

UAIS Spanish Department Trip FAQs

Why student travel?

Educational student travel is a great way for students to immerse themselves in the language and culture in an authentic setting that will strengthen their language skills and help prepare them for the IB exams, regardless of their current level of Spanish. All Spanish Department educational travel trips are completely customized, private tours that provide a variety of activities and excursions that build on what we learn about in the classroom. Students will have the opportunity to participate in authentic cultural activities that are outside of the typical travel experience. On tour, we will shop in outdoor markets, learn how to cook an authentic dish during a cooking class, explore landmarks and ruins, try local cuisine, and learn some regional words and phrases. Visit senoraburak.weebly.com for specific tour info. Please note that Spanish Department tours are non-school sponsored tours. UCS is not responsible for any aspect of the tours.

What is the total cost and what is included in this price?

Current prices can be found by visiting the online tour center link on Señora's class website. The earlier you sign up, the larger the discount. Tour prices include round trip airfare from Detroit Metro, all hotel accommodations, all ground transportation, breakfast and dinner daily for European tours and all 3 daily meals for Latin American tours, all site-seeing tour and museum fees, and a full-time, multi-lingual tour guide. As a bonus, any student who has previously traveled with Explorica or is already enrolled in another Explorica tour will receive an additional \$100 discount!

How can I sign my student up for the trip?

To sign up, visit the online tour center link on Señora's class website. Be sure to enter the appropriate voucher code that is posted when prompted to get your discount!

What payment plans are available?

Explorica offers the following payment plans:

Monthly Automated Plan:

1. \$50 deposit (and optional, but strongly encouraged, [travel protection](#)) paid upon registration
2. Billed automatically to your credit card or checking account
3. Balance divided into equal monthly payments until 35 days prior to departure

4-Step Manual Plan (not automatic):

1. \$99 deposit (and optional travel protection) paid upon registration
2. 30 days after registration, 2nd payment of \$500 is due
3. 75% of your balance due 105 days prior to departure
4. Remainder balance due 65 days prior to departure

Full Payment Plan: Pay in full at time of enrollment.

Who will be chaperoning the trip?

Señora Burak and Señor Scalici chaperone the Spanish Department tours, along with other UAIS teachers. There is one teacher chaperone for every five to six student travelers. Parent chaperones are not permitted to secure spaces for all students wishing to travel. A full-time, multi-lingual tour guide will travel with us for the duration of our time on tour.

How many students can sign up for the trip?

The Spanish Department prefers to travel internationally with a maximum of 30 students, but the total price will be reduced with 20 registered participants. To guarantee a spot, sign up early!

Are there any opportunities for fundraising?

We do not have any coordinated fundraising activities as a group, but every participant automatically has access to a [personalized fundraising page](#) that can be edited with a personal statement and shared via email or social media to share with family and friends. Explorica also offers an additional needs-based discount for those who qualify (more details on Señora's class website).

How much extra money should my student take on the trip?

This is dependent upon your student. Students will be responsible for buying lunch daily (European tours only) and any snacks (ice cream, coffee, bakery items, etc.) they may want. There will be some time allotted for souvenir shopping, so please plan accordingly. Debit, credit or pre-loaded debit cards are safer than cash for shopping in the cities; however, some markets and many Latin American destinations use cash over cards. Contact the bank/company to notify them of travel plans to ensure the card will work and discuss any fees that may be charged on international purchases.

How are roommates determined?

All student hotel rooms sleep 3-4 students. Roommate requests can typically be accommodated and will be determined prior to departure.

What types of meals will students eat on the trip?

Since this trip is an educational and cultural experience, students will be eating authentic dishes. Breakfast will be at the hotel and typically includes eggs, assorted breakfast meats, breads and pastries, and yogurt. Lunch will be bought in local markets and cafés with a wide variety of offerings (European destinations) or pre-arranged restaurants (Latin American tours). All dinners are at sit-down restaurants that serve authentic cuisine. Any student with special dietary needs and/or food allergies will be accommodated and students must share this information with Sra. Burak prior to departure so scheduled meals can be adjusted.

How will my student get to and from the airport?

Students are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from Detroit Metro on travel days. Specific flight information will be provided at a mandatory parent meeting prior to departure. At this meeting, parents and students will be given the opportunity to arrange carpools with other travelers in the group.

How do I communicate with my student during the trip?

Given the time difference and the busy itinerary, it will be difficult to talk to your student. Explorica offers an online tour diary that is updated nightly. The tour diary offers a recap of our day's adventures and pictures of us along the way so you can stay connected. Students should be aware of international data fees prior to departure to avoid unexpected charges from their cellular companies. There are a variety of apps that allow international communication via text message or phone calls when connected to Wi-Fi and are a better option than standard calling and texting. Explorica also has an emergency phone number that can be used 24/7 to reach student travelers and will be distributed prior to departure.

What travel documents do I need to send on the trip with my student?

All students must have a valid passport to travel, and the passport must be valid for 6 months following our return date. Students with a passport from another country must talk to Señora Burak about obtaining the proper travel visas prior to departure. Covid-19 vaccination cards may be required, depending on the destination.

What other requirements are there for the trip?

All students and a parent/guardian must sign the non-school sponsored travel form prior to departure. There will also be a couple of mandatory student meetings during lunch a few weeks prior to departure. All travelers must have a parent/guardian in attendance at the mandatory pre-departure meeting to discuss specific travel details and other logistical information. This meeting will occur 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

What protocols are in place for COVID-19?

Travelers must adhere to ALL covid-19 entry requirements put in place for non-essential travelers to our destination. If a vaccination or other entry requirement is put in place leading up to our departure, it is the traveler's responsibility to meet the requirement. Travelers who cannot meet the requirement(s) will be canceled from the tour, or if a student tests positive for covid prior to departure, refunds will be given based on Explorica's refund policy and the level of travel protection you purchased upon enrollment. To review Explorica's COVID-19 policies, click [here](#).

Please contact Annette Burak at annette.burak@uticak12.org if you have any other questions. Gracias. ☺