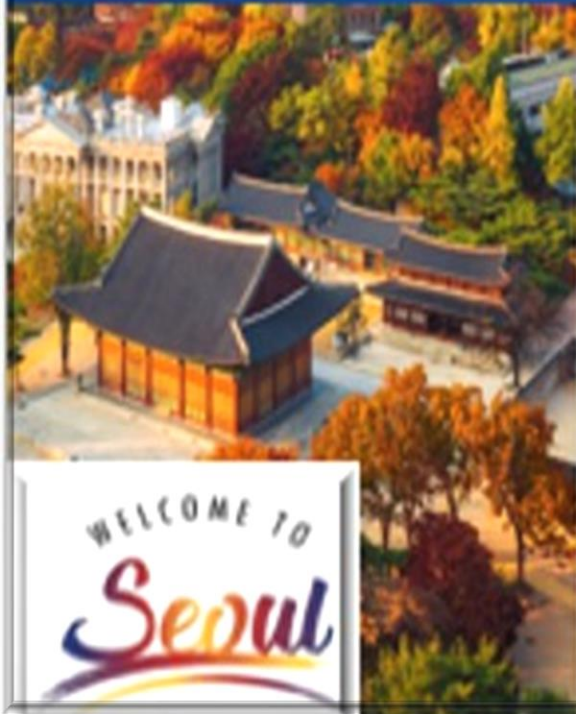


← **explorica** →
by WorldStrides



South Korea and Japan

June 17 – June 26, 2025

Join Matthew Haley and Jason Albrecht, in conjunction with Explorica by WorldStrides Student Travel, on a 14-day trip-of-a-lifetime to South Korea and Japan! For more information and complete details please visit us at www.globalexpeditions.weebly.com

*Note – this trip is not affiliated with Moscow Middle School or the Moscow School District. It is an independent student/parent educational opportunity.

Tonight's Agenda



+

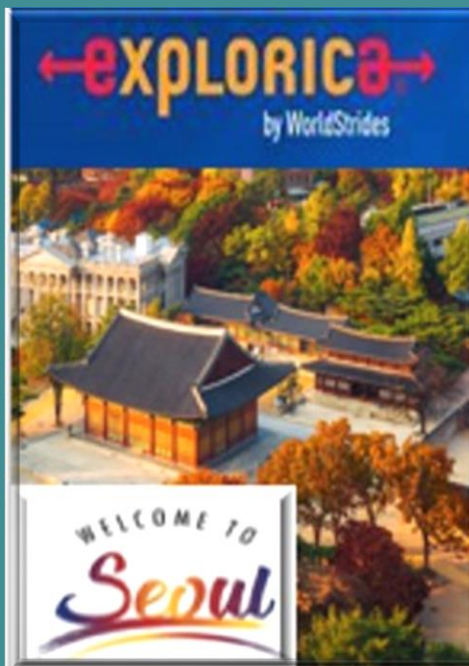


- Introduction and Video
- Why travel as a middle school student
- Safety matters
- Travel and Covid
- Day-by-day itinerary
- Introduce the group leaders
- Total number of travelers
- Introduce Explorica
- An educational experience, not a vacation
- Expense breakdown
- Monthly payment options
- What is included?
- What is not included?
- Spending cash
- Fundraising overview
- Application process
- Selection process
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Selection timeline
- Question/Comments/Freaking outs 😊



This presentation, additional information, and travel applications are located at:

globalxpeditions.weebly.com



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GlobalXpeditions

Expanding your world view through international travel

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At "Globalxpeditions"

South Korea and Japan 2025 Promotional Video



Why travel as a middle school student?

- Learn and understand first-hand about people & societies around the world
- A good time to bond with your child before life gets too busy with high school activities
- A valuable world experience and personal growth opportunity that they can apply in their high school & college classes
- Creates strong friendships that only a shared travel experience can provide and genuine personal growth
- Helps students appreciate and understand where they live in a whole new light

Switzerland 2023



France 2022



Portugal 2019



London 2018



China 2013



Spain 2014



Japan 2015



Greece/Italy 2016



Bavaria 2017

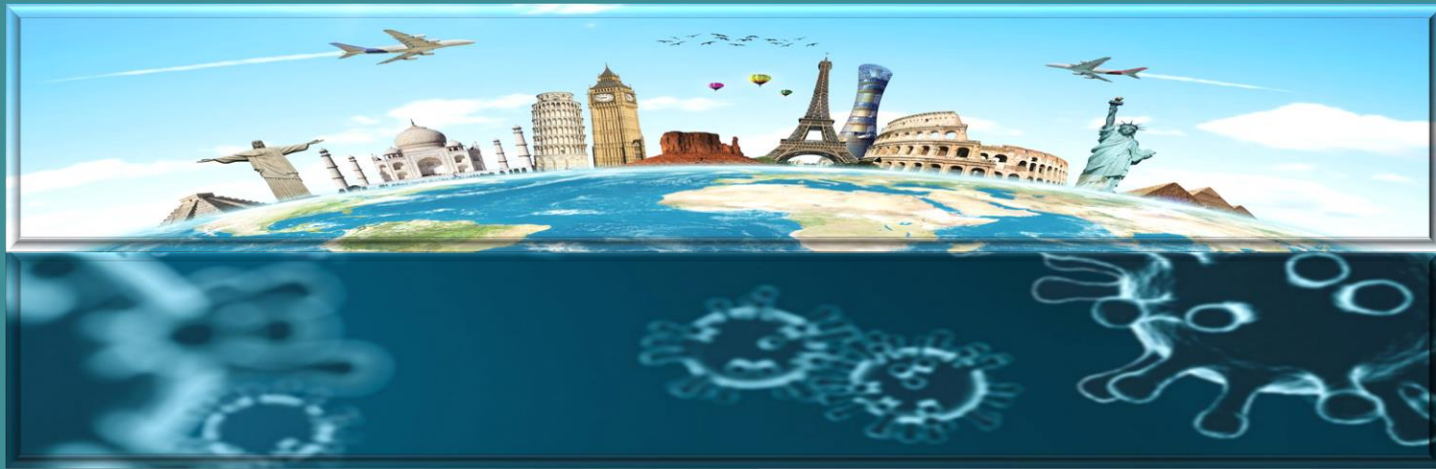


Safetymatters

- Explorica, State Department, CDC
 - Matthew and Jason don't decide when it is safe to travel ... we have a network of experts.
- Is it safe to travel now?
 - We will re-evaluate every trip IF something arises in that area, region, etc.
- Seen it before...Japan and Tsunami, China and North Korea issues, France and train strikes, Turkey and security issues, Covid 19 pandemic
- What happens if a new Covid surge arises
 - What if ... ?



How has Covid changed our trips?



Travel in the age of Covid

- **Flexibility and adaptability** are KEY for all international travel
 - Vaccinations are required prior to travel and all travelers are expect to be **AT LEAST** double boosted prior to June 2025 – Additional vaccines may be required in the future
 - The goal is to be healthy and remain on tour ... we will do all we can to ensure that happens
 - Flights are fewer and hotels, busses, and planes have increased protocols
 - Masking is a possibility - all travelers will be required to pack and wear a mask if requested by trip leaders
 - Passports are taking longer to acquire, and visas are becoming more prevalent – as of now, none of our locations require a visas and if that changes, we will notify you

Our Trip Itinerary

Depart the USA on June 17 (This date may change by a day or two depending on flight options)



Day 1

➤ Fly to Seoul, South Korea



Day 2 – “Anyong” (Hello) South Korea

- Meet our Korean tour director
- Check into our Hotel
- Welcome Korean Dinner



Day 3 – Seoul

- Travel to the DMZ
 - Imjingak Park
 - 3rd infiltration tunnel
 - Dora Observatory
- Seoul sightseeing tour
 - Insadong Cultural Street
 - Cheonggyecheon Canal Walk
 - Namsan Hanok Village Visit
 - North Seoul Tower and observatory
- Dinner and a good night's sleep



Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)



Namsan Hanok Village



North Seoul Tower

Day 4 – Seoul to Busan

- Travel to Busan via the KTX Express
- Visit the Heodong Yonggungsa Temple
- Dongba island & APEC Nurimaru House visit
- Free time on Haeundae Beach
- Traditional Korean Dinner

KTX Express



Haeundae Beach



Dongba island & APEC Nurimaru House

Day 5 – Busan

- Busan guided sightseeing tour:
 - Yongdusan Park
 - Busan Tower
 - Jagalchi fish market and the Kukje market
- Oryukdo sunrise park
- Gamecheon Village
- Drone Show at Gwangalli Beach
- Korean Dinner



Busan, South Korea



Jagalchi Fish Market

Drone Show Busan 2022



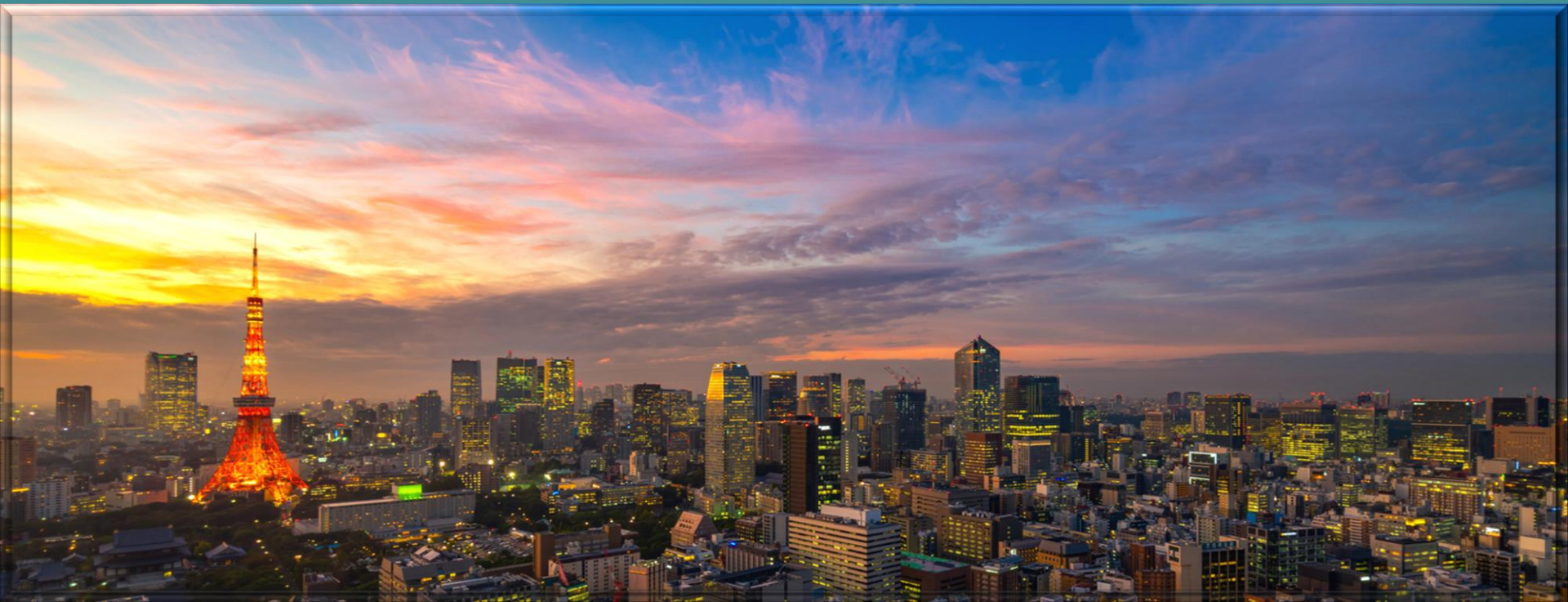
Gwangalli Beach Drone Show

Day 6 – Busan to Tokyo

- Fly to Tokyo
- Meet our Japanese tour director and check into the hotel
- Ramen Dinner



Japanese Ramen Meal



Day 7 – Tokyo

- Tokyo guided sightseeing tour:
 - Visit the Senso-ji temple
 - Imperial Palace Garden
 - Meiji Shrine
 - the Harajuku District
- Kendo Experience
- Yakiniku Japanese BBQ Dinner



Kendo



Yakiniku Japanese BBQ



Senso-Ji Temple

Day 8 – Tokyo

- TeamLab Planet visit
- Attend a Japanese tea ceremony
- Tokyo Tower visit
- Tempura Dinner



Tea Ceremony



Team Lab Immersive Art



Japanese Tempura

Day 9 – Tokyo-Mt. Fuji

- Travel to Mt. Fuji
- Mt Fuji Wind and Ice Caves visit
- Travel to Kyoto
- Sushi Dinner



Sushi



Wind and Ice Caves



Mt. Fuji

Day 10 – Mt. Fuji to Kyoto

- Nara excursion:
 - Visit the Nara Deer Park
 - Todai-ji Temple
 - Kasuga Grand Shrine
- Kyoto guided sightseeing tour:
 - Visit the Kinkaku-Ji Temple
 - Fushimi Inari Taisha gates
 - Sanjusangen-do Temple
- Soba Noodle Farewell Dinner



Nara Deer Park



Fushimi Inari Taisha Gate

Day 11 – Return Home



Memories made



Trip Leaders: Jason Albrecht, Matthew Haley,
Stacy Albrecht, Daniel Haley, and Sara Lawrence



Student Applicants – trip focus
Adult Applicants – supporting role

Number of trip participants

- Trip Leaders.....5 positions
 - Matthew Haley and Jason Albrecht – Travel Leaders
 - Daniel Haley – Fundraising and Photo Guy
 - Stacy Albrecht – Social Media and Packing Guru 😊
 - Sara Lawrence – Safety and Health Advisor
- Student Applicants..... Est. 31 spots available
- Adult Applicants.....Est. 8 spots available

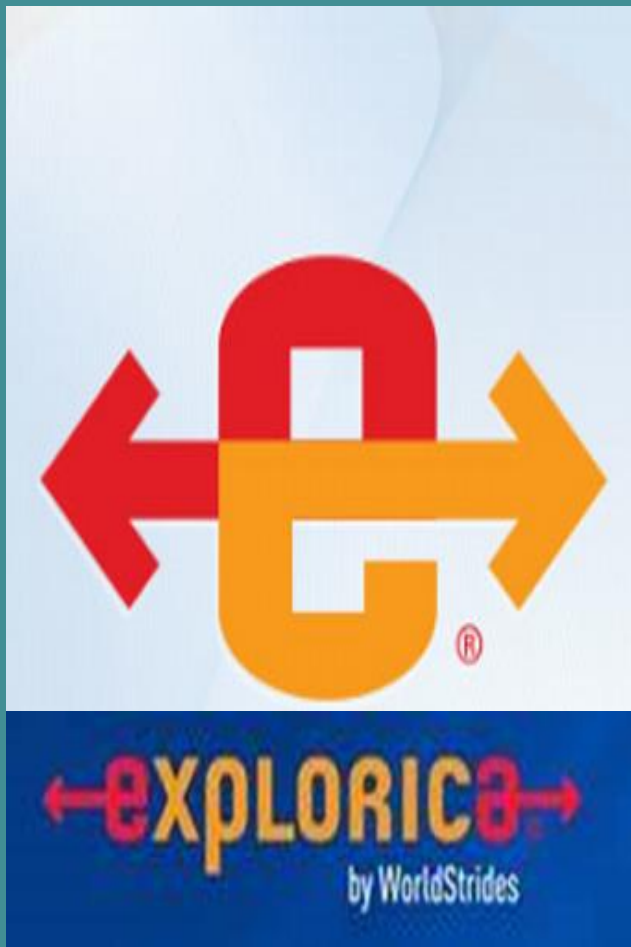


Trip total = 44 travelers

Note: This is the total number of seats on the bus in Japan and South Korea

Who is Explorica by World Strides?

Our travel Partner



the
experience
is everything.®

Create a unique educational opportunity ... this is more than just a trip!

- Pre and post trip meetings: 85% attendance required for ALL travelers
 - A detailed calendar will be provided if accepted at our first meeting
 - Expect two Saturday events and at least six additional weeknight meetings
- Informational meetings including history, culture, travel tips, travel preparations and more
- Team building Saturdays activities



Student Cost = \$5,483 Est. 328.56/mo. (16 payments)

Adult Cost = \$6,013* Est. \$361.69/mo. (16 payments)

Project Cost Breakdown / Summary

Program Fee + Bus from Moscow to Spokane and back	\$5,973
All Inclusive Travel Insurance (required)	\$176
<i>Adult Supplement</i>	\$530
Additional Adjustment Discounts	-\$665
Student Traveler Cost	\$5,483
Adult Traveler Cost	\$6.013*
Total Due at Sign-in by November 29 at 3:30 pm. This will be your first payment due at signing and is deducted from the total cost.	\$226



Japanese Yen
1 USD= 149.88 Yen



South Korean Won
1 USD= 1,345.35 Won

We will run FOUR all group fundraisers to help you raise money for the trip

* Adult cost will adjust down by \$14 to \$5,999 in Feb of 2024

Monthly Payment Plan Benefits

- Automatic deduction from your checking account each month. Approximately \$329/month for students and \$362/month for adults
- A 2% fee will be added for those using credit cards
- 16 monthly payments
- Final payment deadline up to 35 days prior to departure
- Other payment options are available



NOTE: Is the cost of this trip tax deductible? No, Explorica by WorldStrides is a for profit company and our trips are NOT affiliated with the Moscow School District

What is included?

- Round trip airfare from Spokane (most likely)
- Lodging in Hotels
 - Students: 3 to 4 per room depending on location (students with students)
 - Adults: 2 per room (adults with adults)
- Transportation throughout the trip from MMS back to MMS
- Explorica tour director(s) to guide us on the ground
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Guided sightseeing/walking tours
- Entrance fees to selected attractions



What is not included?

- \$50 for two pre-trip team building activities
- \$100 for gratuities for the Tour Directors
- Lunches, beverages, and snacks throughout the day
- Passport fees
- Covid tests as needed
- Souvenirs
- Additional airline baggage fees
- Phone calls and Wi-Fi Access
- Any additional country entrance fees/visas
- We recommend \$500 for additional expenses on tour (souvenirs, lunches, etc.)



Spending Cash



- \$500 spending cash encouraged for lunches and souvenirs
- If Covid tests are required by countries or airlines, then this is an additional expense to the applicant – estimated \$200
- Use our fundraisers to help you earn this trip!



Fundraisers with Daniel

➤ Group Fundraisers

- We will help with FOUR group fundraisers
 - Valentine's Sale
 - Mother's Day Sale
 - September Land Grove Coffee sale
 - December Christmas wreath sale

➤ Individual Fundraisers

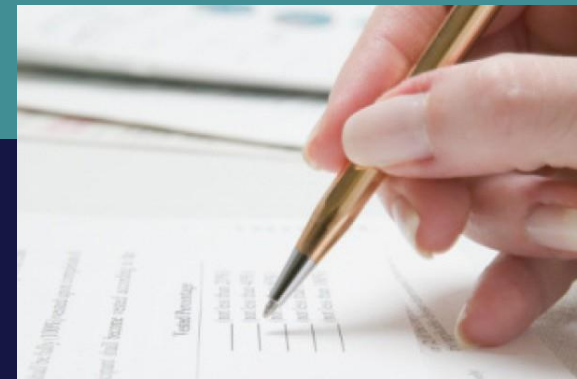
- All additional fundraising will be done on your own or in groups of your choosing
 - Ideas/examples (see our website)
 - Business card templates
 - Holiday donation letter templates
- You also have access to a personal *fundraising page* through Explorica
 - <https://www.explorica.com/teachers/affordability/fundraising/personal-fundraising-pages.aspx>



Four Steps

1. Complete an application and return it to one of the trip leaders ASAP. Deadline: Wednesday, November 15th at 3:30pm).
2. Wait for a confirmation email from the trip leaders by Friday, November 17th by 5:00pm
3. Once your application is accepted, complete the online instructions to enroll and pay your non-refundable \$226 (\$50 sign up plus \$176 required Insurance fee). This must be completed by 3:30pm Wednesday, Nov 29.
4. Attend first group meeting on December 11th, 2023 at 7pm in the MPR at MMS

Application process



Selection criteria are as follows:

How will travelers be selected?

1. Probability of success while abroad
2. Completeness and professionalism of application
3. Strength of application answers
4. Legacy: Has a family member traveled previously
5. Order of received application



Applications



International Travel Opportunity – Student Application – South Korea and Japan 2025



Have you or a family member traveled with us before? **Y or N** If so, on what trip and where? _____

Who was the family member(s)? _____ Have you ever applied to travel with us before? **Y or N**

Do you have any other family members or relatives who have traveled with you **FOR THIS** trip? If so, who? _____

Biography Section: (Print Neatly)

Name (First): _____ Last: _____ MI: _____

Date of Birth (mo/day/yr): _____ Current Grade level: _____ Current School: _____

Your Phone Number: _____ Your Email Address: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ State & Zip: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name (best emergency contact): _____

Parent/Guardian's Phone Number: (_____) _____ Email Address: _____

Home Address (if different from above): _____ City: _____ State & Zip: _____

Other Parent/Guardian (if applicable): _____

Parent/Guardian's Phone Number: (_____) _____ Email Address: _____

SAMPLE Application only! See our website or one of the trip leaders for an actual application

Home Address (if different from above): _____ City: _____ State & Zip: _____

Student Questionnaire Section: *(Typed responses are **preferred** – please attach all sheets to this application)*

1. Have you ever traveled outside of the United States? If so, where, and why?
2. Why are you interested in this trip and this location?
3. Traveling abroad can be a very stressful experience. Please explain a stressful or difficult challenge that you have faced in your life and tell us how you overcame that challenge.

See Back →

4. What do you hope to learn or gain from this once-in-a life-time opportunity?

5. If you are selected for this trip, will you be willing to attend **ALL** the required pre- and post-trip meetings (this will include several weeknights and a few weekends)? Yes No

SAMPLE Application only! See our website or one of the trip leaders for an actual application

6. Are you **ABLE** to participate in this VERY active travel trip (i.e., physically, mentally, and emotionally?) **Physically**, this will include early mornings and late evenings and walking 10,000-20,000 steps daily. **Emotionally and mentally**, this will include being with a large group, cooperating with others, being away from home in a new environment, trying new foods, and being able to advocate for yourself while abroad? Yes No

7. **(Optional):** Please list the names of (no more than two) people that you would like to travel with.
Name: _____ Name: _____

Question # 8 is for NON – Moscow Middle School Students ONLY

8. Please list at least two NON-MMS teachers who would recommend you for this trip.
Teacher 1: (Name) _____ (Phone #) _____ (School) _____
Teacher 2: (Name) _____ (Phone #) _____ (School) _____

Signature: By signing below:

- * I agree to be fully vaccinated and boosted (at least twice) prior to travel and to complete all travel related Covid-19 tests required by the trip leaders. I also agree to wear a mask when requested
- * If accepted, I am willing to provide a passport that is valid 6 months post tour & obtain any required visas
- * I understand that I am applying for an educational travel trip with Mr. Albrecht and Mr. Haley, this trip is **not** affiliated with Moscow Middle School or the Moscow School District
- * I understand that the complete cost of this trip must be paid in full prior to the departure date
- * I certify that my parents and guardians are informed and approve of this submitted application
- * I understand that filling out this application does not guarantee that I will have the opportunity to go on this trip. Due to the limited number of spots available, this is an application and selection process, which means that the best and most qualified applicants will go.

By signing I acknowledge that I have read and understand/agree with the terms above:

Student Name (Printed) _____ Student Signature: _____
Parent Name (Printed) _____ Parent Signature: _____

**This application must be complete and submitted to Mr. Haley, or Mr. Albrecht, or Mrs. Albrecht by no later than:
November 15 at 3:30pm**

Additional Information about this travel opportunity can be found at www.globalxpeditions.weebly.com and do not forget to "LIKE" us on Facebook!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

➤ Dietary options?

- Explorica does have different meal options depending on individual needs. Explorica will accommodate all medical and/or religious requirements but does not cater to dietary preferences.

➤ Medications while abroad?

- Students are responsible for all needed medications while on tour (please notify trip leaders of ANY medical issues prior to the trip). We expect “INDEPENDENT TRAVELERS”, and all applicants will be responsible for their own medical needs. We travel with a medical professional for emergency proposes only.

➤ How do I know if I am a good applicant?

- If you can answer “yes” to the question below, then you are a good applicant
 - Are you ABLE to participate in this VERY active travel trip (i.e., physically, mentally, and emotionally?) Physically, this will include early mornings and late evenings and walking 10,000-20,000 steps daily. Emotionally and mentally, this will include being with a large group, cooperating with others, being away from home in a new environment, trying new foods and being able to advocate for yourself while abroad.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Are these travel dates guaranteed?
 - No, while we are 95% sure these dates are correct, our dates could shift one or two days either way depending on flight availability. We will not know our final dates until about 110 days prior to departure.

- Are we guaranteed to fly out of the Spokane Airport?
 - No, flight options might change our departure gateway. No matter where we fly in and out of however, Explorica will bus us to the correct airport at no additional expense to our group. We will not know our final departure gateway until about 110 days prior to departure.

- Can I "go ahead" or "stay behind" on this tour?
 - No, due to recent travel issues and the chaos, it causes the rest of the group and the individual travelers, there will be no deviations to the group itineraries. We will depart MMS together and return to MMS together.

- Are all items in the current itinerary “guaranteed” as part of this trip?
 - We aim to deliver all the items shared on the flyer. With that said, nothing in travel is guaranteed due to the ever-changing and evolving travel landscape. We will let you know of changes as we become aware of them. Some changes may also occur while on tour and might be unforeseeable. Know our goal is to provide the tour pitched, but we expect all travelers to be flexible when things change.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Can adults/parents go?
 - Yes, applications are available tonight. We allow one parent per student up to 8 adults unless additional space is available.

- Can a relative go on the trip?
 - Yes, but they must complete an adult application and meet the minimum age requirements of 23.

- What if I cannot pay the full trip cost?
 - Once you commit to this trip you are obligated to pay your way.
 - There are penalties for early withdrawal with Explorica.

- Does applying for previous trips help or hurt my chances for this tour?
 - Every tour is independent which means previous applications do not impact this tour's selection process.

- Does my academic performance and behavior at school impact my chances of going?
 - Yes, we are looking for travelers who are trustworthy, responsible, and respectful to ensure the tour is a success for all.

Participant Selection Timeline

- **November 6** – Parent meeting and applications are out
- **November 15** – Applications are DUE by 3:30 pm and will be reviewed by the trip leaders
- **November 17** – Acceptance letters are sent out electronically late afternoon
- **November 29** – Accepted travelers must be enrolled online with Explorica by 3:30 pm and have paid the non-refundable \$50 fee plus required insurance \$176 (\$226 total)
- **November 29 after 3:30 pm** – Accepted applicants who are not enrolled will lose their spot to an alternate who will be informed by 6:00 pm
- **December 6 by 3:00 pm** – Alternate travelers must be signed up with Explorica
- **December 11** – 1st all group meeting 7:00 pm in the MMS MPR



Questions, Comments, Freaking Outs?

- Any group relevant questions – Please ask now
- All group leaders are available for additional questions after the meeting
- Chat with a few adult travelers from past trips
- Contact us via email at matthewghaley@gmail.com
- Contact us via phone at (509) 330-2182
- This PowerPoint and trip details can be found at our website at Globalxpeditions.weebly.com
- Like us on Facebook at Globalxpeditions



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