

Rome Frequently Asked Questions

What are the dates for the trip to Rome?

Travelers will depart on December 26, 2024 and return on January 3, 2025

How much will the trip to Rome cost?

Total cost of the trip is \$4446; amount will be paid over 13 equal payments of \$342 a month starting October 1, 2023.

Category	Item	Detail	Cost
Tour Package	Hotel	6 night accommodations based on double occupancy or greater	\$3,995.00
	Airfare	Round-trip airfare, taxes and fees	
	Checked Bag Fee	Single checked bag, 50lb limit, per person	
	Breakfast and Dinner Meals	Group meals at designated venues	
	Charter bus transportation		
	Transport of performance material	Band instrument, select equipment and uniforms are to be packaged, shipped and delivered to/from destination	
	Tour & Guide	English speaking guide throughout itinerary	
Additional Fees	Memorabilia / Group Gear	Jacket, LS T-Shirt/Sweatshirt, Luggage Tags, etc.	\$100.00
	Music & Incidentals	Music purchase, drum covers, etc.	\$50.00
	Credit Card Fees	Credit card fees based on payments beginning October 1 2023 - Oct 1 2024. (13 months @ 2.79% + .30)	\$120.96
	Required Personnel	1 nurse/medical, 1 director, 13 chaperones. **Assumes 150 participants and therefore a need for 13 chaperones receiving \$2,250 credit or 50% of trip cost**	\$179.62
Items Not Included	Transportation	Due to the nature of students potentially being assigned different flights -- families are responsible for ensuring their Rome travelers are at the airport in a timely manner.	\$0.00
	Airport parking	For individuals and families who have a need to park it is advisable to reserve ahead of travel dates to ensure a spot. If this is needed, this is an independent cost that is not a part of the package price of the trip.	\$0.00

Category	Item	Detail	Cost
	Passport Issuance/Renewal	All attendees must have a passport that is valid and has an expiry at least 6 months from January 2025 in order to travel.	\$0.00
	Additional 3rd-party travel insurance coverage	Limited travel protection is available under the terms of the school's contract. Please nota that it does not cover all situations that could arise to disrupt your travel plans. We recommend you assess your individual/family needs and evaluate whether 3rd party insurance is right for you.	\$0.00
	Lunch Meals	Lunch meals must be independently funded as needed	\$0.00
	Spending Money	Recommended but not required; consider credit card with international charge privileges. Be sure to call credit card company to let them know you or your child will be out of the country so that you do not need to worry about authorization declines.	\$0.00
Grand Total by Option (costs are per person based on 150 participants)			\$4,445.57
		<i>13 Monthly payments 10/1/2023 - 10/1/2024</i>	\$341.97
		<i>*Monthly payments assumes no fundraiser contributions</i>	

Why is this price different from what was previously shared?

The previous price shared included chartered bus transportation to and from the Atlanta Airport as well as several required memorabilia purchases. We are no longer planning on chartering a bus as it is expected that our group will be split and assigned to different flights and departure times, and we have also opted to include minimum required memorabilia purchases and instead offer optional additional items for purchase.

What will happen if the exchange rate fluctuates?

Because our contract has been signed and issued, provided the initial deposit required is paid for, the exchange rate is locked in and the price is guaranteed.

Could the price change?

Airfare as a portion of the overall package price is subject to a price change until tickets are issued approximately 42 days prior to departure, per provisions in the contract. This could mean a potential price drop or increase from the current stated rate. We will make you aware of any variance in pricing as soon as we are updated.

Will there be anyone traveling to Rome that will have their trip paid for?

Yes, based on the number of travelers, Youth Music of the World/Performance Travel Ltd provides one site inspection and a specified number of complementary travelers as described below:

- 200+ travelers: 2 travelers to summer site inspection; 4 complementary travelers
- 150+ travelers: 2 travelers to summer site inspection; 3 complementary travelers
- 100+ travelers: 2 travelers to summer site inspection; 2 complementary travelers

Additionally, the following individuals will be fully paid for, with their costs included in the trip fees:

- 1 Nurse/medical provider
- 1 Color-guard director

How many chaperones will be needed?

The ratio for chaperones to students is 1:12, so the estimate is that ~13 chaperones will be needed.

How will chaperones be chosen?

The Parkview High School Band Directors will choose chaperones.

What will chaperones do?

Chaperones will be required to monitor, provide travel accompaniment and facilitate the well-being and safety of all assigned youth with their care throughout the trip. This will include but is not limited to the following potential duties:

- medication dispensation,
- ensuring the health and safety of their assigned students which may include missing activities to monitor any sickness,
- ensuring adherence to travel rules and lodging assignments,
- coordinating logistics for tours or independent sightseeing with assigned group and,
- provide leadership and point of contact to leadership to share important information and updates.

Will chaperones pay full price?

No, chaperones will receive a \$2,250 credit toward the trip (or roughly 50% of the trip cost) With the exception of the required nursing/medical background chaperone who will have their trip paid for in full.

If I need to cancel, how much will I be reimbursed?

Up until May 1, 2024, everything can be reimbursed except for the \$200 deposit. After May 1, 2024, cancellations can only be made due to illnesses and other extenuating circumstances as outlined in the contract.

Will there be fundraising opportunities and how will they be distributed?

There will be several fundraising opportunities throughout the year. Some fundraisers, that require individual effort like Vertical Raise, will be distributed to individual students based on what they earned. Each fundraiser hosted by the Parkview Band Booster Association will be distributed evenly across all students traveling to Rome.

Is there a minimum or maximum number of travelers required for the trip to take place?

There are no minimum participant requirements and the maximum performers to be included is 200, as put forth by Youth Music of the World. However, there is an effective makeup of percussion/guard/instruments that will be shared at a later date.

There is no maximum limit on spectators/other participants that can come along on this trip.

Will the contract be shared?

Yes, the final contract will be provided when the first payment is made on December 15, 2023, however a draft can be reviewed at this link: [PHS: Youth Music of the World Performance Tour](#)

How many bags can I bring on this trip?

One checked bag up to 50 lbs is included. You may additionally bring one carry-on and one personal item.

Will travelers need a US Passport, Other Country Passport & U.S. Green Card to travel to Italy, Rome?

Yes! It is absolutely critical that each traveler have a current/active U.S. Passport or other valid Country Passport with appropriate proof of U.S. Citizenship status for travel. Please note that all passports must have an expiry date of at least 6 months past the return date (January 2025). See U.S. State Department page on Europe travel and passport issuance and renewal here:

Europe Travel:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations/schengen.html>

US Passport Issuance/Renewal:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html>

Do I need to provide my travel documents to the school? If so, when?

All travelers will need to provide a copy of their required travel documents ahead of the trip so that they can be copied and provided to the tour company. Information on when this will be collected will be shared when finalized with the tour company.

Will the Rome, Italy New Year's Day Parade be televised for families to watch online/on television?

Yes, we understand that the event will be televised and/or will be live streamed for spectators to watch. Details on how your families and friends can watch and times will be shared when this information is known.

How will travelers get to and from the Atlanta airport for this trip?

It is expected that our group will be split and assigned to different flights and departure times. It is for this reason that all travelers must coordinate their own ground transportation to and from the Atlanta airport with sufficient time for clearing security and arriving at the gate at least 1 hour prior to scheduled departure. In order to arrive at the gate an hour before departure, it is suggested that travelers arrive at the airport 4 hours prior to departure to clear check in and departure.

Do I need to exchange U.S. funds to Euros prior to travel?

It is not required but may be advisable to take advantage of a lower exchange rate and avoid the hassle of foreign exchange fees or international ATM fees. Check out an article that speaks to some best practices here:

<https://www.nerdwallet.com/article/banking/where-to-exchange-currency-without-paying-huge-fees>.

For students traveling independently, we would advise limited cash and use of a credit or debit card for all expected purchases. There are a number of credit cards with no foreign transaction fees, some are linked in the article listed above. Also, notify your credit card company ~ 1 week prior to international travel to prevent authorization failures while abroad.

How can I communicate with my student while he/she is traveling?

We will continue to leverage the Band App to post photos, information and updates throughout the trip and will encourage all independent traveling youth to check-in with parents/guardians upon arrival, throughout the trip and prior to departure via text or phone.

You may choose to purchase international cell phone service for your student prior to their travel, prices and options will vary depending on carrier. However, hotels will offer WiFi service, so you may also choose to connect with your student via WiFi once they are in the hotel for the evening.

iPhones can use iMessage on WiFi or data plans, but SMS messages will not work on WiFi unless families have purchased an international data plan. We recommend Android devices utilize WhatsApp if families do not choose to purchase an international data plan.