

The Centre for Learning@Home Travel Club

EF Tour #: 1100046

France, the Riviera, and Italy



The *Travel Club* at St. Paul's Academy and *The Centre for Learning@Home* is organizing an April 2013 school trip to France, the Riviera, and Italy. The basic premise of the Travel Club is that the "World is our Classroom." There is no better way to learn about globalization, culture, nationalism, art, architecture, geography, sociology, and history than to experience the world firsthand. Yes, we will be visiting the

Colosseum in Rome pictured above. The Travel Club is organized and led by me: **Allan Brennan- Vice Principal at the Centre for Learning@Home.** I have led five international school trips prior to this tour. The number of teacher chaperones will be determined by the number of students traveling. We will be employing the services of *Education First Tours* (EF Tours). We will be traveling over Easter break (March 27, 2013 to April 5, 2013). These dates are approximate. Students are taken on a first-come-first-serve basis.

The purpose of this brochure is to find out if you are interested. **The cost of this tour for students in grades nine to twelve is \$3400.00.** This amount is paid directly to EF Tours.

EF Tours has a wealth of travel experience with international travel for students. Hotels, travel, and tours are very safe and are fully insured. See right for a photo of our 2006 group.



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This price includes:



- Round-trip – Airfare
 - Full-time bilingual EF Tour Director
 - Tour Director will lead sightseeing and walking tours
 - Transportation: Round-trip flight
 - Deluxe motor coach (bus) and TVG High Speed Train
 - Accommodations: 8 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms
 - Meals: European breakfast and dinner daily
 - **Visits to special attractions with tour guide (12):** Louvre • Notre Dame Cathedral • Perfume Factory • Pisa Baptistery • Pisa Cathedral • Duomo • Leather-making demonstration • Assisi Basilica • Sistine Chapel • St. Peter's Basilica • Colosseum • Roman Forum
 - **4 sightseeing tours** led by licensed local guides
- (10 Days) March 27 - April 5 (2013). This date is approximate.



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Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1: Flight to Paris

Your adventure begins as you board your flight to France. Touchdown in Paris, the country's capital and cultural center. After clearing customs and immigration, we will meet our guide, who will remain with us throughout our stay.

Day 2: Paris

Bonjour, Paris! During your sightseeing in the City of Light, get a taste of Parisian style as you ride down the Champs-Élysées, an elegant boulevard packed with high-fashion boutiques. Pass the Place de la Concorde and the Arc de Triomphe and strike a pose in front of the Eiffel Tower. At the École Militaire, see where a promising young Napoleon launched his rise to power. I.M. Pei's iconic glass pyramid marks the entrance to the renowned Louvre, home to treasures like Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa. Then, travel to the Notre Dame Cathedral and admire its sculptured façade, stained-glass rose windows and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings.



After dropping our bags off at the hotel we take a walking tour of Paris.

This tour director lead walking tour begins in the Latin Quarter and ends at Notre Dame Cathedral. We will go inside the magnificent cathedral and have time to check out its greatness.



A typical EF hotel in Paris at right here- The Citadines.

See hotel website at:

http://www.citadines.com/france/paris/la_defense/photo_gallery.html

Day 3: Paris



Arc de Triomphe in Paris

Meet bus and guide for city tour including stop at Eiffel tower. Tour ends at Opera or Arc de Triomphe at around Noon.

After lunch we visit the Cluny Museum. This is a Middle Ages museum that offers a unique view of the art and history of the Middle Ages and a history of man in Roman Gaul at the beginning of the 16th century, and fifteen centuries of European art and history in one location. See Cluny Museum web site at:

http://www.musee-moyenage.fr/ang/homes/home_id20754_u1l2.htm

Bus drops group in central Paris, normally close to area where dinner is booked. Possibility of a little free time before dinner. After dinner, return to hotel. In the evening, the Tour Director will offer the chance to go up the Eiffel Tower and take a boat ride along the river Seine (1hr).

Day 4: Paris • French Riviera

This morning we visit the Louvre museum in Paris. It is one of the world's largest and best-known museums of fine art. Originally a royal palace, the Louvre became a public museum at the end of the 1700s.

There are about 35,000 objects on display, spread out over three wings of the former palace. The museum has a diverse collection ranging from the antiquity up to the mid 19th century.



A large part of the collection consists of European paintings and sculptures. Other rooms contain Roman, Egyptian, Greek and Oriental art. There is also a section with 'Objects d'Art', where objects such as clocks, furniture, china and tapestries are displayed.

Some of the most famous works of art in the museum are the Venus of Milo, the Nike of Samothrake, the Dying Slave by Michelangelo and of course Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa.



See the Louvre web site at:

<http://www.louvre.fr/expositions/au-royaume-dalexandre-le-grand-la-macedoine-antique>

Day 4: Paris • French Riviera Continued

After lunch we transfer to the French Riviera by way of the high speed TVG train. There



is one word to describe TGV-Fast! The world speed record holder, it zips from city to city at up to 322 kph (201 mph). With Paris as its hub, this high-speed French network interconnects throughout Europe making it an attractive alternative to the plane. The TGV is France's technological gem, constantly improving comfort and

performance while also keeping sight of the planet's well-being.

France has many facets, several parts untouched, unexplored and unearthed; among them is the prominent and stunning countryside region in south Mediterranean region of France. It is lined with vineyards, beaming ancient villages and olive groves in a warm country living tradition which adds to the non-stop enchanting magic charm, and grace. Many of these things we will see en route to Nice and Monaco while travelling on the TVG train.



French Countryside: en route views to Monaco via the TVG Train

Day 5: French Riviera



Visit Monaco, a tiny principality that packs wealth, royalty and the world-famous Casino Monte-Carlo into just 0.8 square miles. Pass by the Cathédrale de Monaco, where Prince Rainier wed movie star Grace Kelly, a union that ultimately sparked an influx of Hollywood stars and starlets to the French Riviera.

The Tour Director will walk the group to the old town where they can have some free time

and watch the changing of the guard. In the afternoon we depart Monaco, transfer to Nice (1hr). Our Tour Director will lead a walking tour upon arrival in Nice and lead them towards the old town where we will have lunch. The group then has the afternoon to shop and sightsee.

Stroll down the palm-lined Promenade des Anglais and get a taste of the Old Town during your walking tour of Nice. Soak up the scenery, from the whitewashed villas to the flower market to the emerald waters that lap Nice's endless beaches. Enjoy an excursion to the seaside town of Eze. You'll tour a perfume factory and watch olfactory experts concoct new fragrances.



Day 6: Pisa • Florence



Florence: Rome; Pisa Baptistry & Cathedral

8am: Depart hotel; transfer to Pisa. The leaning Tower of Pisa is famous because it leans. Although it was designed to be perfectly vertical, it started to lean during construction. However, even without this famous characteristic, this building would still be one of the most remarkable architectural structures from medieval Europe. It stands at 60 metres and until 1990 was leaning at about a 10 degree

angle.

Tower of Pisa is more accurately referred to simply as the bell tower, or campanile. The Pisa tower is one of the four buildings that make up the cathedral complex in Pisa, Italy, called Campo dei Miracoli or Piazza dei Miracoli, which means Field of Miracles.

Lunch will be at a motorway service station in Italy. Tour Director walks group to site of leaning tower and purchases tickets for group to go into Cathedral and Baptistry followed by some free time. 3.30pm: Transfer to Florence

Day 7: Florence

Florence's museums, palaces, and churches house some of the greatest artistic treasures in the world. The most popular and important sites in Florence include the **Cathedral**, the **Baptistry**, the **Uffizi**, the **Bargello**, and the **Accademia**. The churches of **Santa Maria Novella** and **Santa Croce** are veritable art galleries, and the library of **San Lorenzo** is a magnificent exhibition of Michelangelo's architectural genius. Wander some of the



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oldest streets in the city until you reach the Arno River, cross the **Ponte Vecchio**, and experience the "newest" area of Florence, the **Oltrarno**. Be sure to set aside time to see the vast and varied art collection housed in the **Pitti Palace**. When you grow weary of museums and monuments, head outdoors. Spend some time at the **Boboli Gardens** or climb the hill to the church of **San Miniato al Monte** to experience an enchanting view of Florence

Sightseeing of Florence



Meet our specialist guide in central Florence for walking tour (1hr30min) including entrance inside Cathedral (Duomo). After the walking tour, the Tour Director will take the group to a local leatherworks showroom where they receive a demonstration on the leather trade in Tuscany. After free time for lunch the Tour Director will take people on the Optional tour to Siena.

Day 8: Assisi - Rome

Guided sightseeing of Assisi



Stop in Assisi, birthplace of both St. Francis and St. Clare. On your visit to the Basilica of St. Francis, follow the life of one of Italy's most beloved saints through Giotto's artful frescoes.

Welcome to Rome, the Eternal City. The city is an incredible mix of archeological gems, Roman genius, Renaissance art and religious treasure. As Italy's capital, it is also the bustling heart of this exciting country. With its fashionable shopping and café-culture, Rome really is a unique European experience.

Overnight in Rome

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Day 9: Rome

No place integrates its past into the present quite like Rome, where history comes to life. Explore the world's most famous arena on your sightseeing tour to the Colosseum. Here, you can almost hear the stamping feet of the crowds gathered for gladiatorial combat. Nearby, the Roman Forum marks the former heart of the Roman Empire. Julius Caesar gave many of his great political speeches there. On your visit to Vatican City, marvel at Michelangelo's breathtaking ceiling in the Sistine Chapel and look out for the colorful uniforms of the Swiss Guard, protectors of Vatican City. Before you say "arrivederci," toss a coin into the Trevi Fountain to ensure a return trip to the Eternal City.

Pantheon



Trevi Fountain

Your guided sightseeing of ancient Rome takes you past the ancient Forum Romanum, once the heart of the Roman Empire. You will also visit the Colosseum, where gladiators once battled for their lives in front of 50,000 spectators. During a

guided walk, stroll through the Piazza Venezia and view the Pantheon (pictured above), the temple to "all the gods." End at the Trevi Fountain, a favorite meeting spot for tourists and locals alike.



Roman Forum pictured here

Take an opportunity to visit the Forum and explore its fascinating history. You might

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also want to sit on the grassy banks of the Circus Maximus and imagine what it was like to watch chariot races there. Rome also has some of the most fashionable shops to be found anywhere, a trip along the Via del Corso confirms this. Overnight in Rome.

Guided sightseeing of Vatican City

Meet specialist guide at Vatican City for guided walking tour of Vatican museums and Sistine chapel and St. Peter's Basilica (pictured below). Tour ends with free time for lunch and chance to buy souvenirs (1hr). After lunch, bus takes group across city to Colosseum for guided visit followed by guided walk from Trevi fountain to Piazza Navona via Pantheon (see picture on last page). Group will be able to see interior of Pantheon Free time to shop after tour before transfer to dinner. Most groups



will visit the Vatican in the morning. The Tour Director can arrange an evening bus excursion in Rome to see many of the major sites illuminated and a visit to some of the more lively piazzas.

The world's largest dome is located in the world's smallest country. See both as you tour St. Peter's Basilica, erected in Vatican City on the site where the saint was martyred. Enter the basilica under the watchful eyes of the brightly dressed Swiss Guard. Inside, admire Michelangelo's Pietà and try to find the artist's signature (it is the only sculpture he ever signed). Then continue on to the Vatican Museum, where elaborate galleries packed with one artistic masterpiece after another lead you directly to the Sistine Chapel. Between 1508 and 1512, Michelangelo painted some of the world's finest pictorial images on the Chapel's ceiling. This was his first attempt at working in fresco, which he did by standing up and craning backwards from a scaffold.

Hotel Pergola: An example of a hotel in Rome used by EF Tours



See web site at:

<http://www.hotellapergola.com/rome-hotel-classic-room.php>

Day 10: Depart for Home



**** Participants are not permitted to consume, purchase, or possess alcohol and/or tobacco****

There are no tour extensions for students. We must depart from Calgary and return to Calgary together as one group. We will attend Mass over Easter weekend.

Once again, the purpose of this brochure is to find out if you are interested. **The cost of this tour for students in grades 9 to 12 is \$3400.00.** Monies are paid directly to EF Tours.

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Information regarding insurance, EF Tour's Booking Conditions, EF's All Inclusive Protection Plan, and Release and Agreement can be found at the following EF Tours web link.

Please read the financial, registration, and insurance details at this link prior to signing up for this trip. As well, EF's Booking Conditions, this EF Tours web link includes information regarding cancelations, refunds, insurance, and payment schedule etc. Please visit link at:

http://www.eftours.ca/eLiterature/Participant_Application_ROC12F.pdf



Need More Information



I am happy to talk with you if you have any questions. If you would like to discuss our trip, please contact me, Mr. Allan Brennan, at one of the following contacts:



To e-mail me in *First Class* just type Mr Brennan into the To box

From a Telus, Hotmail, Shaw, or other non-First Class account you can send e-mails to: franceanditaly@redeemer.ab.ca

Call Me :)

**Phone me at: (403) 938-4119 ext. 291
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**Mr. H. Allan Brennan
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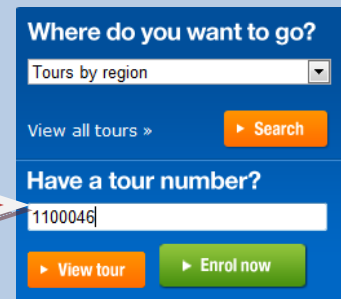
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Signing up for the France & Italy trip

If you are interested in signing up for our *France, Riviera, and Italy* adventure, you can enroll two different ways:

1) You can complete the registration process online by doing the following:

- Go to: <http://student-travel.eftours.ca/Default.aspx>
- Go to: Have a tour number in the blue box on the bottom right-hand corner of the EF Tours web page and enter the following tour number: **1100046**
- Click, Enroll now
- Complete the online registration form and you will be registered, or



Where do you want to go?
Tours by region
View all tours » Search
Have a tour number?
1100046
View tour Enrol now

2) You can phone in your registration to EF Tours @ 1-800-263-2806 (Quote tour # 1100046).

Please be advised that you will need a deposit of at least \$99.00 to officially register and thus secure a seat on this trip. If you like, you can organize a monthly payment plan with EF Tours. Please ask them for details when you phone. Applicants are taken on a first-come-first-serve basis. 😊

Breakdown of Tour fees:

Program Fee: \$2780 + \$12 Cluney Museum
Departure Fees: \$469
All Inclusive Insurance/Interruption Plan: \$89
Gratuity for Tour Guide/Bus Driver: \$ 50.00
Total for students in grades 9 to 12: \$3400.00



Sign up Online

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Student and Parent Testimonials from previous trips:

My son participated in the Costa Rica trip and had an amazing experience. I was very concerned to send him alone as he is introverted but Mr. Brennan, Mrs. Humphreys, and the other staff ensured that he was included and not left by himself. By the end of the trip he not only had a wonderful vacation and educational experience but I felt he grew socially and learned much about interactions with his peers. His goodbyes were very touching!

I wanted to let you know how much my daughter enjoyed her trip to Costa Rica. I would like to thank you for giving me the confidence in you to trust you with one of the two people I love the most.

I knew that my daughter was in very capable hands. I knew that you would ensure her safety and that is exactly what happened. My daughter learned a lot... EF Tours is a fabulous organization and makes certain the students are taken care, and you, my friend, have proved that the students are actually cared for...

I would like to thank you in assisting my daughter in making life long memories in a very positive experience.

I loved the tour. I have always wanted to travel to Italy and Greece and I'm really glad I did this with you, Mr. Brennan. Greece was amazing but Rome was my favourite. The food was great and the sights were perfect. None of this could have been possible without out and your amazing teachers that introduced all of this to me. I made some great friends on this trip and our guide was great too. I would definitely recommend traveling with you and your school.

A typical Deluxe Motor Coach used by EF Tours below.



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