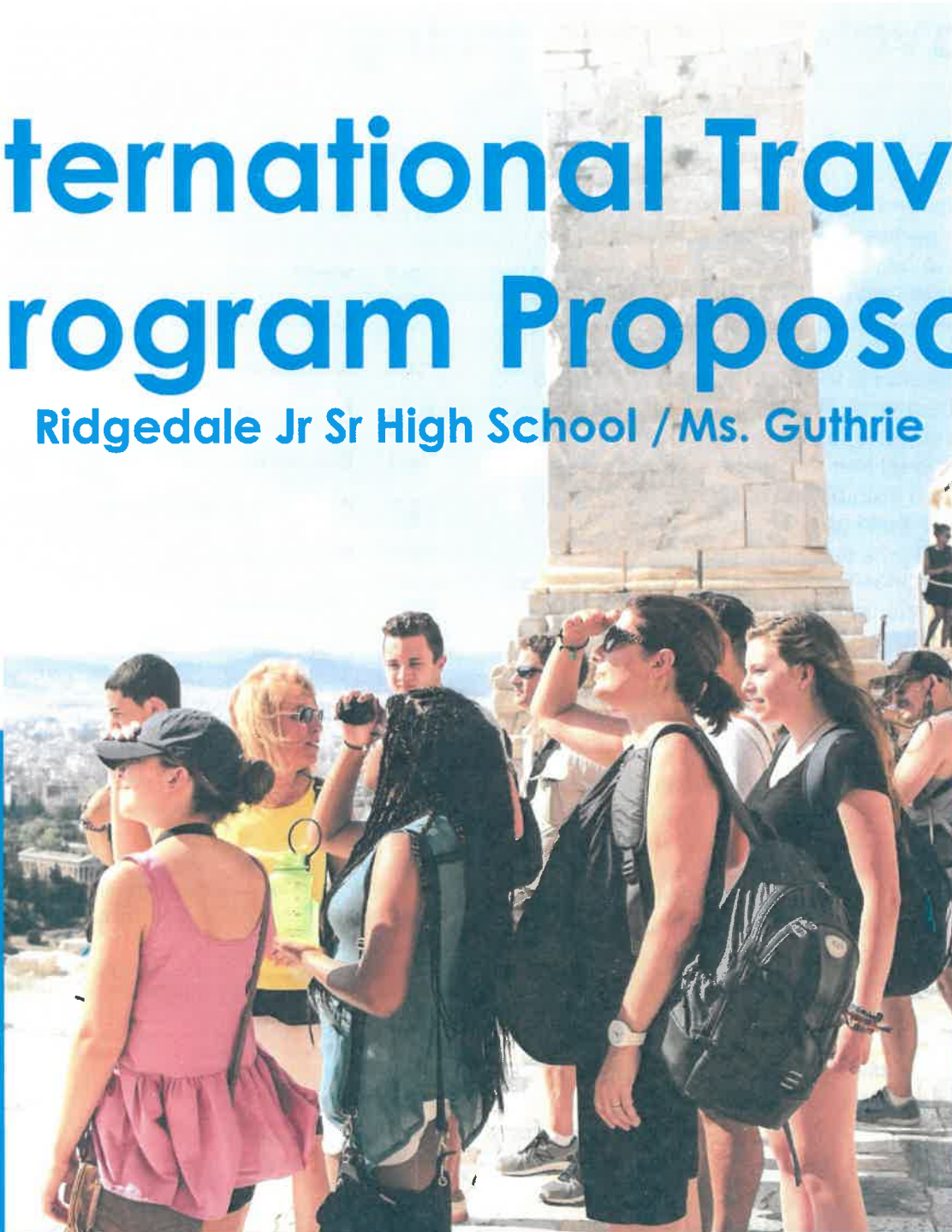




EDUCATIONAL
TOURS

International Travel Program Proposal

Ridgedale Jr Sr High School / Ms. Guthrie



Belize: Conservation from Ridge to Reef - Spring 2022

eftours.com/STB

Your partner in travel-based learning

EF Education First is the world leader in international education. For over 55 years, we've partnered with educators around the world to help more than 15 million students gain new perspectives and build skills for the future through experiential learning.

Our mission is to empower educators to do their best work. At EF Educational Tours, we're working to define the modern educational tour experience. Our itineraries are more than places to go and things to see. We build programs that challenge assumptions, spark connections, and inspire curiosity in young students. Students will expand their knowledge of the world around them, discover more about themselves, grow more confident and independent, and understand new people, places, and cultures.

We take care of every last detail of the tour experience—transportation and lodging, meal reservations and menus, museum tickets and local tour guides, and much more. That also includes behind-the-scenes elements, like safety checks at hotels and background checks on adult travelers. With all that taken care of, educators and students can focus on the bigger picture.

You'll find all the details and more on the next few pages.

What's contained in this document

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Safety

Your students' safety is our number one priority. We would never send a traveler to a location we believe to be unsafe—and with our extensive global presence, our best-in-the-industry experience, and our close working relationships with U.S. and international authorities, that's a statement we can back up with real insight. We follow travel restrictions worldwide and it is EF's policy that we will not travel to locations designated as a Travel Advisory Level 3 or 4 by the U.S. Department of State. Whether it's a worldwide pandemic or a sprained ankle, a missed flight or confusing medical paperwork, we make sure every situation is taken care of.

***For specific information on EF's response to COVID-19, visit [eftours.com/covid](https://www.eftours.com/covid)**

Worldwide presence

EF's global presence is truly unmatched. We have staff on the ground 365 days a year in over 50 countries. And we don't just work in those countries—we call them home. EF team members live in nearly every one of our tour destinations, meaning we have the local knowledge to help keep our groups safe. That presence allows us to be there to support you on the ground wherever and whenever you need us.

24/7 emergency support

In the event that anything on tour goes wrong, EF staff is always available to help. Your Tour Director is your group's constant companion and first point of contact in an emergency. Additionally, our fully trained support teams are on hand 24/7 to walk teachers through any issues and provide the resources necessary to get things back on track. Our Safety and Incident Response Team—comprised of industry experts, healthcare experts, and even former FBI personnel—is ready to spring into action 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. And when they aren't directly helping EF travelers, they're actively innovating on and shaping the new worldwide standards for cleanliness and safety.

Your team

This group is fully committed to your school's trip and the safety of every traveler.

Operations Safety & Incident Response Team

– This team is strategically based in our Boston, Panama, Tokyo, and Zurich offices to accommodate for all time zones. Available 24 hours a day, every day of the year, they are trained to react quickly if travelers need help. The team uses a combination of extensive training, simulations, incident response planning, and previous experience to manage emergencies. As needed, they can facilitate additional support for groups on tour, solve operational issues, arrange assistance from outside specialists, and liaise with local and international authorities.

Emergency Services & Support Team

– Our support team is available 24/7 to help resolve any issue, from a missed flight to a lost passport to more serious on-tour incidents. They also facilitate communication between travelers and families in the event of an emergency at home. The team is made up of highly trained and dedicated EF staff in our Boston and Denver offices who are equipped to solve problems and answer questions that may come up, even outside of regular business hours.

Tour Director – Assigned exclusively to your tour for the length of the stay at your destination, your Tour Director meets your group at the airport and travels with you until your departure. All Tour Directors undergo a background check as permissible by local law every two years and are required to participate in ongoing EF safety trainings. They're the first point of contact in an emergency and also communicate information to help travelers stay safe in a foreign destination. Tour Directors assist Group Leaders with hotel check-ins, coordinate meals, facilitate excursions with local guides, and much more. They're also culturally connected and expertly trained to support impactful learning experiences.

Tour Consultant – This itinerary expert is devoted to the growth of your students. They are your school's partner, working with you on everything from finding the perfect tour and enrolling students to offering fundraising advice and creating long-term travel programs for your school community. They work directly alongside the Group Leader (a.k.a. local teacher), right up until the moment of departure to make sure everything goes smoothly.

Traveler Support – Our team of support specialists are readily available to walk families through insurance inquiries, payment plans, food allergy issues, and any other topics that arise.

Chaperones – For every six travelers who enroll on your school's tour, your group is eligible to bring along a chaperone for free (the first spot goes to the Group Leader). This allows for a 6:1 ratio of students to chaperones, who assist Group Leaders with supervision of students to help keep them safe.

Protection for travelers, schools, and districts

We understand that unpredictable things can happen, either on tour or before departure. We offer a variety of protections, programs, and policies to make sure that, no matter what happens, travelers, schools, and districts are covered. We're doing everything we can to make planning for the future as flexible as possible.

General liability insurance

All Group Leaders, schools, and districts who travel with EF are automatically added as additional insureds under our **\$50 million General Liability Policy**, regardless of whether or not the tour is affiliated with the school. EF's liability coverage is primary and non-contributory for covered third-party claims. The policy helps safeguard Group Leaders and their schools for covered third-party claims related to bodily injury or property damage, which includes providing a legal defense and covering legal costs for such claims. In addition, all travelers are required to sign EF's Release and Agreement, which includes a release of liability of their Group Leader, school, and school board.

Flexibility to change tours

The world is always changing. And while our belief in the positive impact of travel is unwavering, it can feel hard to predict what life, here in the U.S. and abroad, will look like several months, a year, or even two years from now. When you decide to travel with EF, we want you to feel secure in that decision. That's why these benefits are built into every EF program.

Peace of Mind

Provided to all groups

We understand that plans can change due to unforeseen circumstances. EF provides this exclusive program to account for such situations. It provides groups with flexibility to change the dates and destination of their tours in uncertain times. This program accounts for such circumstances and can be enacted up to 45 days prior to departure at the group level for any reason, including terrorism or other world events.

COVID Peace of Mind

Provided to all groups

In addition to our standard Peace of Mind Program, EF provides an exclusive COVID-19 Peace of Mind Program to account for situations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This program is automatically included for all travelers and can be enacted up to 45 days prior to departure at the group level, while specific options can be implemented at the individual level.

COVID Care Promise

Provided to all groups

If your child is diagnosed with COVID-19 while on tour, we will coordinate and facilitate support services and logistics including translation services, connections with local health care providers, communication with family, and flights home at no additional cost.

Protection for individual travelers

Travelers can help protect their investment and themselves from certain unexpected events and expenses while on tour with the Global Travel Protection Plan and Global Travel Protection Plan Plus.

Global Travel Protection Plan

Available to all travelers

Designed specifically with EF travelers in mind, this plan provides both pre-departure and post-departure benefits, including medical expense coverage that may apply on tour and tour cancellation for specified reasons.

Global Travel Protection Plan Plus

Available to all travelers

To further protect your investment from the unexpected, this plan provides all of the benefits included in the Global Travel Protection Plan as well as expanded cancellation protection.

Background checks for adult travelers

EF requires all adults (18 years and older) to pass a criminal background check before traveling on our student tours. This provides a safer tour experience for all travelers and aligns with the process and expectations of many school districts for adults who volunteer in schools or chaperone school activities. The secure process, provided by a leading professional provider, only identifies those individuals who could present a risk to student travelers while on tour.

Affordability

We believe every student should have the opportunity to travel. That's why we're dedicated to providing the lowest prices possible and giving travelers multiple resources for managing payments.

Tour Consultants work closely with teachers to build a tour that's exactly right for your students. Through discussions with your teacher, they take into account learning objectives, cost, timing considerations, and any other factors to craft a tour that's accessible to as many students as possible.

Resources for managing cost and payments

Automatic Payment Plan – Our recommended payment plan offers the ability to break the tour fee into smaller installments. With most tours planned well in advance, travelers can enroll for only \$95, then pay over a long period of time—often up to 18 months or two years—with final payment due 30 days before departure. Families make payments directly to EF, with no payments going through the school.

Donation pages – Each student has access to their own unique and customizable donation page. The easy-to-share page makes it simple for friends and family to contribute a little something that is automatically applied to the balance of the tour, with no fees whatsoever.

Global Citizen Scholarship Fund – EF Educational Tours provides \$100,000 worth of scholarships to students across the country every year. Any student is able to apply for the Global Citizen Scholarship, which is awarded on both a merit and need basis.

Risk-free enrollment period – When a new traveler signs up for a tour traveling in 2022 or 2023 by March 1, 2021 with EF's Automatic Payment Plan or by Paying in Full, the traveler has the option to cancel their tour for any reason before May 1, 2021 and EF will refund 100% of the money paid in.

Educational value

Our tours help prepare students for the future by teaching them more about the world, themselves, and their place in the world. Combining the power of experiential learning with the thrill of global travel, our tours help students:

- Expand their knowledge of the world around them
- Grow more confident and independent
- Understand new people, places, and cultures
- Discover more about themselves

EF is an accredited institution

We echo your commitment to education. Our travel-based learning approach is designed to blend classroom and experiential learning. This allows us to meet the same rigorous standards as schools like yours, ensuring students gain valuable experiences that transform the way they look at the world.



Earning credit for new experiences

EF makes it easy for students to turn their tour experience into college credit, or to get a head start on their college essays—all while making their travel experience even more engaging.

- Students in grades 9—12 can earn 3.0 undergraduate credits, along with the confidence that comes with taking a college course, by completing a series of assignments and a final research project with our partner, Southern New Hampshire University—all for just \$215.

Itinerary specifics

For more robust details, the complete itinerary is attached to this document. It includes specific locations, each day's activities, travel plans, and more.

Price of the proposed tour

The tour program price covers a wide range of services that ensure students have an incredible experience. It includes all the planning and preparation that leads up to departure, travel and accommodations, plus logistical support and details once the group reaches their destination.

Price details

Belize: Conservation From Ridge to Reef

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Program Price* 1 | \$3,635 |
|------------------|---------|

Includes:

- Round-trip airfare and on tour transportation
- Hotels with private bathrooms
- Breakfast and dinner (see your itinerary for meal details)
- Full-time Tour Director
- Daily activities, tours and entrances to attractions

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Global Travel Protection | \$165 |
|--------------------------|-------|

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Early Enrollment Discount | -\$200 |
|---------------------------|--------|

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|------------------------------|------|
| EF's Peace of Mind Program * | Free |
|------------------------------|------|

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|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Total for Students (under 20) | \$3,600 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|

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|---------------------|----------|
| 13 monthly payments | \$270/mo |
|---------------------|----------|

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|--------------------|-------|
| Adult Supplement * | \$450 |
|--------------------|-------|

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|-------------------------|----------------|
| Total for Adults | \$4,050 |
|-------------------------|----------------|

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| 13 monthly payments | \$305/mo |
|---------------------|----------|

Quote created on 2/16/2021

Sample hotels

Every hotel we work with must meet our high standards for safety, quality, and cleanliness. Hotels are vetted by our team to make sure they meet our requirements and are subsequently inspected regularly to ensure they continue to satisfy those parameters. Please note that hotels abroad may have different amenities than travelers are accustomed to in the United States.

Here is an example of a hotel students might stay in on tour:

Bird's Eye View Lodge | Belize City

www.birdseyeviewbelize.com

Set on a quiet lagoon in the center of the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary just north of Belize City, the Bird's Eye View Lodge features 20 recently refurbished rooms spread out over two floors. Each air-conditioned room includes a telephone, battery chargers, ceiling fan and private bathroom. Wireless Internet access and cable TV are available in the guest lounge. Guests can enjoy meals in the lodge's dining room, and relax outside with an opportunity to observe wildlife

Sample meals

Meals are selected to establish a more immersive cultural experience and give students an idea of how locals eat. Below are some examples of what travelers can expect at the destination that your teacher has chosen, but please note that meals can vary from tour to tour.



Belize: Sample Meals

Salad, fish tacos and caramel flan
Chicken, rice and beans, fresh fruit

How I can help with next steps

My name is Allicyn and I am Ridgedale Jr Sr High School's dedicated Tour Consultant. That means I'll be working with Ms. Guthrie every step of the way to make sure everything is perfectly planned.

As we move forward in this process, here are some next steps to keep in mind:

There are two special programs available through February 28, 2021 that we would like to give students an opportunity to take advantage of:

1. **Risk-Free Enrollment Period:** Travelers can enroll on this tour by February 28, 2021 and have the option to cancel their tour for any reason before May 1, 2021 for a refund of 100% of the money paid to EF.
2. **\$200 Early Enrollment Scholarship:** available to all potential travelers after the parent info session (usually virtual)

The Risk-Free Enrollment Period also allows for the school board to consider approval any time between today and April 30, 2021. If for some reason the tour does not receive approval in that time, then the trip can be cancelled, and travelers do not lose any money.

To that end, we would like to present this information to parents at a virtual info session within the month of February.

I hope this overview has given you the information you need to feel confident in EF as an educational travel provider. Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly. EF is excited to partner with your school to bring this life-changing experiential learning opportunity to your students.

Sincerely,

Allicyn

"I am now more confident than ever in the safety and experiences of my students after working with EF on this trip. As a leader, I am committed to ensuring a global mindset throughout my district and student/teacher travel."

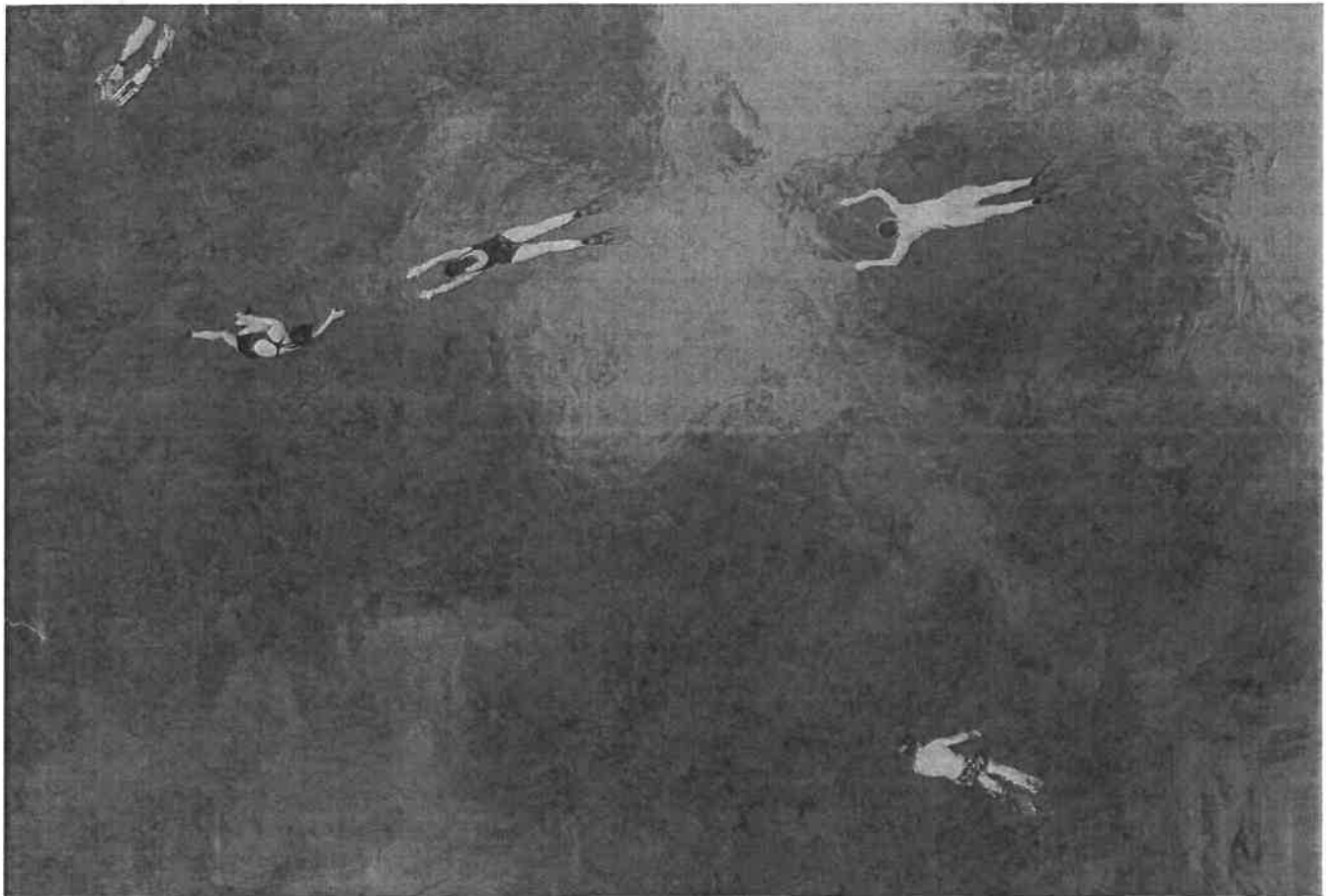
Angela M., Administrator, Brunswick, ME

"I advocate for travel because the world is vast and diverse. If we want to truly understand our neighbors in other states or countries, we must reach out and meet them where they live. Travel provides a glimpse into another world that our students may have Googled or watched on a device, but living it with the smells, food, smiles, and various challenges teaches flexibility, tolerance, understanding, and empathy."

- Chuck C., Group Leader, Central, SC

From a single tour to a whole program

A single tour can open up endless possibilities for a small group of students. Our goal at EF is to bring that experience to as many students as possible, including the broadest collection of students at your school. By progressing from a single tour to a consistent travel program, you'll not only build a culture of exploration, but you'll provide the opportunity of travel to even more students. We can work directly with you and your staff to establish a framework for your travel program that's tailored specifically to your school's needs and goals.



EF STEM

Belize: Conservation from Ridge to Reef

Experience Belize's natural beauty as you help preserve it. Go with the (literal) flow as you travel from the mountains to the ocean to explore the interconnectedness of Belize's freshwater and marine ecosystems. Contribute to ongoing efforts to decrease erosion through reforestation, check out climate-smart practices used by local farmers, and see the human impact on oceans firsthand during a beach cleanup.

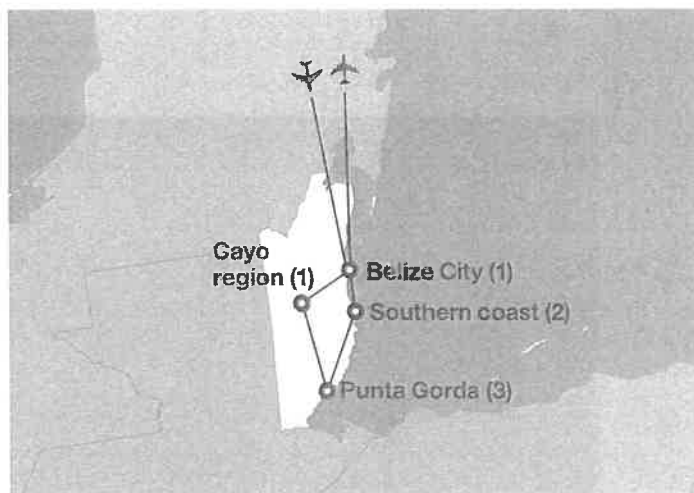
March 28, 2022 - 8 days
3800⁰⁰ - 309/mo

If signed by by end of
Feb \$3600 = \$293/mo

If 80% yes Please send in note w/ names
& We will set up information meeting ASAP.

Explore a world built on STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math shape communities across the globe. Our STEM-focused tours showcase the value of diverse ways of thinking and building, while also highlighting the powerful universality of STEM subjects. At EF, we've spent over 50 years witnessing the power of educational travel, and we know how it can transform STEM learners. Each STEM tour challenges travelers to think critically, and helps students develop innovative solutions to global problems.



What to expect on a STEM tour

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

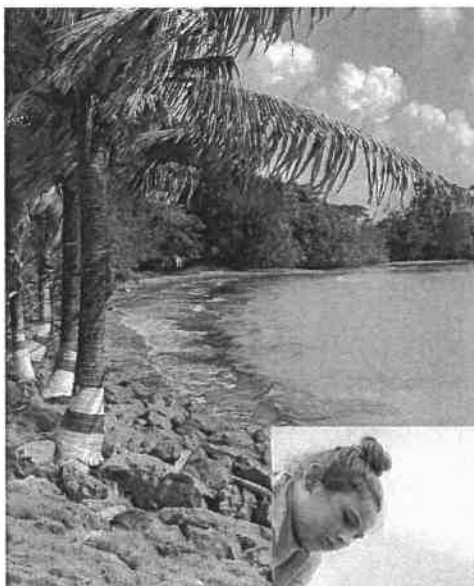
Apply STEM principles by participating in project-based learning that goes well beyond theory.

INNOVATIVE LOCATIONS

Tour exciting international destinations that host some of the world's most advanced laboratories, universities, and companies, or are simply perfect global "classrooms" to study analytical issues of the day in real life.

INDUSTRY EXPERTS

Collaborate and learn with scientists, engineers, researchers, and other STEM practitioners in the field.



Participate in a beach cleanup on the Island of Tobacco Caye.



YOUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES

Full-time Tour Director; sightseeing tours; activities include ecological activity, conservation fieldwork, Nim Li Punit, sustainable farm visit, Mayan cultural visit, reforestation project, ziplining, Garifuna drumming lesson, Port Honduras Marine Reserve activities, Tobacco Caye activities; round-trip flights; 7 overnight stays in hotels; breakfast and dinner daily; lunch on Days 2–7

"I believe that when a student sees how the classroom is used in the outside world it powerfully impacts them. The 'that looks cool, I want to do that' reaction will guide them into STEM fields."

Micah F., Earth Space and AP Environmental Sciences teacher



^

Walk on the wild side as you explore the ecology of Belize's rainforest.

Day 1: Fly to Belize

Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Belize City, your starting point to exploring this country's unique biomes.

Day 2: Belize City | Cayo region

Travel to the Cayo region. Visit the rainforest, where you will participate in ecological activities like stream and watershed assessment, tracking turtles via radio signal, or identifying local wildlife during a jungle walk.

Day 3: Cayo region | Punta Gorda

During today's visit to a local NGO, you will learn about their work in conservation and community development, and participate in a protected areas research and compliance trek. Later, take a guided tour of Nim Li Punit, an ancient Mayan city and archaeological site. Then travel to Punta Gorda.

Day 4: Punta Gorda

At a sustainable farm, you'll discover how agricultural practices are linked to reef health, learn about climate-smart farming practices, and participate in activities like planting seeds, pruning cacao trees, or harvesting fruit. You'll also learn about Mayan culture at a local village. Here you'll make tortillas from scratch (then sample your creations!), see firsthand how chocolate goes from bean to bar, and try your hand at traditional basket-weaving and Mayan dances.

Day 5: Punta Gorda

Support biodiversity during a reforestation project, which helps to stabilize riverbanks, decrease erosion, and improve water quality. Experience Belize's beauty from above as you zipline through the treetops over the Rio Grande. Tonight, learn traditional drumming techniques from the indigenous Garifuna people before enjoying a locally sourced dinner cooked over a fire hearth.

Day 6: Punta Gorda | Southern coast

Explore the Port Honduras Marine Reserve, where you will visit the Abalone Caye Ranger Station, participate in an underwater transect survey, and get an up-close look at marine life while snorkeling. You'll also visit Punta Negra and learn how climate change and coastal erosion are affecting this community. Help local scientists monitor the manatee population before traveling to the southern coast.

Day 7: Southern coast | Tobacco Caye

Take a day trip to the island of Tobacco Caye. Here, visit a nearby marine research field station and snorkel along the longest barrier reef in the Western Hemisphere. You'll also participate in a beach cleanup activity and hear more about the impact of plastic pollution from an expert.

Day 8: Depart for home

<

Learn how to make tortillas from scratch at a local Mayan village.



The world leader in international education

For over 50 years, EF has been working toward one global mission: *Opening the World Through Education*. Your teacher has partnered with EF because of our unmatched worldwide presence, our focus on affordability, and our commitment to providing experiences that teach critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and global competence.

AFFORDABILITY

We always offer the guaranteed lowest prices so more students have the opportunity to travel and experience the world.

INSIGHT

We believe in experiential learning at the most important sites. Your Tour Director is with you at every step, providing their own perspective and local tips.

SAFETY

We're committed to your safety. With 600+ schools and offices in over 50 countries, EF staff can react quickly and in person wherever you travel.

THE EASIEST WAYS TO ENROLL TODAY

Enroll online
eftours.com/enroll

Enroll by phone
800-665-5364

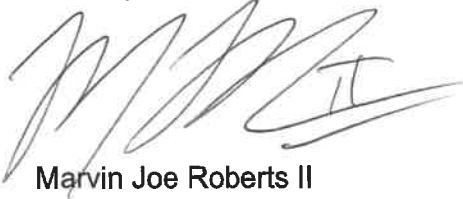
Mail your enrollment form
EF Educational Tours
Two Education Circle
Cambridge, MA 02141

To the Ridgedale Board of Education, Administration and Community,

I will not be returning as the Head Football Coach for the 2021-2022 season.

Thank you for the opportunity to coach this football program over the past four seasons. It has been an honor to coach the athletes of Ridgedale and watch them grow into adults and members of the community. I am thankful that I was blessed with the opportunity to work not only with the athletes at Ridgedale but also the community. I feel that this is in the best interest of the program and the community moving forward. I will be forever grateful to those that have helped me during these past four years and wish the program continued success moving into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJ Roberts II', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marvin Joe Roberts II

