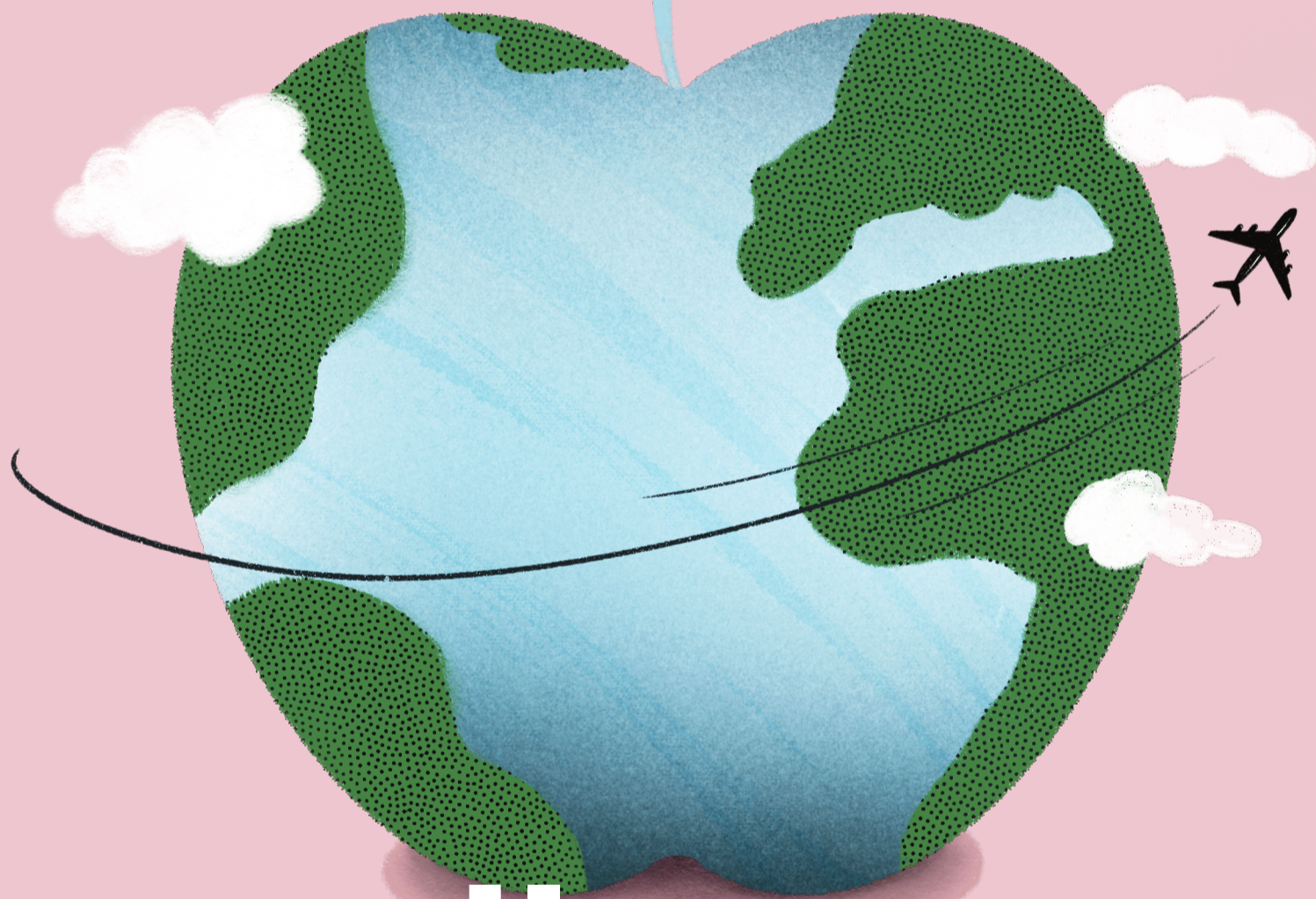




EDUCATIONAL  
TOURS 

eftours.ca  
1-800-387-1460

# Travel is



# an endless education

A guide for teachers who want to change their students' lives through travel



# Let's spark something greater.

As an educator, you have the special ability to influence how your students experience learning beyond the classroom. That means you get to give them an opportunity to understand the world, themselves, and themselves in the world, in a unique way.

When your students travel with us, they don't just visit a place—they make real-world connections to different cultures, communities, and people. At EF, we emphasize these profound connections, because we know they can help students unlock their potential and inspire what's next.

It's not only about what they take in—it's about what they bring back home. With accelerated personal growth, open-mindedness, and cultural understanding, the trips they take impact their family, friends, and community in ways you'd never imagine. Suddenly, the world seems bigger and full of possibility. That's the ripple effect of travel.

So don't be surprised if you return to the same home and the same school, but you've noticed something has changed within them—and even within yourself. Because travel changes everything.

[Embark on your journey →](#)

WHERE TO BEGIN:

# Top 6 tours for teachers new to travel

Travel has a special ability to make classroom learning come to life for students and impact their development at a young age. Our tours provide opportunities to directly link classroom concepts to real-life examples and contexts.

Sounds good, right? Maybe you're interested in booking an educational tour, but you're not sure where to start. Luckily, we've got experts who can help.

With over 350 itineraries to choose from, our specialized Education team travels around the world and designs our tours built with teachers' goals in mind—and that's exactly what sets our tours apart.

But with so many itineraries in store, it can be hard to know where to start. That's one reason why our team selected these tours for first-time teacher travellers (also known as Group Leaders at EF). These tours can cover a lot of ground, they're interactive, and they add value to the curriculum. In short? We've got a lot of know-how that helps us produce these experiences for teachers just like you. Read on for our most popular tours with first timers.

Explore all six tours online at [eftours.ca/newgroupleader](https://eftours.ca/newgroupleader)



## Grand Tour of Italy

Venice, Florence, Assisi, Sorrento Region, Rome

10–12 days | [eftours.ca/gti](https://eftours.ca/gti)

In Italy you can travel through thousands of years of history to witness some of humankind's most transformative moments. Ancient Roman advances in engineering made the Colosseum possible. At the Duomo in Renaissance Florence, the world took its first steps out of the Dark Ages. And Venice's Grand Canal was at the heart of one of the world's great naval powers.

**This tour is for you if you want...**

- ✓ An in-depth tour of one (really amazing) country
- ✓ Short transfer times in between different cities and towns



## Costa Rica: A Touch of the Tropics

San José, Arenal Region, Monteverde, Central Pacific Coast

9–10 days | [eftours.ca/cos](https://eftours.ca/cos)

With well-protected national reserves and an unparalleled diversity of wildlife, Costa Rica is the jewel of Central America. The Arenal Region showcases an active volcano, hot springs, and a broad range of flora and fauna. In Monteverde, visit a local school, and in Manuel Antonio National Park keep your eyes open for sloth, toucans and howler monkeys.

**This tour is for you if you want...**

- ✓ A busy and active itinerary with limited free time
- ✓ Non-stop nature adventures like wildlife spotting

## Human Rights Leadership

Winnipeg

6 days

[eftours.ca/wpg](http://eftours.ca/wpg)

Experience an immersive leadership program at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Visit Winnipeg and empower yourself to make a difference as you engage in exhibitions and workshops focusing on human rights. Deepen your understanding of Manitoba when you visit French-speaking St. Boniface, admire the collection at the Qaumajuq Inuit Art Gallery, and participate in a workshop with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

### This tour is for you if you want...

- ✓ A domestic tour (no passports or visas required)
- ✓ An accessible price and location
- ✓ Strong, interactive educational programming



## Grecian Odyssey

Athens, Cape Sounion, Epidaurus, Argolida, Mycenae, Olympia, Delphi, and more

9–12 days

[eftours.ca/gro](http://eftours.ca/gro)

In the capital of Athens, namesake of the goddess Athena, walk in the footsteps of ancient Greeks at the Acropolis and in the footsteps of current residents in the Plaka district. In Delphi, Epidaurus and Cape Sounion, learn how an old belief in mythological figures still influences medicine, politics and philosophy.

### This tour is for you if you want...

- ✓ A balance of large cities and smaller towns
- ✓ To go on one of our most popular tours!



## Canada's Battlefields

Amsterdam, Vimy Region, Normandy Region, Paris

10–12 days

[eftours.ca/cab](http://eftours.ca/cab)

Follow in the footsteps of the brave Canadian soldiers who fought on the beaches of Normandy and through the trenches at Vimy. Later, stroll along the streets and canals of Amsterdam, a city once occupied by German forces and liberated by Canada.

### This tour is for you if you want...

- ✓ To focus on Canadian history in a powerful way
- ✓ To show how travel can instantly add value to the curriculum



LA VIE EST BELLE



## Paris & the Châteaux

Paris, Loire Valley, St. Malo, Normandy

9–11 days

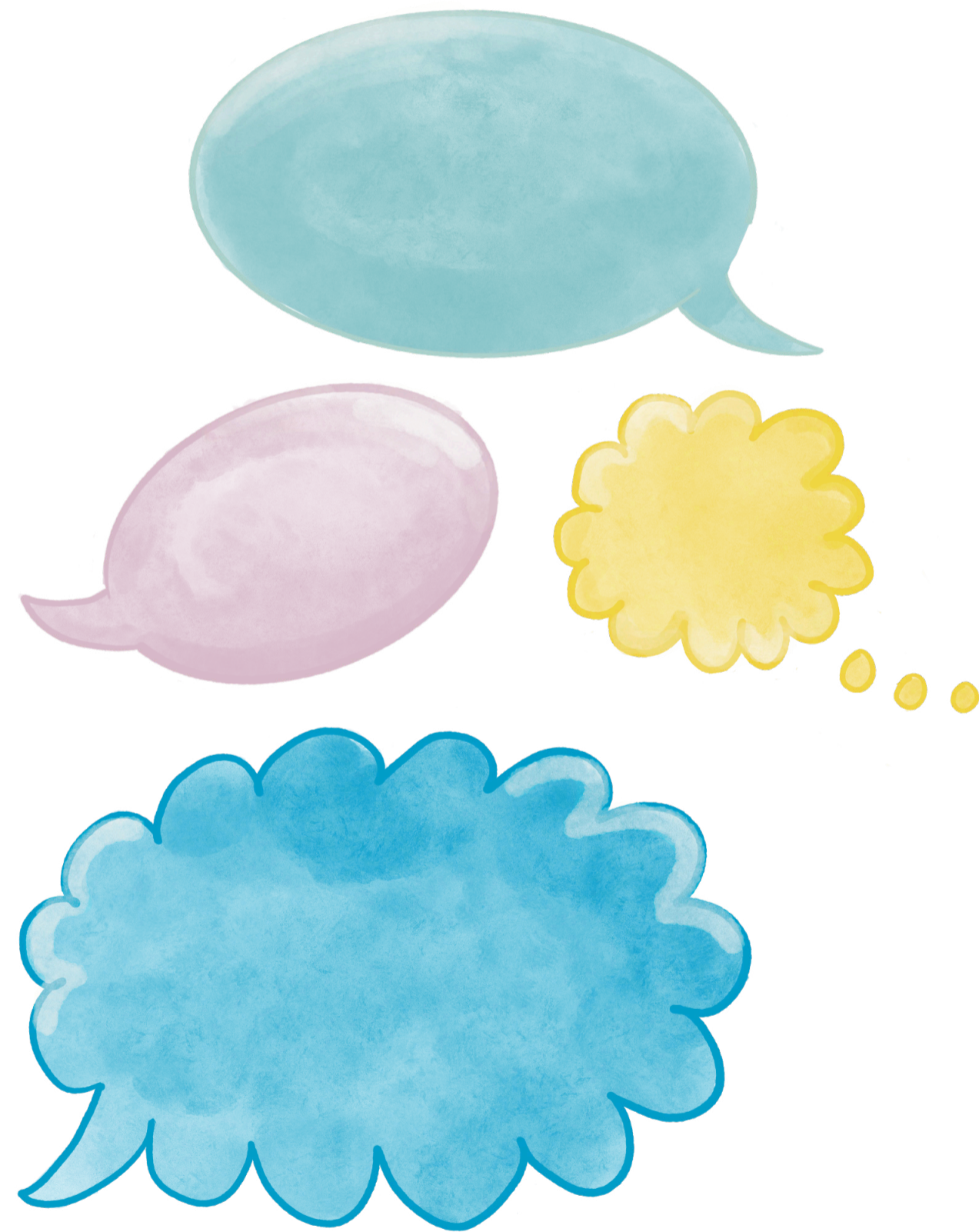
[eftours.ca/pch](http://eftours.ca/pch)

The cathedrals of Chartres and Rouen (where Joan of Arc was born) inspire wonder; it's amazing such grandeur was possible so long ago. Deep in the Loire Valley, the châteaux at Amboise and Chenonceau are equally awe-inspiring; every structure provides a fascinating window into France's history and architectural heritage.

### This tour is for you if you want...

- ✓ Limited travel time on the ground
- ✓ An in-depth tour of one (fantastic) country
- ✓ A mix of big cities and smaller towns
- ✓ A strong connection to the history curriculum

# Getting started with EF



There's a lot to be excited about when it comes to the tour planning process—from selecting your itinerary, to promoting your tour, to prepping your travellers for their first big experience away from home. We spoke with two new Group Leaders to hear about how they're getting their very first tours off the ground, why they're doing it, and how EF is helping them through the process.



**Nicole R.**, Teacher

First-time Group Leader with EF

Travelling to London, Paris, Florence and Rome | [eftours.ca/lpr](https://eftours.ca/lpr)



**Quinn M.**, Teacher

First-time Group Leader with EF

Travelling to Greece | [eftours.ca/gro](https://eftours.ca/gro)

Interested in planning your first tour? You and your group could receive a travel bursary for 2024. Check out our new incentive at [eftours.ca/travelbursary](https://eftours.ca/travelbursary)



## HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH EF?

**Nicole:** I got started with EF through word of mouth. Some of my colleagues had used the company and had great experiences. When I went to their website, it became apparent how well respected the company was. I put my email in and then Joanne (a Tour Consultant) contacted me a couple of hours later. It was so fast, which was great. I was also impressed with how long they had been in business. That made it all feel very secure.



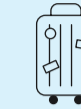
## WHY PLAN A TOUR NOW?

**Quinn:** It's one of those pieces that have been missing for a lot of these kids in the past three years. I think it's going to be impactful for them to look back and see, "Wow, I got to do a little bit of travelling before I decided my life path." That's huge for young people—to be able to experience completely new things while they're still in that developmental cycle. Where do they want to be? Where do they want to land? That's pivotal in these four years.



## WHAT WAS HOLDING YOU BACK?

**Nicole:** The reservations I initially had were mostly around how I was going to deal with all the logistics of a tour. I was impressed with how EF took care of all the details. Everything was laid out clearly.



## HOW DID EF HELP YOU PLAN YOUR FIRST TOUR?

**Quinn:** I was expecting a lot more work on my end in terms of planning an itinerary and getting more information. I have 9 billion things to do in my day. I probably wouldn't want to plan a trip out as my 9 billion and one thing that I need to do in one day. It's really nice to have [EF's] support team say, "We're going to handle this. Just make sure that you can hold a meeting. We'll get to give you the material. These are some things that you want to say."



## WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR FIRST TIME GROUP LEADERS?

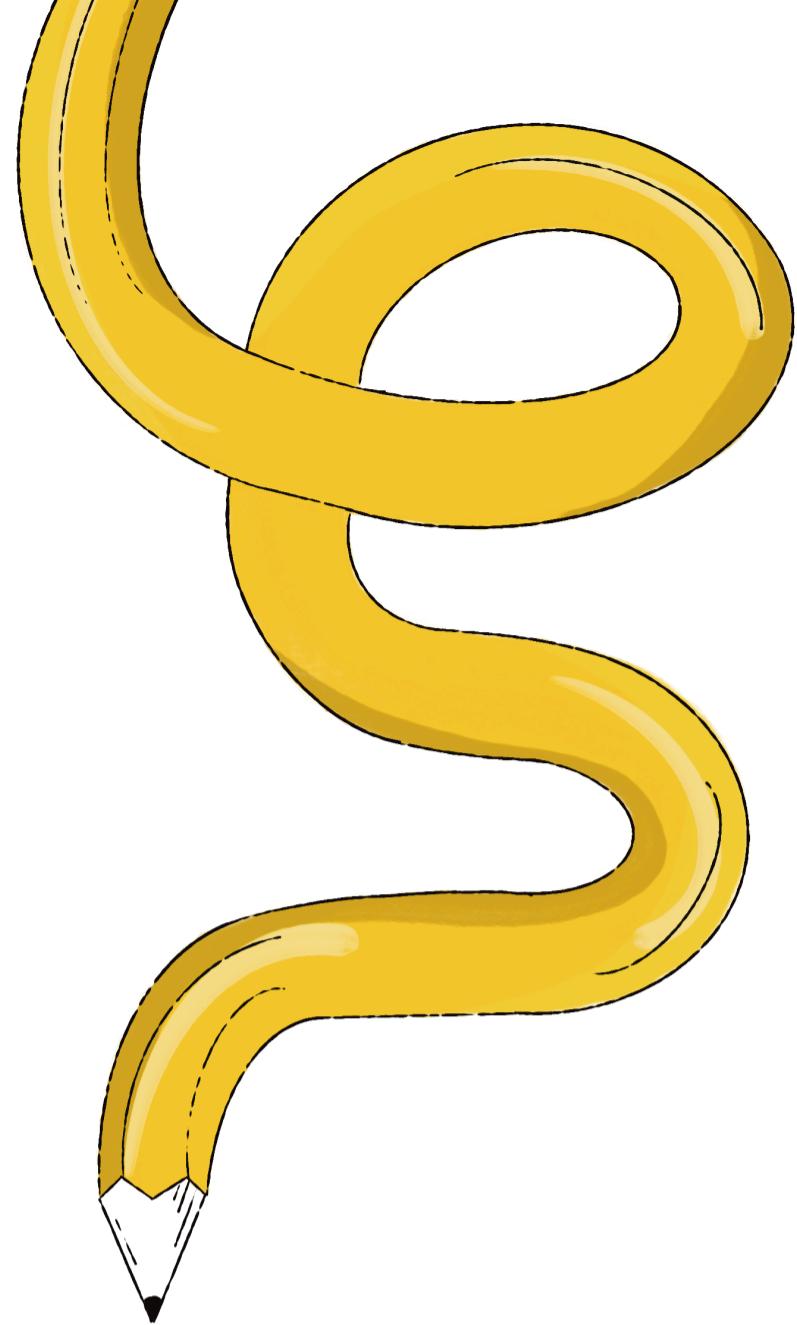
**Nicole:** Take the opportunities. EF Tours came to Winnipeg and we had a meet and greet, which was really useful to me, to talk with other teachers who had taken kids. I got quite a few tips from them. Just take advantage of everything that [EF] provides, because it's great.



## WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO ON TOUR?

**Quinn:** The "wow" factor when [the students] finally experience a completely new environment. This trip will allow them to experience a new culture, a new environment, and an entirely new timeline to their lifestyles that will be unforgettable for them. I get to go along and see them experience it all!

# The teacher's journey



**Kenton Z.**  
Teacher  
22 years leading  
tours with EF



**Marion H.**  
Teacher  
20 years leading  
tours with EF

Here at EF, we could talk about the positive impact of travel all day. That is, after all, why teachers sign up to lead tours with us—because they want to make a difference in their students' lives. We spoke with Kenton Z. and Marion H. to learn about their first-time experiences leading a tour with EF and why they keep coming back.

## Where do you teach, which subjects, and for how long?

**Kenton:** I teach social studies from grades 10 to 12. I've been teaching for 31 years, and I've been doing EF trips for about 22 years. I've literally taken over a thousand kids—and adults—to various countries around the world. I love it.

**Marion:** I've been teaching since 1999. Originally, I was hired for German and Latin. I loved what my original EF trip to Italy and Greece did for me as a student. Knowing that I can take my students to do that, and give them that different perspective, was like completing that circle.

## What was your first experience as a Group Leader like?

**Kenton:** Our first group was led by my wife and I—we did London to Paris, a seven-or eight-day trip. I still remember that trip vividly, because it was our first one, and it was very successful. That was in no small part due to EF and all their planning and support along the way. It was a seamless experience.

**Marion:** My first trip was in 2003 to France, Germany, and the Alps to give students an opportunity to see why they're learning those languages. It's about their growth and development, and all the things they need to make them a better student and human being.

## What's the biggest thing you learned?

**Kenton:** One lesson I remember from my first trip was to carry the kids' and adults' passports. It was one of our adults who lost her passport at Heathrow Airport—not once, but on two separate occasions, within 20 minutes of each other.

**Marion:** At the beginning, it was really busy, and everybody was just all over the place. I had to really be organized. I remember being really exhausted when I came back, but saying, "Oh, that was a good tour."

**"The students just want to go. It's about their growth and development, and all the things they need to make them a better student and human being."**

## How do you overcome any challenges on tour?

**Kenton:** It's very much a seamless process. The one thing that has always impressed me with EF is the safety aspect. EF's support team is there 24/7. You can always call them, and they will find a solution to your problem. I work with Group Leaders around the country, and every single one of them said the same thing—that they really appreciate knowing that EF will have your back. If something untoward happens on a tour, EF is a large company that can really help out in those situations.

**Marion:** Be flexible. Go with the flow. Everything's an adventure. You're going to laugh about it later, just not maybe right now, but it's going to make for a good story.

## How do you make your tours equitable for your students?

**Kenton:** I advocate to parents that the kids pay for some of their trip. Whether it's tips or spending money, they need to somehow contribute financially, because they'll appreciate the hard work they've put into it.

**Marion:** I try to choose tours that are not just popular but are below a certain price point. [My students] know my pattern, that I go on a tour every year, or that every three years, it includes an itinerary to Italy. They could plan and budget their time and money that way. I'll encourage them to take scholarship opportunities or part-time jobs.

## Where are you going next?

**Kenton:** I've planned a customized trip to Venice and Croatia for 2024. We're zip-lining, rafting, swimming in nuclear submarine tunnels, going to Croatia's Blue Grotto, doing a secret itinerary of the Doges of Venice.

**Marion:** Greece during March break. It's a great tour: nine days, and it's very affordable.

**"I still remember that trip vividly, because it was our first one, and it was very successful. That was in no small part due to EF."**

## What keeps you coming back to EF?

**Kenton:** Travel is the best teacher. I live and teach in a smaller community outside of Calgary, and most of those kids have never been on an airplane before. When you physically take a student to these places, the world opens up. Suddenly they realize, "Hey, things are possible. I could do these things myself."

**Marion:** It's just part of my life, my routine. I didn't know what to do with myself between 2020 and 2021. If I'm not touring or travelling, I'm not healthy. It's part of my own growth, too.

Connect with an experienced Group Leader and gain insight into leading your own tour. Reach out to one of our Global Education Ambassadors (GEA) at [global.learning@ef.com](mailto:global.learning@ef.com)

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