



**travelbound**

Inspiration made easy

**GEOGRAPHY TRIPS  
for Schools**



“ I just wanted to say thank you for an absolutely fantastic trip to Italy, our students had a brilliant time. One was even in tears leaving Sorrento saying she didn't want to go home and it was the best trip she has ever been on, some have been planning their European rail card adventures for when they finish college and one has come back wanting to become a volcanologist or similar – so about as high praise as you could get for a trip. Thanks again!

**Orminston Venture Academy**

# Welcome to Travelbound

A school trip abroad can be a giant leap for some children. For Party Leaders the prospect of planning a trip that meets your desired educational aims and learning outcomes can seem equally as daunting. With **over 30 years of experience** working with schools, colleges and universities, we have developed the know-how to support Party Leaders from start to finish.

At Travelbound we take the pressure away from the planning and booking of your tour by providing **tailor-made educational tours** with school travel specialists on hand to help you every step of the way. We allow you the space to remember how special a school tour abroad is in the development of your students and the many happy memories that lie in waiting.

**Leading the way** in educational group travel, identifying opportunities for learning is high on our agenda. With many of the tours including cross-curricular themes, students' learning can be supported in more than one discipline. Bring learning to life for your students through **real-world situations** – e.g. a trip to a market town to develop language skills or the battlefields of the Normandy coast to tread in the footsteps of fallen soldiers. As proud holders of the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge, we work to enable your school the opportunity to **educate and inspire** students in a new learning environment that extends beyond the confines of the classroom.

**Ignite the passion for future learning through discovery on a Travelbound educational tour.**

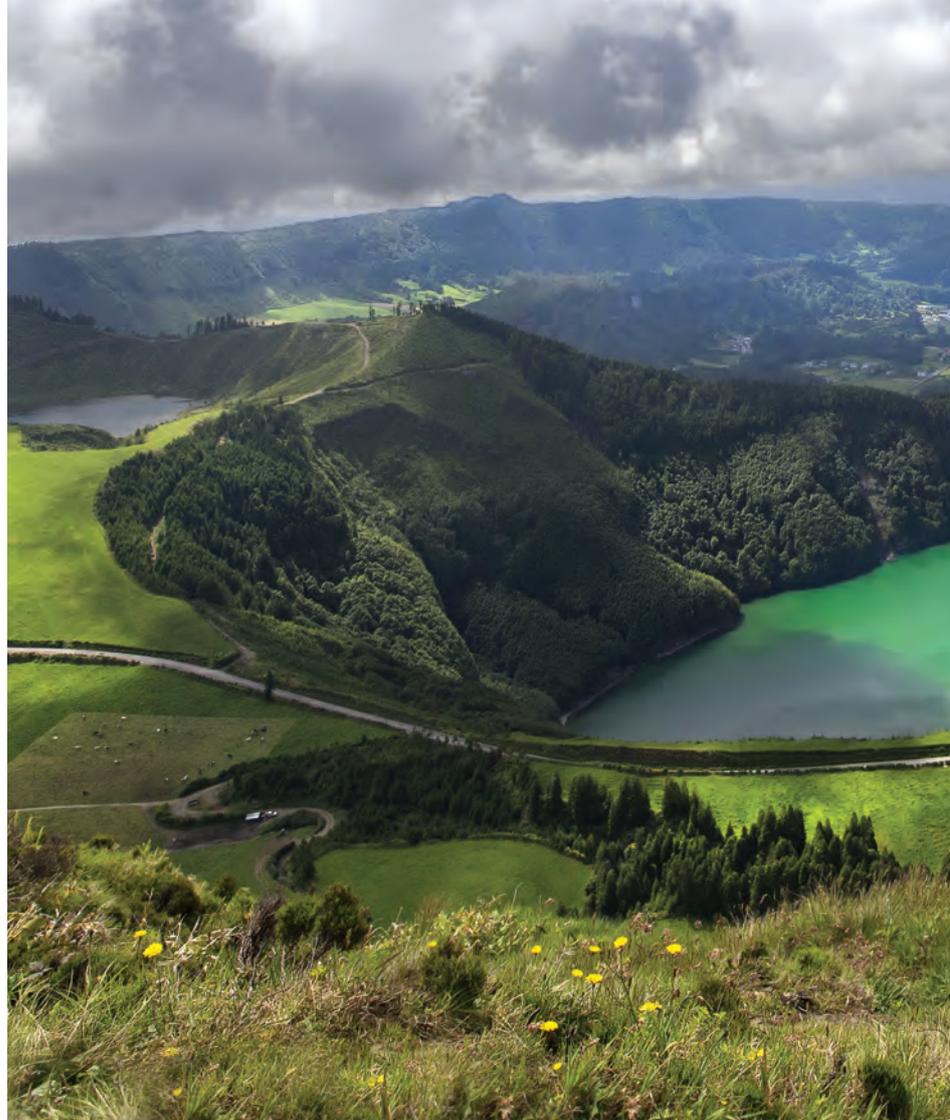
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# Inspiration Made Easy

We have been around for **over 30 years** and continue to support teachers in their quest to inspire, motivate and educate their students. Our expertise, financial security, operational excellence and dedication to make your trip **as easy as possible** for you to plan, promote and enjoy is what sets us apart from the rest!

- The **health and safety** of our customers is of paramount importance and auditing processes are used for all our accommodation, excursions and transport services. We operate to a PLC standard and our health and safety department is the best in the business.
- We are a full member of the School Travel Forum (**STF**); fully bonded by **ABTA** and **ATOL**; and have been awarded full accreditation to the Learning Outside the Classroom (**LOtC**) Quality Badge scheme.
- With over **30 years of experience**, we pride ourselves on being reliable, knowledgeable and passionate. Most of us have travelled extensively, are fluent in more than one language and are experts in one or more subject fields.
- Our returning Party Leaders have rated the overall **satisfaction** of their trip at 95%.
- We have a fabulous selection of **worldwide destinations** and suggested itineraries that will give your students the most memorable gift – school trip memories that will last a lifetime.

So, wherever in the world you choose to travel with us, our **dedicated team** offers excellent service, unbeatable product knowledge, true expertise and a passion for the benefits of educational travel.





“ An absolutely excellent geography trip to the USA. I have taken four groups to the USA before, but I can honestly say that the service and experience with Travelbound is second-to-none.

**Ysgol John Bright**

# The Number 1 Choice



It is not just our shared passion to travel that inspires our school trips, but a desire to **motivate your students** by providing an engaging and informative tour that will live happily in their memory for years to come.

From the initial booking with our Account Managers to your dedicated Tour Coordinator who will ensure every aspect of your trip is completed, the Travelbound team are on hand so that you can **book with ease**. Our dedicated teams provide you with bespoke tours and a commitment to deliver outstanding service catered to the individual needs of the group. We understand there is a focus on students developing **holistically** over the course of their educational tour abroad with not only attention to subject knowledge but also key **interpersonal skills** emerging through new interactions with places and people.

We provide you with the support to ensure you have a **successful and stress-free** tour experience including personalised posters and presentations to promote your tour, **help with risk assessments** and a **24-hour support** link to support you overseas. Working with Party Leaders to identify learning outcomes against the curriculum goals has seen Travelbound stand out amongst other school travel operators in providing an **exceptional service**.

With partners located around the world, we can provide you with the best transportation and accommodation options, with all hotels and hostels meeting our **stringent health and safety** requirements. Whether it is our expertise, operational excellence or the financial security we have, you can **feel safe** in the knowledge that your tour with us is our number 1 priority.

# Find Your Account Manager

Get in touch with your Regional Account Manager to discuss tours to meet your budget!

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# travelbound

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2

Hassle-free and transparent booking process

3

95% of our customers rate us as good or excellent

4

Over 30 years of experience in educational travel

6

Dedicated Account Managers and Tour Coordinators

7

24-hour phone support

1

Tailor-made trips to fit budget/requirements

5

ABTA, ATOL, LOtC and STF accredited

8

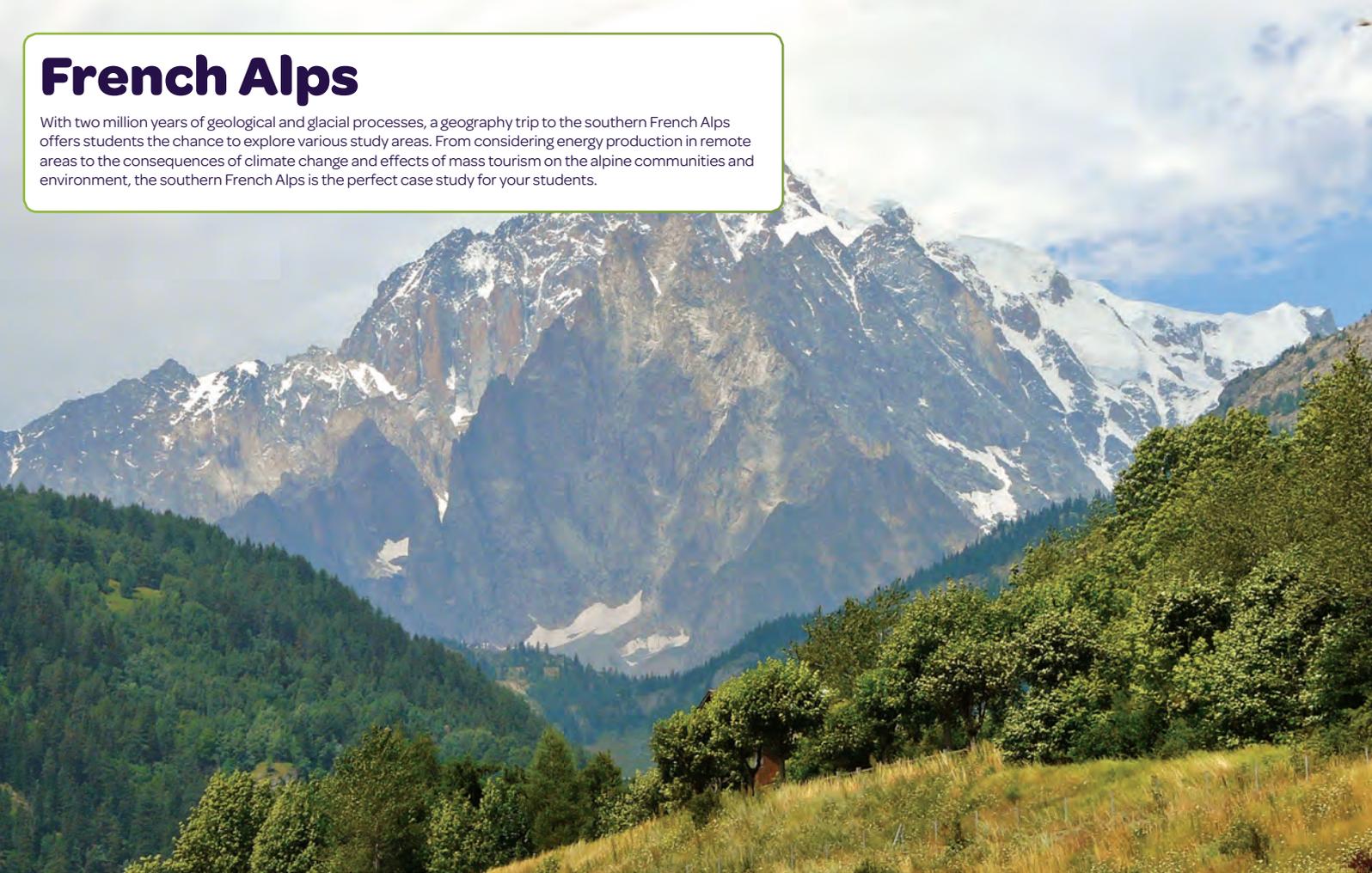
An experienced team with a passion for travel!



# WHY TRAVELBOUND?

# French Alps

With two million years of geological and glacial processes, a geography trip to the southern French Alps offers students the chance to explore various study areas. From considering energy production in remote areas to the consequences of climate change and effects of mass tourism on the alpine communities and environment, the southern French Alps is the perfect case study for your students.





**Briançon**

The fortified town of Briançon sits as the highest town in France. Rebuilt following a fire in 1692 by the great engineer Vauban, the Old Town takes a classic fortress star shape. The new town allows students to understand how urban areas can be responsibly designed, whilst also servicing the needs of tourism.



**Écrins National Park**

This park covers one of the most remarkable regions of the Alps, where mountains of up to 3,000m high are hung with glaciers and waterfalls. There are alpine meadows and forests to explore, with many protected species of plants flourishing in the dynamic climate.



**Sustainability Lecture**

As an area of outstanding natural beauty, the Alps is a popular tourist spot. With this comes the danger of overcrowding and damage to the environment. This informative lecture discusses the ways in which tourism is managed and how the local economy is being sustainably developed.



**Téléphérique Glaciers de la Meije**

Departing from the traditional mountain village of La Grave, the cable car takes passengers up to the Girose Glacier at an altitude of 3,200m. The route is snow-capped right through the summer and provides spectacular views of the glacial landscape, Mont Blanc and the Meije valley.

## Suggested Itinerary

### Day 1

Depart your school by coach for your overnight journey to the dramatic landscape of the French Alps.

### Day 2

Arrive in the resort for lunch and spend the afternoon settling in, exploring the area and enjoying the stunning mountain scenery.

### Day 3

Spend the morning completing a town study of Briançon, known as the highest town in France. In the afternoon visit the Durance Valley and the Lac de Serre-Ponçon for a better understanding of the production of hydroelectricity, before an evening lecture on sustainability.

### Day 4

Visit the Écrins National Park and discover the Alpine flora and fauna. Take a local coach and an Alpine guide to discover the glaciers Noir and Blanc. This evening can be spent swimming or ice skating in Briançon.

### Day 5

Ascend the Col du Lautaret mountain pass to the village of La Grave and take the cable car up 3,200 metres to experience the Alpine ecology and views of La Meije glaciers. Time permitting, stop at the thermal baths of Le Monetier-les-Bains on your journey back to your hotel.

### Day 6

Spend your last day at the awesome Aventure Parc Serre Chevalier for an exhilarating time on the high ropes and zip wires before commencing your overnight journey home.

### Day 7

Arrive back in the UK having carried out geographical fieldwork in some of the Alps most iconic valleys.

## Did you know

You can stay in an exclusive accommodation operated by our sister company, SkiBound in the picturesque resort of Serre Chevalier.

# Bay of Naples

Study life in the shadow of an active volcano, volcanic and coastal features as well as tourism and settlement development. Hike up the active Mount Vesuvius and view the incredibly well-preserved ruins of Pompeii. Admire the fascinating volcanic region known as Phlegraean Fields and witness natural beauty on the Island of Capri, as your students take in the geographical features of the Bay of Naples.





**Mount Vesuvius**

The whole Vesuvius area was turned into a national park in 1995 allowing groups to hike up to the crater of this famous active volcano for splendid views and a fresh perspective on the landscape. Students can discuss the disastrous eruption of 79AD, which destroyed Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabiae.



**Herculaneum**

When Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79AD, the city of Herculaneum was engulfed in an avalanche of mud that preserved the buildings and streets. The excavated city today can be explored on foot, allowing students to consider features of the Roman urban landscape.



**Pompeii**

Probably the most famous archaeological site in Italy, Pompeii is located just 25km away from Naples. In 79AD, this rich and prosperous city was buried by the eruption of Vesuvius. The visit gives students a good idea of what life must have been like here two thousand years ago.



**Phlegrean Fields**

The nine-mile caldera of Solfatara volcano sits five miles to the west of Naples. Solfatara is a dormant volcano but still emits jets of steam and sulphurous gas through various fumaroles around its crater floor. Dramatic uplift and subsidence within the caldera has occurred since Roman times making this stop a firm favourite with groups.

## Suggested Itinerary

### Day 1

Fly to Italy and enjoy the busy and attractive coastal resort of Sorrento, with its narrow medieval streets and baroque churches. The resort is a popular tourist destination due to its location on stunning coastline and proximity to major archaeological sites like Pompeii.

### Day 2

Ascend Mount Vesuvius, the only active volcano on mainland Europe. Reach the summit with a guide to see steam emitting from the crater. Visit the ruined city of Pompeii which was covered in ash following the eruption of 79AD leaving a unique record of life in an ancient Roman town.

### Day 3

Visit the Phlegrean Fields and watch the shallow volcanic crater of Solfatara emit jets of sulphurous steam and sand. Explore the Flavian Amphitheatre the Temples of Serapis and see the Bradyseism that has occurred since Roman Times.

### Day 4

Depending on flight times, travel to the airport via the ruined Roman city of Herculaneum which was also destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius in 79AD. Alternatively, complete a town study in Sorrento before your return flight to the UK.

### Why not extend your stay and visit the island of Capri?

The Island of Capri exudes style, beauty and picturesque scenery. A trip to this outstanding landscape will allow students to appreciate natural rock formations and grottoes, limestone cliffs and lemon groves that make Capri one of Europe's most naturally spectacular must-sees.

## Did you know

You can request Travelbound's geography worksheets tailored to the region free of charge.

# Sicily

With its Aeolian Islands, live volcanoes, deep gorges, rich soil and exotic flora and fauna, Sicily is a fascinating destination for any geography trip. The island is enriched by the remains of ancient civilisations whilst the local people are extremely friendly and welcoming. Students will gain a greater understanding of volcanic hazards, plate tectonics, Mediterranean agricultural methods, tourism and sustainability.





**Giardini Naxos**

This quiet fishing port has become a popular tourist sea-side resort. The beautiful hillside town of Taormina is situated above Giardini Naxos and attracts visitors due to its Greek theatre and proximity to Mount Etna. Giardini Naxos provides the ideal area to carry out geography case-studies.



**Lipari and Vulcano Islands**

Lying as part of a volcanic archipelago between Vesuvius on the mainland and Mount Etna, students will learn about the hydroactivity and pumice found throughout Lipari island. The island of Vulcano is made from four overlapping volcanic centres including one of the only four active non-submarine volcanoes in Italy. (Available mid-March to mid-October)



**Mount Etna**

One of the most active volcanoes in the world, Mount Etna is known as a stratovolcano due to its conical shape made up of layers of hardened lava and ash. There is an option to take the cable car and jeeps to approach the crater with a mountain guide.



**Alcantara Gorges**

Evidence of Etna's geological influence, the stunning formations of the Alcantara Gorges formed when Mount Etna erupted thousands of years ago. As the Alcantara became blocked by the lava, it cooled and became crystallised by the water before the river eroded a channel resulting in impressive basalt gorges and ravines.

## Suggested Itinerary

### Day 1

Fly to Catania and travel to your accommodation in the Giardini Naxos area.

### Day 2

Travel to smouldering Mount Etna, a perfect case study of an active stratovolcano, and trek to the crater with a mountain guide to study the geology. Students will learn about the fertile volcanic soil which also supports extensive agriculture on the lower slopes.

### Day 3

Take a mini-cruise to the Aeolian Islands of Lipari and Vulcano and see first-hand the hydrothermal activity on Lipari, the largest island of the archipelago. The mini-cruise will also take students to Vulcano which stands as one of only four active non-submarine volcanoes in Italy. (Seasonal)

### Day 4

Depending on flight times, visit the impressive gorges and ravines at Alcantara. The stunning basalt formations provide perfect examples of Etna's geological influence. Transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK.

### Why not extend your stay and visit the Strait of Messina and Tindari Lakes?

#### The Strait of Messina

Lying between the eastern horn of Sicily and western tip of Calabria, a unique marine ecosystem has formed from the strong tidal currents.

#### Tindari Lakes

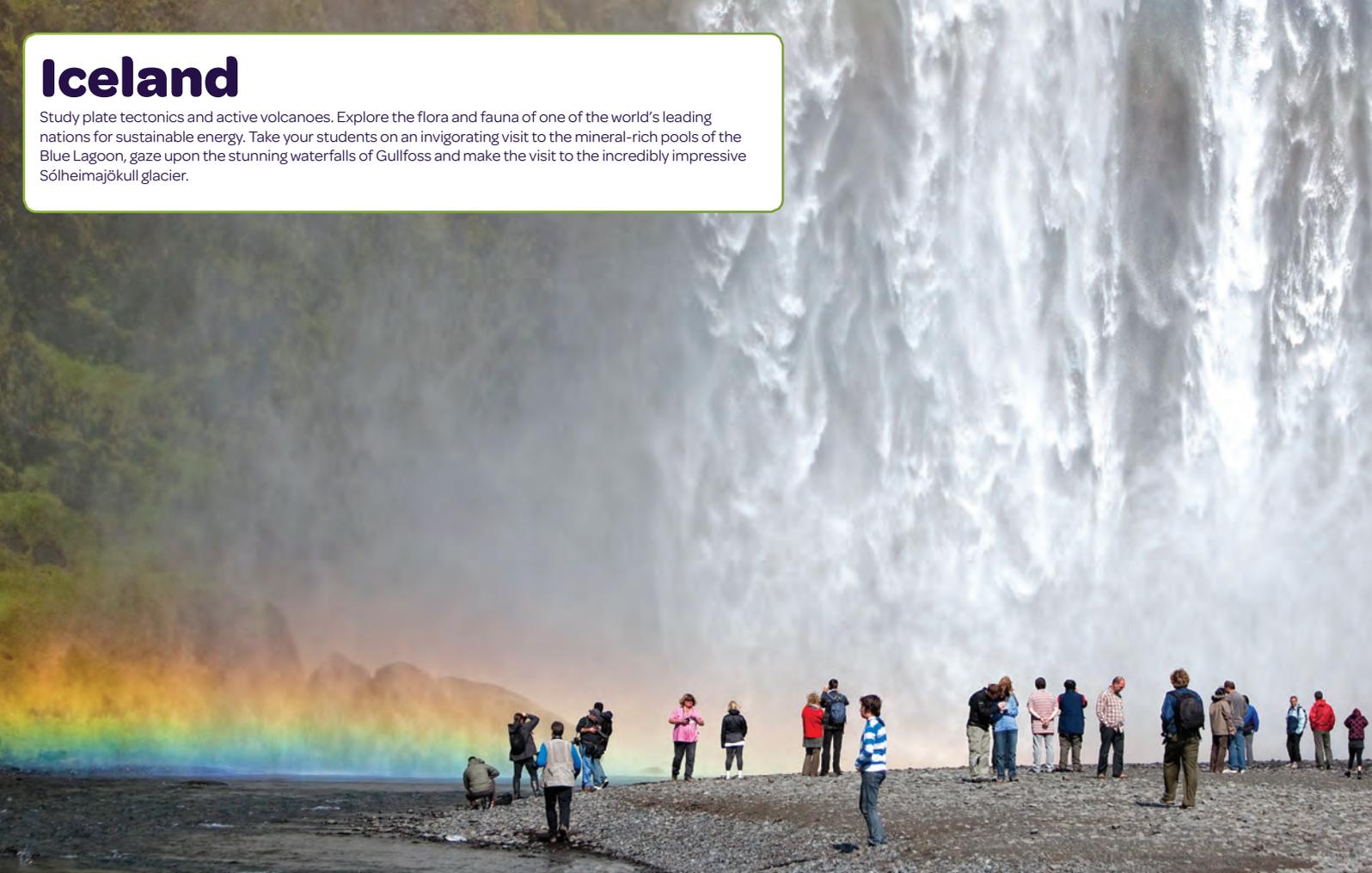
Explore the Greco-Roman archaeological town of Tindari and the ever-changing landscape of the surrounding area. Head for the salt water lakes of Marinello which continue to alter due to seasonal and tidal changes.

## Did you know

Etna's eruptions have been documented since 1500BC, giving students' a unique opportunity to explore its impact on local communities.

# Iceland

Study plate tectonics and active volcanoes. Explore the flora and fauna of one of the world's leading nations for sustainable energy. Take your students on an invigorating visit to the mineral-rich pools of the Blue Lagoon, gaze upon the stunning waterfalls of Gullfoss and make the visit to the incredibly impressive Sólheimajökull glacier.





**Blue Lagoon**

Experience the unique and invigorating wonders of nature at the Blue Lagoon geothermal spa. Set in the middle of a black lava field, students can enjoy the mineral-rich blue waters whilst gaining an understanding of the process of extracting sustainable energy.



**Sólheimajökull Glacier**

See the expansive Sólheimajökull Glacier which stretches for 8km. Students will be able to recognise the scent of sulphuric acid which is emitted from the sub-glacial temperature areas. A walk on the glacier with a mountain guide allows students to truly experience this natural formation.



**Gullfoss**

Known as the 'Golden Falls', Gullfoss is Iceland's most famous waterfall. A sight of natural beauty, students will notice the brownish colour of the glacial water caused by the sediments carried in the flow.



**Hekla Center**

Learn more about Hekla through a collection of films, photos and displays that explores the history of its eruptions. Located near the volcano, students will be able to see the symmetrical cone disappear high into the clouds leading to its name, 'the hooded volcano'.

## Suggested Itinerary

### Day 1

Fly to Keflavik and make your way to Reykjavik, stopping en-route at the Blue Lagoon. Bathe in the warm mineral-rich geothermal water in the middle of a black lava field. (Flight time permitting)

### Day 2

Drive to the Þingvellir National Park to see the forces of plate tectonics. Continue to the Keríð crater before arriving at the spectacular Gullfoss waterfall and the geyser geothermal area.

### Day 3

Drive east to the Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss waterfalls. Continue to the Sólheimajökull glacier that has shaped the landscape where a guided walk on the glacier with equipment is optional.

### Day 4

Visit the Hekla volcano and learn about volcanism at the Hekla Center. Continue to Thjórsárdalur Valley with its mounds of ash and pumice covered hills. See the Hjalparfoss waterfall and commercial greenhouses using geothermal power before returning to Reykjavik.

### Day 5

Spend time in the country's capital of Reykjavik before flying back to the UK. (Flight time permitting)

Confirmed groups receive our tailor-made Iceland Information Guide completely free of charge!

### Did you know

Our geography teachers consider Iceland to be a geographer's paradise, one of the best places to study plate tectonics, volcanoes, geothermal processes, glaciation and sustainable energy.

# Morocco

Groups can learn about geography up close in the midst of Morocco's dramatic mountain and desert landscapes. Students have the opportunity to visit a Berber family in the Atlas Mountains, see the impressive cinematic beauty of Ait Benhaddou Kasbah, spend a night in a Bedouin tent as well as admire the oases of the Drâa Valley.





**Atlas Mountains**

Covering 1000km from the northeast Atlantic coast across to northern Algeria, the mountains are home to the indigenous North African Berber group and a number of unique African animal species. Students will meet a local Berber family and learn about their agriculture, animal husbandry and cooking methods.



**Drâa Valley**

Formed by the River Drâa that flows from the High Atlas Mountains, through the lower Anti-Atlas ranges and a series of steep canyons of green and black rock, these astonishing oases stretch into the desert and students can visit the clusters of fortified villages.



**Tizi n'Tichka**

This mountain pass goes through the High Atlas and links Marrakesh with Ouarzazate. This special pass covers a range of Atlas environments, from barren peaks and the Haouz Plains to the fertile foothills of Oued Zat where students will witness how forces of nature have shaped these mountains.



**Aït Benhaddou**

The World Heritage site of Aït Benhaddou is a fortified city on the old caravan route between the Sahara and Marrakesh. The building has recently been restored but retains the atmosphere that has prompted its use in many films over the years, including *The Sheltering Sky* and *Gladiator*.

## Suggested Itinerary

### Day 1

Depending on your flight from the UK to Marrakesh, your group may have time to explore the sprawling souks of the Red City and compare the characteristics of the old and new cities.

### Day 2

Head for the Atlas Mountains and meet a local Berber family. After lunch with the family travel through green valleys and olive groves, over the Tizi n'Tichka mountain pass and into the barren slopes on the southern side of the pass to Ouarzazate.

### Day 3

Travel through the lush Drâa Valley to Bougeorn to begin your 2 hour camel safari. Arrive at camp and prepare traditional Moroccan fare under clear starry skies before spending the night in a Bedouin tent.

### Day 4

En-route to Marrakesh, the group will stop at Aït Benhaddou, probably the best-preserved fortified Kasbah in the country and location for some Hollywood hits. Arrive in Marrakesh for a night in the vibrant Ochre City.

### Day 5

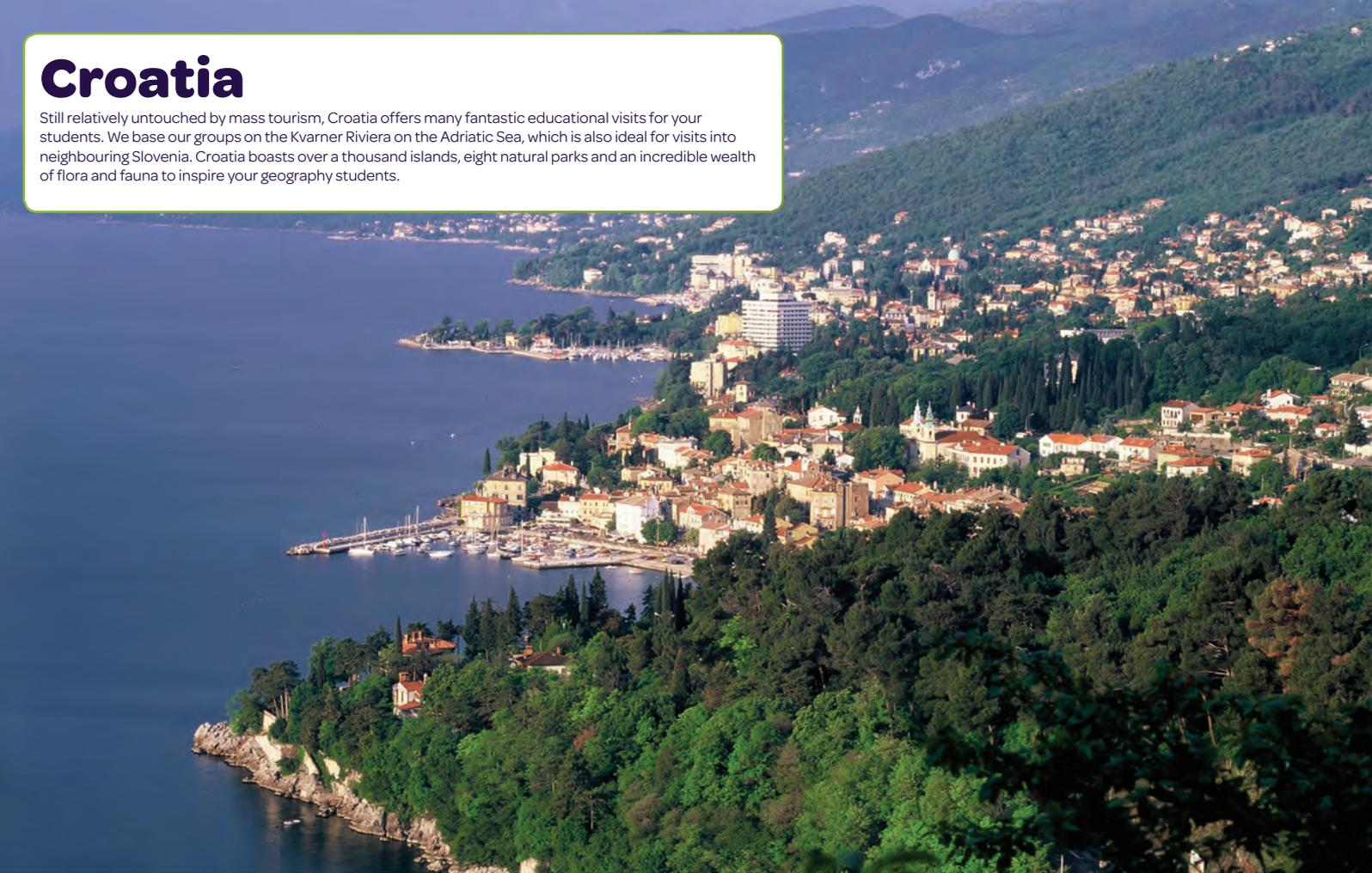
Depending on flight times there may be time for some city sightseeing before transferring back to the airport for your return flight to the UK.

## Did you know

Tizi n'Tichka is the highest mountain pass of North Africa, reaching an elevation of almost 2,300m above sea level.

# Croatia

Still relatively untouched by mass tourism, Croatia offers many fantastic educational visits for your students. We base our groups on the Kvarner Riviera on the Adriatic Sea, which is also ideal for visits into neighbouring Slovenia. Croatia boasts over a thousand islands, eight natural parks and an incredible wealth of flora and fauna to inspire your geography students.





**Opatija**

Opatija is a popular tourist resort situated on the Istrian peninsula at Kvarner Bay. Home to two of Croatia's largest islands, Krk and Cres, Kvarner Bay provides the perfect base for groups to explore the Istrian peninsula and the Učka mountain ridge that runs through the area.



**Postojna Cave**

Travel to Slovenia for a visit of the largest karst cave in Europe, with 20 kilometres of caves, underground passages, galleries and chambers. Guided visits in English are conducted partly on foot and partly using an underground train with students able to see the impressive layout of karst topography.



**Učka Nature Park**

Located close to the city of Rijeka, Učka Nature Park contains lush vegetation and a number of rare and protected animals. Dating from the tertiary period, the canyon of Vela Draga remains one of the most attractive and intriguing geomorphological sites in the park.



**Plitvice lakes**

Croatia's answer to the Lake District, the park contains a series of beautiful lakes linked together by waterfalls which have been formed by the deposition of travertine barriers, creating natural dams. Students can follow the walking trail on wooden boards along rivers and around falls where geological processes continue today.

## Suggested Itinerary

### Day 1

Fly to Italy and transfer to Lovran, close to the popular Croatian seaside resort of Opatija situated in Kvarner Bay. Kvarner Bay is home to the largest islands in Croatia, Krk and Cres.

### Day 2

Take an introductory walk along the Lungomare promenade extending from Volosko to Lovran. Spend the afternoon in the Učka Nature Park where students will take an educational trek along the Vela Draga.

### Day 3

Spend the day in neighbouring Slovenia, where your group will visit the longest underground cave system in Europe, Postojna Cave. In the afternoon, continue to the impregnable Predjama Castle perched on a high cliff and look out to the river Lokva which flows underground deep below the castle.

### Day 4

Travel across the Gorski Kotar mountain region to the magnificent Plitvice Lakes National Park, the oldest national park in Croatia and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy a guided walking tour and a boat trip on Lake Kozjak.

### Day 5

Depending on flight times there may be time to spend at leisure enjoying the resort of Lovran before transferring to the airport for your return flight to the UK.

## Did you know

Postojna Cave is a perfect example of karst topography, a landscape formed from the dissolution of rocks such as limestone and gypsum.

# Azores

The Azores are a group of nine volcanic islands in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean created where three of the world's large tectonic plates converge. The islands form an Autonomous Region of Portugal. São Miguel is the largest, most developed and most populated island of the Azores, a mixture of historic architecture and a varied volcanic mountainous natural environment.





**Furnas**

See the bubbling hot springs and fumaroles in the town centre and consider why people choose to live in inside a dormant volcano. At the botanical gardens admire the beautiful plants and trees that grow in this micro-climate and fertile volcanic soil, irrigated by iron-bearing hot springs.



**Gruta do Carvão**

© Antonio Fiol

This is the longest lava tunnel on São Miguel created when the surface and lateral areas of a basaltic lava flow cooled but the hot lava continued to flow inside, eventually slowing to create a cavity. This interesting geological volcanic feature contains lava stalactites, stalagmites and flow marks.



**Lagoa das Sete Cidades**

The beautiful caldera lakes of Sete Cidades are one the seven wonders of Portugal. On a guided walk at the highest point of the caldera see the lakes on one side and the western coast of the island on the other. Five small volcanoes complete the landscape.



**Caldeira Velha**

This geothermally heated iron bearing waterfall on the north slope of the Pico do Fogo has created an area of lush sub-tropical vegetation. Small pools enable visitors to take a dip in the warm waters. A unique location and a great picnic stop!

## Suggested Itinerary

### Day 1

Fly to the green island of São Miguel with its spectacular volcanic scenery.

### Day 2

Depart for a full day guided tour of the seismically active Furnas Valley and visit the Interpretation Centre next to the caldera lake. See the bubbling hot springs, fumaroles and how the local restaurants cook cozido, a stew, using geothermal heat. Explore Furnas's lush botanical gardens and then continue to the only tea plantation in Europe to understand the production process.

### Day 3

Take another full day guided tour on São Miguel Island to the Lagoa do Fogo, another caldera lake and evidence of the island's volcanic origins. Continue to Caldeira Velha and take a dip in the geothermally heated hot spring set amongst sub-tropical vegetation. Discover how the island is harnessing geothermal energy to produce sustainable energy at the geothermal power plant. Later visit the coastal town of Ribeira Grande with its historic architecture and hot springs. Spend the evening star gazing at the Astronomy Centre.

### Day 4

Another full day with a guide to visit the green and blue Lagoa das Sete Cidades. Spend time in the island's attractive capital, the coastal city of Ponta Delgada. Later explore the impressive subterranean lava tube, the Gruta do Carvão.

### Day 5

Return flight to the UK via Lisbon.

\*This tour is available April-October, departing on a Saturday.

## Did you know

The Azores are an award winning sustainable tourism destination. The islands are also considered to be one of the best places in the world for whale watching.

# Lanzarote

With its haunting volcanic lunar landscape Lanzarote is the most northern of the Canary Islands lying 125km off the coast of Africa. Created by tectonic activity 15 million years ago the island has many dormant volcanoes with the last recorded eruption in 1824. This is an ideal destination to study plate tectonics, volcanoes and the human challenges of living in such an environment.





**Timanfaya National Park**

This protected area is a fine example of a landscape created during a period of intense volcanic activity from 1730-1736 and more recently in 1824. Features include craters, volcanic cones, domes, aa and pahoehoe lava flows and geothermal activity. Demonstrations allow visitors to understand the high temperatures close to the surface.



**Jameos del Agua**

These caverns and partially collapsed volcanic lava tubes have been transformed into a unique and spectacular entertainment venue. Lush vegetation and a sparkling pool contrast with the stark volcanic scenery. An underground theatre takes advantage of natural acoustics and tiny albino crabs can be seen in the salt water lake.



**Mancha Blanca Visitor Centre**

Close to the Timanfaya National Park, this volcanology museum is discretely constructed on a lava field. A film explains the natural treasures of the park and the workings of a volcano. Visitors can experience a simulation of a volcanic eruption. Other exhibits include models, interactive videos, and a Meteosat satellite.



**La Cueva de los Verdes**

This popular attraction features the longest volcanic submarine lava tube in the world, the Túnel de la Atlántida. Take a guided circular tour through the labyrinth of caves once used as a hiding place from pirates. Enjoy the illuminated impressive rock formations and discover the caves hidden secret!

## Suggested Itinerary

### Day 1

Fly to the arid volcanic island of Lanzarote with its dramatic scenery and subtropical desert climate.

### Day 2

Depart for a full day guided tour of the south of the island to see the spectacular volcanic features of the Timanfaya National Park. Continue to El Golfo, a half-submerged volcanic cone containing a vibrant green lagoon filled with volcanic minerals and micro-organisms. See the salt pans used for making sea salt, once an important industry on the island. Learn more about the Timanfaya National Park and volcanology at the Mancha Blanca Visitor Centre.

### Day 3

Depart for a full day guided tour of the North of the island to the impressive lava caves of Jameos del Agua. Continue to Lanzarote's most famous viewpoint, the Mirador del Río, 475m above sea level looking out over the straits of Río and the island of La Graciosa. Take a guided tour through the lava tubes at the Cueva de los Verdes and discover the cave's secret! Visit the organic and traditionally cultivated Aloe Vera plantation and learn about the products derived from the plant.

### Day 4

Visit the Foundation of Lanzarote's most famous son, the artist and architect César Manrique in his amazing former home constructed on a lava field incorporating volcanic bubbles. See the 15m tall sculpture by Manrique, Monument to the Peasant Farmer, as you enter the La Geria vineyard area where vines are grown in volcanic ash with lava wall wind breaks. Understand the challenges that farmers have faced over the centuries at El Patio Agricultural Museum.

### Day 5

Transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK.

## Did you know

The volcanic scenery at Timanfaya is said to closely resemble the surface of the moon and images of the park have been studied by NASA astronauts in preparation for space missions.

# West USA National Parks

Take in the bright lights of Vegas at night and the natural features of the Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks. Discover one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World at the Grand Canyon and gain a deeper understanding of human and physical geography as students explore the varied landscape of the West Coast.





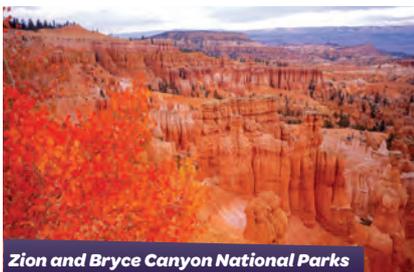
Las Vegas

Las Vegas provides the opportunity to study how people live in desert areas. Providing a unique case study, students will consider the challenges a desert city face and the impact on fragile and limited resources. The fast growing city of Vegas is packed with eye-popping spectacles.



Mojave National Preserve

Located between Los Angeles and Las Vegas this national preserve offers a vast open space containing a combination of scrubland, conifer woodlands and elevations. The distinct ecoregion of the Mojave makes it a fantastic case-study that will stimulate your students' minds and cameras.



Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks

A variety of plants and wildlife inhabit the narrow gorge of Zion Canyon cut by the north fork of the Virgin River. See the effects of erosion amongst the numerous hoodoos that make Bryce National Park so unique. Marvel at the rock formations that appear in a series of amphitheatre-style structures.



The Grand Canyon

The Colorado River has created one of the most well-known natural formations in the world, the Grand Canyon. The massive rift in the Colorado Plateau is of particular significance to student groups because of the thick sequence of ancient rocks that are beautifully preserved and exposed within its walls.

## Suggested Itinerary

**Day 1** – Fly from the UK to Las Vegas.

**Day 2** – Spend the morning on a guided tour of the Hoover Dam constructed during the Great Depression by President Roosevelt. In the afternoon, take the time to see Vegas in a different light before its transformation at night.

**Day 3** – Depart for the varied landscape of Zion National Park where your group can spend the day exploring the plants and wildlife that inhabit the park's four life zones (desert, riparian, woodland and coniferous forest). Travel onto St George where your group will spend the night.

**Day 4** – Venture into Bryce National Park and see the vast geological hoodoo structures. Spend the day trekking the collection of natural amphitheatres by hiking or joining a ranger tour. Head for Kanab and your accommodation for the night.

**Day 5** – Head for Grand Canyon North. From the visitor centre, hike along the range and learn more about the canyon through ranger programmes. Your coach will take you onto the city of Flagstaff for your accommodation.

**Day 6** – Discover one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World at Grand Canyon South as your students take in the museum and climb the watchtower for unparalleled views across the Grand Canyon. Groups will have access to a park orientation film and the possibility of ranger programmes before heading for your penultimate night's stay in Kingman.

**Day 7** – Drive into San Bernardino County and enter the Mojave National Preserve. Spend the day exploring the Mojave wilderness and some of the preserve's most outstanding natural features and the desert discovery centre. Travel onto Los Angeles for your last night in the US.

**Day 8** – Enjoy an engaging visit to the home of US entertainment at Universal Studios Hollywood before transferring to the airport for your return flight to the UK.

### Did you know

One of the world's natural wonders, the Grand Canyon contains rock that is 1.75 billion years old, revealing 40% of Earth's history through sediments and fossils.

# Costa Rica

From the forested slopes of its volcanoes to the coral reefs found on both coasts, students will soon learn that Costa Rica is one of the biologically wealthiest nations in the world. Over recent years the nation has realised the importance of maintaining their national heritage of biodiversity. The country has therefore produced a comprehensive National Conservation System and National Biodiversity Institute to ensure the existence of endangered species through cataloguing and studying the country's flora and fauna.





**San José**

Costa Rica's capital city is the focal point for the country's economic, political and industrial activities and remains a popular tourist destination. Due to significant urban migration, the city has turned from an agricultural community to a sprawling metropolis.



**Cahuita National Park**

Rows of coconut trees, pristine white sandy beaches and crystal clear waters are perfect for studying the ecosystems of the Caribbean Coast. This unique opportunity to study the coral reef up close to the shore will allow students the chance to explore the many species of fish that live in this ecosystem.



**Turtle Conservation Project**

The Gandoca Coast is a seasonal nesting area for leatherback turtles. The local community, biologists, volunteers and scientists work together to preserve the natural habitat of this docile animal. Groups can help with a host of important projects and discover more about the turtles' natural habitat.



**Arenal Volcano and Baldi Hot Springs**

The majestic Arenal Volcano is the most active volcano in the region. Located beside the largest lake in the country, the volcano provides hydroelectric energy and is an important source of irrigation for agriculture. Trek into the Arenal Volcano National Park and enjoy a stop at the mineral Baldi Hot Springs.

## Suggested Itinerary

### Day 1

Fly to the bustling city of San José and explore the capital of Costa Rica.

### Days 2, 3 and 4

Travel to the coastal town of Gandoca with its fine sandy beaches and coral reefs. Arrive at the Turtle Conservation Project where students can take a hands-on experience helping with projects whilst learning more about the turtles' natural habitat and life cycle. Your group can get involved with projects such as nocturnal beach patrols, construction, redecorating, beach cleaning, hatchery construction and litter removal.

### Days 5 and 6

Depart for the snorkelers' dreamland of Cahuita with its white sands, coconut trees and coral reefs. The most attractive aspect of this area is the marine life that lives in various aquatic forests. Students can explore the flourishing brain coral and find an array of brightly coloured tropical fish.

### Day 7

Travel to the rural city of La Fortuna. Spend the evening visiting the Arenal Volcano National Park to study the conically shaped stratovolcano. Visit the Hot Springs and relax in the warm waters from the volcano.

### Day 8

Enjoy a hanging bridges rainforest tour to learn to learn about the flora and fauna, how humans use the rainforests and sustainability. Spend the afternoon transferring back to San José.

### Day 9

Visit a local school and spend time bonding with the students before transferring to the airport for your return flight to the UK.

### Day 10

Arrive back in the UK having had a unique insight into the varied landscapes and habitats of Costa Rica.

## Did you know

Costa Rica is considered the birthplace of ecotourism and is home to various nesting areas for a variety of species of turtles. Don't forget to ask us about turtle breeding seasons!

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