

SMITHSONIAN JOURNEYS ANNOUNCES 2024 SMITHSONIAN STUDENT TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES
Immersive Travel Experiences Include Itineraries to Morocco, Silicon Valley, Kenya & Tanzania,
Thailand & Vietnam, France & Switzerland, and Australia & New Zealand

January 2024 ☞ Smithsonian Journeys, the travel program of the Smithsonian Institution—the world’s largest museum, education, and research complex—announces its [2024 student trips](#), including new trips detailed below to Morocco, Silicon Valley, Kenya & Tanzania, Thailand & Vietnam, France & Switzerland, and Australia & New Zealand. Returning trips include popular itineraries to Costa Rica, Greece & Italy, Iceland, New York City & Denmark, and Washington, D.C. & Houston. Trips are open to students completing 8th through 12th grades and range from 9 to 20 days.

More information can be found at Smithsonianstudenttravel.org or by phone at 866-870-2350. Applications may be submitted directly through the website.

Smithsonian Journeys has again teamed up with **Putney Student Travel** to offer a unique selection of remarkable travel experiences for students completing 8th through 12th grades for summer 2024. These immersive programs provide opportunities for students to explore an interest alongside a community of peers, be inspired by unique experiences, and gain the tools necessary to help shape the future.

Smithsonian Student Travel programs are crafted around important themes that Smithsonian has covered and explored over the years, such as wildlife conservation, geology, cultural heritage, and technological innovation. A Smithsonian Student Travel expert will accompany a portion of each trip to share their knowledge, insights, and passion about the regions and the trip themes.

“We’ve crafted these itineraries to reflect Smithsonian’s long heritage as a leader in preserving cultural and natural resources and in deepening people’s understanding about our world,” said Lynn Cutter, Senior Vice President, Smithsonian Travel. “Each of our 2024 student trips offers a unique opportunity for students to pursue their passions while learning about other cultures and environments through hands-on experiences.”

New itineraries for 2024 include:

[Silicon Valley - Innovation & the Future of Technology](#)

Silicon Valley is an ever-evolving hub of innovation and research, where emerging technologies seek to change the world and the way we experience it. This summer, dive into cutting-edge science and technology through hands-on learning, interactive workshops, and visits to start-ups and renowned tech companies. Go behind the scenes at the laboratories and studios of some of the most creative thinkers and innovative companies. Meet with change-makers and tech leaders to gain new tools for critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving; and brainstorm your own ideas to help make a positive impact on the world. Along the way, explore the region with hikes in the Marin Headlands, surf lessons in Santa Cruz, and a special visit to the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

[Thailand & Vietnam - Highland Cultures & Natural Wonders in Southeast Asia](#)

Travel to the highlands of northern Thailand and Vietnam and immerse yourself in the region’s rugged mountainous terrain, lush landscapes, terraced rice fields, and rich ethnic diversity. Experience how the vibrant highland communities here pass traditions from generation to

generation. Learn about papermaking, batik techniques, and more from Indigenous artisans in Sapa, observe the symbiotic relationship between the Karen people and elephants in northern Thailand, and visit temples to learn about Buddhism in Thailand's cultural hubs. Soak up the beauty of these regions on walks among the rice terraces and discover waterfalls and caves hidden in the mist-shrouded mountains.

[Morocco - Ancient Cities, Mountain Treks & High Atlas Culture](#)

Immerse yourself in Morocco's rich culture, exploring bustling souks, stunning architecture, and traditions that blend Arab, European, and Amazigh influences. Experience two of Morocco's fabled cities—Marrakech and Fez—exploring gardens, palaces, and mosques that showcase the incredible craftsmanship and design that the country is known for. From Marrakech, head into the High Atlas Mountains to gain insight into the lifestyle of the semi-nomadic Amazigh (Berber) people. Discover approaches to water conservation in arid regions, and go on a two-day trek with local guides, visiting mountain settlements and learning about life in the remote High Atlas. Cap off your program in Fez, the world's largest medieval walled city. Return home with a deeper understanding of cultural practices that have survived for millennia; the threats they face from modernity, globalism, and climate change; and efforts to preserve them for generations to come

[Kenya & Tanzania - Wildlife Conservation in East Africa](#)

The East African countries of Kenya and Tanzania are home to renowned conservation areas and some of the world's most iconic megafauna, including rhinos, elephants, lions, and more. A growing human population and competition for land and natural resources for agriculture and development are putting pressure on the region's wildlife, natural spaces, and pastoralist communities. This summer, unravel the complex dynamic of humans and wildlife as you embark on safaris; collect data in the field; and spend time onsite at the Mpala Research Centre, where Smithsonian researchers work with local partners to develop science-based solutions. Delve into the differing approaches each country has taken and investigate the successes and challenges of projects to mitigate human-wildlife conflict. Return home inspired with a deeper understanding of the importance and complexities of wildlife conservation.

[France & Switzerland - Art & Science from Paris to the Alps](#)

For centuries, France has been a crossroads of European history and culture, producing revolutionary artistic and political movements, as well as culinary traditions that have influenced cuisines all over the world. Experience Paris's museums and multicultural institutions, then explore France's strong food and farming traditions in the markets of Lyon and at family farms in the countryside. Cross into Switzerland to visit the United Nations Office in Geneva and learn about UN efforts to support sustainable development. Meet with researchers at the world-class particle physics research facility at CERN and hear about their work in physics, biotechnology, astronomy, and climate science. End your program in the small town of Martigny, exploring a spectacular Alpine region of lakes, emerald valleys, and glacier-covered peaks.

[Australia & New Zealand: Conservation & Culture from Outback to Reef](#)

Explore the rainforests, deserts, and reefs of Australia and the geologic wonders of New Zealand, while engaging with the rich and enduring legacy of Aboriginal and Māori cultures. Begin in Sydney, meeting Australia's iconic species, discovering the region's Indigenous roots, and learning to surf. Encounter the sacred rock formations of the Outback before traveling to the Great Barrier Reef. Meet with members of the Aboriginal community to learn about a culture that dates back 75,000 years, and dive into the challenges facing this continent's irreplaceable ecosystems. Then head to Rotorua, New Zealand, the cultural hub of the Māori people, to engage with vibrant traditions and explore geysers, boiling springs, and sulfur baths in this geothermal hotspot.

The new 2024 programs join these popular returning itineraries:

- [Costa Rica: Marine & Wildlife Preservation](#)
- [Greece & Italy: Ancient Civilizations, History, & Myth](#)
- [Iceland: Geology, Climate Change, & Renewable Energy](#)
- [New York City & Denmark: Architecture & Sustainable Design](#)
- [Washington, D.C. & Houston: Aerospace & the Race to Mars](#)
- [Belize: Conservation, Coral Reefs, and Maya History](#)
- [Portugal & Spain: Art & Architecture on the Iberian Peninsula](#)
- [Japan: Ancient Culture & Modern Innovation](#)

About the Smithsonian

Since its founding in 1846, the Smithsonian Institution has been committed to inspiring generations through knowledge and discovery. It is the world's largest museum, education, and research complex, consisting of 21 museums, the National Zoological Park, education centers, research facilities, cultural centers, and libraries. Two of the 21 museums – the National Museum of the American Latino and the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum – are in the early planning stages. The total number of objects, works of art, and specimens at the Smithsonian is estimated at nearly 155 million, of which nearly 146 million are scientific specimens at the National Museum of Natural History. www.smithsonian.org

About Smithsonian Journeys

Smithsonian Journeys is part of Smithsonian Enterprises, a division of the Smithsonian which oversees the institution's commercial activities, including the Smithsonian Channel, available in over 55 million households globally; the retail operation, which includes 35 museum and airport stores, food concessions; an E-commerce business, smithsonianstore.com, and *Smithsonian* magazine, which reaches more than 8 million monthly readers, consumer and education licensing, and books. Smithsonian Journeys is a global leader in cultural travel for diverse audiences, offering unique, expert-led trips on all seven continents. Smithsonian Journeys offers small-group land journeys, small-ship ocean cruises, river cruises, cultural stays, private jet trips, active journeys, and tailor-made journeys for the independent traveler, in addition to student travel programs. For more information visit www.SmithsonianJourneys.org or call 1-855-330-1542.

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