

SMITHSONIAN JOURNEYS ANNOUNCES 2023 SMITHSONIAN STUDENT TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES
New Immersive Travel Experiences Include Itineraries to Australia, Belize, France, Japan, Portugal & Spain, And Scotland

Smithsonian Journeys, the travel program of the Smithsonian Institution - the world's largest museum, education, and research complex - announces its 2023 student trips, including new trips to Australia, Belize, France, Japan, Portugal & Spain, and Scotland. Returning trips include popular itineraries to Costa Rica, Ecuador, Greece & Italy, Iceland, New York City and Denmark, and Washington, D.C. and Houston. Trips are open to students completing 8th through 12th grades and range from 14 to 19 days.

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

Smithsonian 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 2023. These immersive programs provide opportunities for students to explore an interest alongside a community of peers, get inspired by unique experiences, and gain the tools necessary to help shape the future. A Smithsonian expert will accompany a portion of each trip to share their knowledge, insights, and passion about the regions and the trip themes.

Informed by the Smithsonian's vast knowledge and resources built over 175 years, along with Putney's 70 years of experience in supporting young travelers and delivering high-quality and transformative travel experiences, **Smithsonian Student Travel** programs are crafted around important themes that Smithsonian has covered and explored over the years.

"Each of our 2023 student trips provide students the opportunity to pursue their passions. Smithsonian's long heritage as a leader in preserving cultural and natural resources and in deepening people's understanding about our world is reflected in these itineraries," said Lynn Cutter, Senior Vice President, Smithsonian Travel.

Popular returning itineraries:

- [Costa Rica: Marine & Wildlife Preservation](#)
- [Ecuador: Cultural & Environmental 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](#)

Exciting new itineraries for 2023:

[Australia: Environmental Conservation & Indigenous Cultures](#)

Explore rainforests, deserts, and reefs as you experience Australia, where millennia of isolation have led to the evolution of unique ecosystems and ancient cultures. On this high school summer program, travel from Sydney to Cairns, then the Outback to Darwin, as you meet with members of the Aboriginal community to learn about the world's oldest living culture and dive into the challenges facing this continent's irreplaceable ecosystems. Learn about edible bush plants from Aboriginal

Australians, scout for endangered cassowaries in the 125-million-year-old Daintree National Rainforest and meet with climate activists to discuss what recent wildfires portend. Throughout your trip, gain insights that empower you and your group to brainstorm actions to help preserve these resources for generations to come.

[Belize: Conservation, Coral Reefs, and Mayan History](#)

Boasting the second-longest barrier reef in the world, lush jungle reserves, hundreds of ancient Mayan archaeological sites, and breathtaking landscapes, Belize is a beacon of conservation and Central American history. Begin with a visit to Lamanai, the second-largest Mayan site in Belize and one of the longest-settled sites of the Mayan civilization. Explore temples and ritual sites alongside knowledgeable guides as you begin to put the country's rich history into context. Then travel inland to the western city of San Ignacio. Visit howler monkey and iguana rehabilitation centers, taste artisanal Belizean chocolate, explore local markets, and climb the steps of the ancient Mayan City of Caracol. Travel by boat to Tobacco Caye to meet with marine scientists and conservationists and coral reef restoration experts. Snorkel the crystal waters and spot vibrant tropical fish, eels, and turtles. End the program at the Tropical Education Center in the Belizean Savannah and wander through the natural habitat of the world-famous Belize Zoo.

[France: Farm-to-Table, Cave Art, & the City of Light](#)

France has always held fascination as an ancient culture, a crossroads of religion, politics, art, and food. It also holds some of the best-preserved remnants of early people. Explore its rich ancient history and powerful cultural traditions, from Paris's art and urban planning to cave art in the Dordogne Valley, and the farm-to-table movement. Explore the rivers and valleys of the Vézère, descend deep into prehistoric caves, see goats milked on a farm in the Tarn, and climb over the 13th century hilltop ruins of fortresses of the Albigensian Crusade. Stay in the southwestern medieval gems of Sarlat and Albi before returning to Paris for its breadth of artistic and historic treasures; the Louvre and Musée d'Orsay, the Centre Pompidou, Les Invalides, and Sainte-Chapelle.

[Japan: Ancient Culture & Modern Innovation](#)

Travel to Japan on this high school summer program and immerse yourself in the history and culture while visiting some of the country's major cities, smaller villages, and towns off the beaten path. See how ancient traditions and cultural practices dating back to the start of this modern nation continue to thrive alongside innovative emerging technologies and shifts in societal values. In Kyoto, visit the Samurai and Ninja Museum, or the Kyoto International Manga Museum. Take in beautiful views of Mt. Fuji, an iconic site of cultural and religious importance that has captured the hearts of many artists, poets, and pilgrims for centuries. Stay at both modern accommodations and more traditional *ryokan* inns, where guests stay in rooms with tatami mats and futon-style mattresses. Explore hidden ramen shops and learn the art of *chado* in a traditional tea ceremony.

[Portugal & Spain: Art, Architectural Design & Iberian Culture](#)

Few places display architecture more dramatically and holistically than Spain and Portugal. Journey across the Iberian Peninsula and relive its fascinating multicultural history, from the Visigoths, Romans, and Celts to centuries of Moorish rule, and on through the Middle Ages to the Renaissance, Romanticism, Modernism, and the present day. Begin in Lisbon, Portugal, then cross into Spain with stops in Cáceres, and the capital, Madrid, before ending in the cosmopolitan seaside city of Barcelona. Witness firsthand how we have been shaped by and sought to shape our environment, and what lessons the past holds for our modern life.

[Scotland: Ancient History, Celtic Culture, and the Natural World](#)

Stunning landscapes and rich history await on this adventure through Scotland. Dive into the country's rich history of castles and clans in St. Andrews, home to one of the oldest universities in the world and the birthplace of golf. From the sandy lowlands, venture into the picturesque Highlands to explore small towns and a quieter way of life. Hike alongside deep lochs and across heather-covered hills, watch sheepdogs at work at local farms, and get a better sense of Scottish and Gaelic traditions through music and food. Next, embark on an excursion to the Hebrides islands, rich with Gaelic and Scandinavian history and influence. Sail to an island of columnar basalt formations and inspiring caves and spot Atlantic puffins nesting on the sea cliffs. Finish your adventure in the bustling capital of Edinburgh, a hub of education, medicine, law, literature, and the sciences. Wander the cobblestone streets and meet with historians and guides during visits to Edinburgh Castle, the Royal Botanic Gardens, and the city's countless other historic sites.

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, tailor-made journeys for the independent traveler, and student travel programs. For more information visit www.SmithsonianJourneys.org or call 1-855-330-1542.

About Putney Student Travel

Since 1951, Putney Student Travel has offered high school and middle school students the opportunity and insight to shape their world through travel, unique cultural engagement, friendship, and fun. Summer programs in the U.S. and abroad range from one to five weeks in length and include Pre-College Enrichment, Service Learning, Language Immersion, Cultural Exploration, and Career themed programs. www.goputney.com

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Media contact:

Maureen Poschman, maureen@promocommunications.com

970.948.3176