



EDUCATIONAL
TOURS

Our Global Learning Model

Educational travel that makes a lasting impact



Welcome to the world of EF

Founded in Sweden in 1965, EF is an educational travel company that's built itself on a foundation of education for the past 55+ years. At EF, we believe in one simple truth—that the world is better when people seek to understand one another. When you travel with EF, you get to take part in experiential travel programs designed to spark curiosity, confidence, and awareness—all while broadening your perspective.

In this booklet, you'll learn about our educational philosophy, which illustrates how our tour experiences help students grow. We'll also introduce you to our Global Learning Model, which we've created in collaboration with Canadian educators and school administrators, to make sure the impact of our programs meets the needs of learners across Canada.

In our five decades of operation (with three decades operating in Canada), we've shown that we can adapt to the changing needs of educators and learners, all while preparing students for the future. Our mission of Opening the World Through Education is an enduring one—and it guides us wherever we go.

Our **Global Learning Model** prepares students for *the* future and *their* futures

Our educational philosophy

We're an education company first. Experiential travel is simply how we bring learning to life. That's why we design each of our physical journeys to spark even more powerful personal ones—helping students learn more about the world, themselves, and the impact they can make in the world.

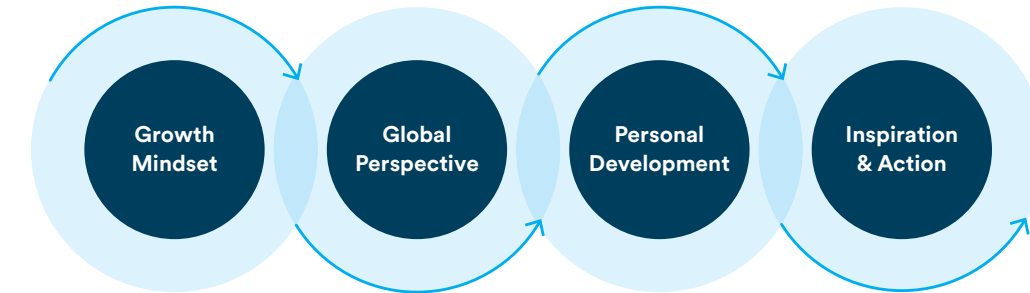
EF tours amplify the lessons educators teach in the classroom by enabling hands-on, real-world experiences that open students' minds and encourage them to become more well-rounded. Our programs, backed by research and designed with travel-based learning outcomes in mind, help students emerge from tour with a unique perspective.

Each traveller gains something different when they travel with us—whether that's newfound confidence or a greater sense of empathy that inspires them to have deeper conversations in their own communities. However, one thing remains the same: students return home with accelerated potential to take on the world and dive into ever-expanding growth.

Every EF program features four types of travel-based educational pillars that inform our tour design. We've consulted with educators and school administrators across Canada to make sure these pillars connect to classroom learnings and support the development of travellers through connection, reflection, and action.

Educational outcomes

The four pillars of our tours



Growth Mindset

Travellers will learn to embrace new opportunities and challenges with an open mind.

They will:

- ✓ Expand their sense of wonder, curiosity, and creativity
- ✓ Participate in new and authentic experiences
- ✓ Become more adaptable and flexible while embracing challenges

Global Perspective

Travellers will understand the value of building global awareness by engaging with other cultures.

They will:

- ✓ Reflect on similarities and differences through cross-cultural connections
- ✓ Broaden their worldview while exploring cultural customs, beliefs, and languages
- ✓ Engage with cultural, social, ethical, and environmental matters as world citizens

Personal Development

Travellers will develop both personal and interpersonal skills through self-reflection when they expand their horizons abroad.

They will:

- ✓ Increase their independence, confidence, empathy, and self-awareness
- ✓ Practice critical thinking skills and increase their problem-solving abilities
- ✓ Learn to engage with peers, educators, and local communities in a global context

Inspiration & Action

Travellers will be prompted to consider their impact and influence in an ever-changing world.

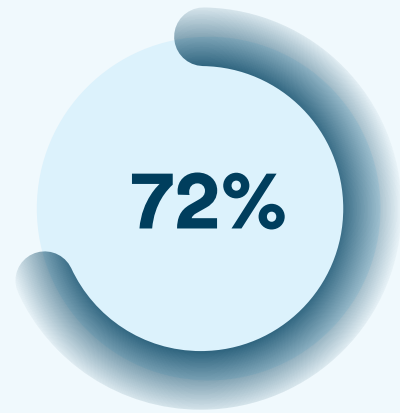
They will:

- ✓ Connect their experiences to their classroom and broader community
- ✓ Consider initiating change and advocating for causes they're passionate about
- ✓ Be inspired to apply their newfound capabilities and expanded viewpoints to their own lives

Learning outcomes you can see, change you can feel

We've seen the benefits of travel-based learning firsthand and recognize all the ways these opportunities help prepare travellers for everything that's ahead. Here's what educators had to say about their experiences on tour.

GROWTH MINDSET



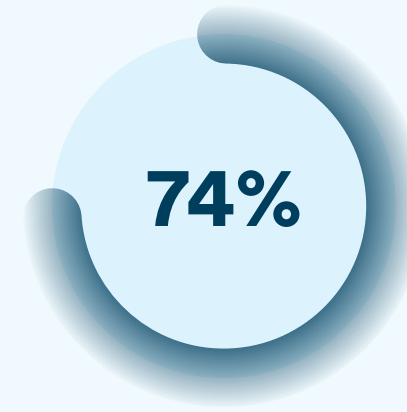
say their students discovered more about themselves

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



say their students expanded their knowledge of the world

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



say their students grew more confident and independent

INSPIRATION & ACTION



say their students understood new people, places, and cultures

“When we return from travelling, students bring their newfound experiences to the classroom in their ability to speak up more quickly and make connections to things they see and are discussed. These are often the students who will speak up for others and become leaders in our schools.”

Erin A.
Teacher

Source: EF Educational Tours 2019 Group Leader Evaluations (North America)

Tour learning components

How we achieve our educational outcomes on tour

Inspired by our mission of Opening the World Through Education, all our programs include four key learning components that inform our tour design. Together with our Global Learning Model, these components help foster global competencies in every student in meaningful ways on tour.

“As soon as I came back from my first trip, I decided to take in other perspectives that I hadn’t noticed before. I took more chances, I became a better global citizen, and I realized I had such potential to have an impact on the world.”

Alexis K.
Student



Cultural engagement

By connecting with locals and the broader community, our programs offer meaningful, authentic experiences that help travellers develop new perspectives while immersed in a different culture.

Guided learning

From participating in guided sightseeing to interactive discussions, our programs emphasize deep, intentional learning and development facilitated by local experts who help bring learning to life.

Active learning

Our itineraries are designed to ignite curiosity and creativity through hands-on experiences. Whether it’s navigating a new city, ordering lunch in a different language, or taking part in an environmental restoration project, we introduce travellers to new opportunities, concepts, and perspectives that apply skills to the real world and promote critical thinking.

Independent discovery

Safe and structured time to explore is just as important as group participation. Our tours foster independence and self-knowledge, so travellers develop a sense of responsibility while becoming more aware of themselves in the world.

What teachers are saying

“Once you get out and see how others live in various countries, it really puts students’ daily concerns and thoughts into perspective. Often, they have a new confident outlook on how to face challenges when they return, and it becomes especially valuable considering many of them are heading off to university or other post-secondary within months of returning from their trip.”

Sarah F.
Teacher

“Educational travel is like breaking down the walls of the classroom and having students see the concepts and ideas. What’s super important for me is to [understand] that your way of being in the world is not the only way.”

Anne T.
Teacher

“Travel can make students question their own pre-conceptions about how society should run, and gives them confidence to push their own personal boundaries as a result. These watershed moments that occur spontaneously on EF tours don’t have to have a grand gesture, but can reveal themselves in more subtle ways.”

Kenton Z.
Teacher

“[Travel] changes the way the kids view the world. It’s perspective-shifting in such a major way. It fundamentally changes who they are as human beings and the way they look at the role they have to play in the global community.”

Ben B.
Teacher



“Seeing places and things we learned about in textbooks come to life gave me such a magical feeling in the pit of my stomach that I have never felt before.”

Jessica G.
Student

“[My experience] opened my eyes to the world and has helped me become a more grateful and empowered person. To have what I have, to go to the school I go to, and to have the opportunities I have shows me how lucky I am. I feel as though there’s so much more I want to do to help the world around me.”

Alessia G.
Student



Let’s keep the conversation going

We’re passionate about experiential learning, and we want to learn more about you and your school’s needs. If you have thoughts, questions, or ideas, connect with our Canadian global education team at global.learning@ef.com.



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Discover the genuine impact EF educational tours have on students, educators, and local and global communities—then learn how you can bring the same opportunities to your school.



eftours.ca



1-800-387-1460