)
- Maintain a travel journal

Post Tour:

- Complete a book review supported by your travel journals and experience
 - o This is due no later than 3 weeks after our return from the trip

Enrollment: www.eftours.com/2112002VA

Thank you for your interest. Please email me with any questions. rachel_A_Stender@mcpsmd.org

Rachel Stender