


travelbound

Inspiration made easy



Music Trips for Schools

 The concert venue in Amsterdam suited our relatively small choir very well, the acoustics were excellent and the piano was positioned next to the choir. Travelbound did an exceptional job of organising this trip!

Royal Grammar School, Newcastle





Welcome to Travelbound

Music can have a **strong and lasting impact**, allowing individuals and groups to come together and **unite through sound**. Providing students with a new environment to explore and showcase their talents leads to greater **learning experiences** and opportunities for **personal development**. At Travelbound we work to provide a tour that not only provides an unforgettable experience abroad but meets your desired **educational aims and learning outcomes**.

Guiding Party Leaders from start to finish, the Travelbound Music and Performing Arts team have the expertise to provide **tailored itineraries, risk assessments and promotional tools**. 24-hour phone support means you and your students are assisted even when abroad, while being part of the TUI AG group of companies we are also able to offer unrivalled **financial protection** and **peace of mind**.

Our **range of tours continues to grow** allowing even greater opportunities for your students to perform in a choice of landmark locations as well as low-key venues. With options ranging from the Empire State Building to Disneyland Paris and the basilicas of Rome, students have the unique chance to take to the stage and **create memories to last a lifetime**.

Accredited by the **School Travel Forum** and **Council for Learning Outside the Classroom**, we take the pressure away from the planning and booking of your tour. Our team are on hand to guide you every step of the way allowing you the space to focus on your students and the chance to **engage, motivate and, ultimately, inspire through music**.

- 4 - 5** Inspiration Made Easy
- 6 - 7** The Number 1 Choice
- 8 - 9** Costa Brava
- 10 - 11** Kraków
- 12 - 13** Lake Garda
- 14 - 15** New York
- 16 - 17** Noordwijk
- 18 - 19** Paris
- 20 - 21** Prague
- 22 - 23** Rhineland
- 24 - 25** Rome
- 26 - 27** Tuscany

Inspiration Made Easy

We've 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!

- As a member of the TUI AG group of companies, we offer the highest level of **financial protection** to all our Party Leaders. TUI's global presence ensures that we have a year-round **worldwide support network** – providing the reassurance you deserve.
- 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 90%.
- 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 school travel industry.





Safely returned from a great few days. All arrangements were spot on. Accommodation friendly and spotlessly clean. Thanks for your efforts on our behalf – they are appreciated.

New Hall School, Chelmsford

The Support We Provide

We are here to **support you** and to ensure that you have a **successful and stress-free** tour experience. We understand the importance of providing a tour that meets your **budget** and music requirements, which is why our aim is to work in partnership with you to provide the **perfect trip** that you and your students deserve.

Promoting Your Tour

We can provide you with a sample **letter** you can use to launch the tour. We will happily offer your group promotional **posters** and personalised **presentations** to help promote the tour – to develop student interest and reach the required numbers. We also have **payment cards** you can use to keep track of your students' payments. If required, we can even send you some **funding ideas** to help you with the tour budget.

Our Venues

We understand performances are the focus of your tour and we have an **extensive network of venues** in all our tour destinations to suit different touring ensembles. We will discuss your repertoire, your ensemble type, your expectations and your **particular requirements** as soon as you book to ensure we select the most appropriate venues for you. Whether you want to perform in an awe-inspiring cathedral, a town bandstand, a supportive community centre or a concert hall, we are confident we have the **perfect venue for you**.

Our Publicity Material

We ensure we **advertise** extensively all your performances to achieve the best possible audience size. Whenever possible, your concert will be part of an established **calendar of events** and/or series of concerts. It will be promoted in local what's on guides, local press and websites. We will produce eye-catching professional

posters and send them to each venue. We can even provide your group with **flyers** for some extra last minute publicity prior to the start of your performance.

Book with Ease

1. Make an enquiry

Contact our friendly and knowledgeable team on

01273 767 674

so we can discuss your tour requirements and recommend a suitable destination.

2. Make a provisional booking

Place a 'no obligation' provisional booking with us, which will be held for 3 weeks, enabling you to promote the trip to the students. We will be happy to provide any promotional material to ensure that you reach the desired party size.

3. Confirm your booking

Contact us within 3 weeks of making the provisional booking and send us the completed booking form, along with the relevant deposit amount. We will send you a confirmation pack and start booking all the components of your tour to ensure you receive the trip of a lifetime.

t: **01273 767 674**

e: **music@travelbound.co.uk**

w: **travelbound.co.uk/Music16**

The Number 1 Choice

We provide you with the support to ensure you have a **successful and stress-free** tour experience including **help with risk assessments** and a **24-hour support** link to support you overseas. 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 as part of TUI's Education Division, you can **feel safe** in the knowledge that your tour with us is our number 1 priority.



GUEST BLOGGER

Teacher's Take on Music Tours

With 31 years of teaching in his back pocket, Phil Redding continues to share his passion for music through leading music tours for students. Find out about his drive to go the extra mile. Read Phil Redding's article: travelbound.co.uk/BlogMusicTours

2

Hassle-free and transparent booking process

3

96% 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 and the backing from TUI Group

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?

Costa Brava

Enjoy beach life, tasty traditional cuisine, a fantastic range of artistic tradition and plenty of great venues. Don't miss the bustling city of Barcelona and a chance to visit the eccentric Sagrada Familia, the market at La Boqueria, the diversity of Las Ramblas and the Camp Nou, home of the FC Barcelona.



Performance Venues



Barcelona Cathedral

One of Spain's most imposing Gothic buildings – with its roof renowned for its gargoyles, depicting both mythical and domestic animals – this stunning cathedral regularly hosts choirs and visiting orchestras. A very 'resonant interior' is to be expected as well as a very warm welcome.



Passeig Mossen Cinto Verdaguer

We love this location in Tossa de Mar as it is close to plenty of restaurants and bars and an appreciative audience is guaranteed. Concerts take place in the shadow of the illuminated hilltop castle and have been known to last into the 'wee small' hours.



Poble Espanyol

This Spanish village was built for the 1929 International Exhibition on the Montjuïc Hill to show visitors a representative sample of Spanish architecture. This popular tourist attraction is a great outdoor venue, with a number of spaces for late afternoon performances.



Girona Cathedral

Singing in this cathedral is an unforgettable experience. Its construction was first started in the 11th century, in Romanesque style, and later continued in the 13th century in Gothic style. It has the second widest nave in the world, after St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, and delivers an 'imposing acoustic'.

Suggested Itinerary

Day 1-2

Depart the UK and travel overnight to Spain. Arrive at your hotel and spend the afternoon exploring the local amenities, relaxing in the pool or enjoying a rehearsal.

Day 3

Explore the beauty of the rugged coast with a glass-bottom boat tour of the Costa Brava. Spend the afternoon in Girona, an ancient town with the charm of a large city but without the crowds. After dinner, head back to the beachfront for your band concert – be prepared for lots of encores!

Day 4

Head to Barcelona, for a full day of inspiring culture, amazing architecture and sublime seafood. The Sagrada Família is a must for all, as the towering spires and surfaces of Gaudí's masterpiece are overflowing with sculptures. The enchanted Parc Güell contains amazing stone structures, mosaics and fascinating buildings festooned with dragons and natural shapes. Finish the day off with a memorable performance on the sandy beach at Castell-Platja d'Aro.

Day 5

A trip to Parc Aquàtic Water World at Lloret de Mar is a great way for students to let off steam. Those seeking an adrenaline rush can ride the rapids in rubber dinghies or shoot down the flumes. Your final concert will take place in Lloret de Mar.

Day 6-7

Spend the morning on the beach, before returning back to the UK.

Top Tip!

Be prepared for some very long days whilst on tour: in the summer months, concerts often take place late in the evening.

Kraków

Kraków is rich in culture, talent and impressive architecture developed over its many centuries as a royal capital. The main square of the old town of Kraków is one of the largest in Europe and its surroundings have remained unchanged for nearly 700 years.



Performance Venues



Saints Peter and Paul Church

Located on the Royal Route to the Wawel Castle and built between 1597-1619, this was the first Baroque Church in Kraków. Its opulent interior and excellent acoustics make it very popular for choral and orchestral performances.



The Chapel of St. Kinga

Don't miss a visit to the Wieliczka Salt Mine where choirs can perform in a unique setting. The Chapel of St. Kinga – a deep underground cathedral hewn from solid salt! The magical atmosphere and the brilliant acoustics guarantee an unforgettable performance.

Top Tip!

Travelling in winter ensures you receive the best prices available - meeting even the tightest of budgets.



Rabka Bandstand

The spa town of Rabka became known after WWI as a healing centre for children affected by tuberculosis. During WWII, it was occupied by the Nazis and became the holiday centre for German children from bombed cities. Performances can be arranged in the covered amphitheatre in the spa gardens.



St Joseph's Church

A Neo-Gothic early 20th century church which stands over the main square in the Podgórze district, Kraków. Great acoustic conditions make it one of the best concert sites in Kraków, with a wide and faithful audience.

Suggested Itinerary

Day 1

Fly to Kraków and discover the magnificent main square in the old town.

Day 2

Enjoy a walking tour of the historic city, including visits to: Market Square, St. Mary's Basilica, Collegium Maius and the Royal Route. Perform in Saints Peter and Paul Church, the first Baroque church in Kraków. Take a 90minute evening river cruise down the Vistula River, starting at Wawel Castle and travelling by St. Norbert's Convent.

Day 3

A visit to the largest Nazi concentration camp of WWII, Auschwitz is a truly memorable experience. More than 1.1 million men, women, and children lost their lives here and much of the camp remains as a memorial and museum. Enjoy a late afternoon performance in the spa town of Rabka.

Day 4

The Wieliczka Salt Mine is well worth the 15km trip out of Kraków. Choirs can also perform in a unique setting, a deep underground cathedral hewn from solid salt. The magical atmosphere and the brilliant acoustics guarantee an unforgettable performance. Back in Kraków, visit Oskar Schindler's Enamel Factory and Kraków Ghetto, one of five metropolitan Jewish ghettos created by the Nazis. A traditional folklore evening concludes the day.

Day 5

Depending on flight times, spend the morning at leisure before returning to the UK.

Our dedicated local Tour Manager provides excellent service to all our groups and takes care of all aspects of your tour.

Lake Garda

Picturesque Lake Garda, the largest lake in Italy offers numerous ways to rest and play in between performances and cultural excursions. It's approximately halfway between Venice and Milan and not far from the beautiful city of Verona, made famous by Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.



Performance Venues



Piazza Chiesa

We love this venue in Torri del Benaco because the concerts are always well attended and the local town really supports our groups and promotes all performances widely. Piazza Chiesa is the main square in the town and the focus of the summer calendar of events.



Piazza Ferrari

We work with the town of Brenzone regularly and we are able to offer a number of concert locations in the town. Our favourite is Piazza Ferrari – a lovely, spacious square with the lake as backdrop. This is a truly stunning location with good audiences all summer long.



Lakeside Amphitheatre

In a prominent location in the town of Garda, right on the lakeside promenade, this is a professional amphitheatre with tiered seating for the audience. Evening concerts are incredibly popular with locals and tourists alike.



Piazza XXV Aprile

The village of Bussolengo is keen on supporting our performing groups and concerts are organised on the main square, sometimes as joint performances with local brass bands and orchestras. Bussolengo is truly inspiring and picturesque making it the perfect performance venue.

Suggested Itinerary

Day 1-2

Depart the UK and travel overnight to Lake Garda, Italy. Upon arrival, explore the hotel facilities and make the most of the on-site pool.

Day 3

Spend the morning in magical Verona, the setting of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Verona is dotted with pretty palazzi, elegant squares and medieval gems. Enjoy a boat trip from Lazise to Sirmione and then perform in Piazza Chiesa, the main square in Torri del Benaco, where our concerts are always well attended.

Day 4

For spectacular views over Lake Garda nothing beats a ride on the Malcesine cable car to the top of Monte Baldo. Your evening performance will be in the town of Brenzone, a truly stunning location with good audiences all summer long.

Day 5

A full day of fun, thrills and laughter at Gardaland! This amusement park has been ranked the fifth best in the world, with a diverse range of attractions to suit all age groups. Your final performance will be in Garda at a lakeside amphitheatre with tiered seating for the audience.

Day 6-7

Enjoy some free time in and around your hotel. Depart in the afternoon for your overnight journey back to the UK.

Top Tip!

For breath-taking views of Lake Garda and the surrounding mountains, make sure to take a cable car trip to the top of Monte Baldo.

New York

Dive into the rich musical heritage of the city that never sleeps and enjoy its famous sights and skyscrapers. From Times Square and Central Park to the Empire State Building and the MOMA – the island of Manhattan packs more legendary icons into one compact area than any other place on Earth.



Performance Venues



Cathedral of St. John the Divine

Affectionately known as 'Big John' amongst the locals, this is the 4th largest Christian church in the world. It's so large that it is over 2 football fields long and so tall that the Statue of Liberty would comfortably fit under its dome! The cathedral is famous for its 8 second reverberation.



St. Paul's Chapel

Opened in 1766, St. Paul's Chapel escaped destruction when the World Trade Center buildings collapsed on September 11, 2001 and it now plays a vital role in telling the 9/11 story. More than one million people visit the chapel every year. Performances take place everyday at 1pm.



Empire State Building

On selected dates, it is possible for choral groups of up to 60 singers to perform on the 80th floor of this iconic New York building. Choral risers, electric keyboard and a music stand are available on site – a truly unique and memorable experience.



Naumburg Bandshell

At the heart of Central Park, this iconic outdoor amphitheatre regularly features performances by the New York Symphony Orchestra. It was also the site of both a speech delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr. and a eulogy read by John Lennon, giving the bandshell a place of historical importance within the park.

Top Tip!

For a truly moving and sobering experience, make sure to discuss with us a performance at St. Paul's Chapel by Ground Zero.

Suggested Itinerary

Day 1

Depart the UK for your 7hr flight to NYC. Once checked in, head straight for the bright lights of Times Square, renowned for its Broadway theatres, cinemas, shops and electronic billboards.

Day 2

A great way to gain a better understanding of this wonderful city is to hop on a boat and visit the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, a culture-defining landmark where, between 1892 and 1954, over 12m people searched for American citizenship. For the ultimate retail therapy, discover South Street Seaport before performing at St. Paul's Chapel. Enjoy an evening meal at Planet Hollywood and then soak up all the buzz and glitz during a Broadway show.

Day 3

Spend the morning exploring Central Park, an 843-acre masterpiece of landscape architecture and then perform at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, known locally as 'Big John'. Enjoy a backstage tour of Madison Square Garden before watching the sunset from the top of the iconic Empire State Building.

Day 4-5

Marvel at the vaulted ceiling of Grand Central Station and explore the United Nations Headquarters before your overnight flight back to the UK.



BLOG

Benefits of a Music Tour

Seeing your students rise to the occasion as they take to the stage can be a hugely rewarding experience. However, there are many more benefits of taking your group on a music performance tour abroad: travelbound.co.uk/MusicTourBenefits

Noordwijk

This friendly seaside town offers lots of opportunities to perform and enjoy the culture and attractions of Holland. And with both Amsterdam and The Hague less than 45mins away, Noordwijk is perfectly positioned for the full musical and educational experience.



Performance Venues



Scheveningen

This bustling seaside resort is one of the 8 districts of The Hague. With its long sandy beaches, lighthouse and pier, this modern resort is an ideal location for summer performances. Concerts take place in the afternoon right on the seafront or on the beach itself.



Beestenmarkt

This large square in Delft takes its name from the livestock markets that used to take place here from 1595 to 1972. Nowadays it is busy with cafés and restaurants. Performances take place at lunchtime in the summer months.



Broek in Waterland Church

The local Protestant church in this picturesque Dutch village north of Amsterdam invites groups of any type to perform and always provides a warm welcome. Make sure you take time to explore the village with its uniquely-shaped houses.



English Reformed Church

This beautiful 15th century church is located in the heart of Amsterdam and it is one of the oldest buildings in the city. The church actively promotes music with over a hundred concerts arranged every year. The outstanding acoustics are perfect for chamber choirs. This is a superb venue for high calibre groups.

Top Tip!

Allow your students time to unwind after their performances with a day of fun at Efteling, a huge fantasy theme park in Kaatsheuvel.

Suggested Itinerary

Day 1

Head off to the Netherlands and the Dutch resort of Noordwijk.

Day 2

Explore Zaanse Schans, a neighbourhood of Zaandam that showcases traditional Dutch crafts and architecture perfectly – with six windmills, a wooden shoe workshop, and a cheese farm, among other things. In the afternoon, perform in the busy and popular market square in Delft before visiting the local bowling alley for a traditional game of skittles.

Day 3

A full day in Amsterdam starts with a visit to the building where Anne Frank hid from Nazi persecution. A cruise through Amsterdam's canals is a pretty and peaceful way to see some of the city's most beautiful spots. Performing at the 15th century English Reformed Church is the perfect way to end the day.

Day 4

Time permitting, visit Bruges for a mouth-watering chocolate tasting activity en route to Calais.



GUEST BLOGGER

Noordwijk Destination Report

Newlands Girls' School's Ian Shilling provides a guide on what to plan for on a music tour and his take on what a trip to Noordwijk offers his students in aiding their development and experiences at school.

Read Ian Shilling's article: travelbound.co.uk/BlogNoordwijk

Paris

The charming French capital boasts so many beautiful performance venues and a wealth of culture and attractions. Cruise past the sights on the River Seine and take a tour of the splendid Palais Garnier, a 1,979-seat opera house or explore the huge collection of instruments at Cité de la Musique.



Performance Venues



L'église de la Madeleine

This neoclassical building resembling a Roman Temple was intended as a monument to Napoleon's Grande Armée. Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns and Gabriel Fauré have both been organists here. Music plays a central role in the church's activities and visiting choirs and orchestras are warmly welcomed.



Jardin du Luxembourg Bandstand

This famous Parisian park is nearly 440 years old and is highly regarded in French culture – it is where Marius and Cosette met in Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*. The bandstand is used for performances all year round.



Notre-Dame Cathedral

Notre-Dame Cathedral really needs no introduction, as it's widely considered one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture in the world. Choral performances are by audition only and can take the form of either an informal recital or Mass participation.



Disneyland Paris Performance

The Disney Performing Arts Onstage programme offers an unforgettable opportunity to amateur groups, with the aim of giving participants a glimpse into Disney's professional world of entertainment. This is truly a unique, once in a lifetime experience of becoming a Disney performer for the day!

Suggested Itinerary

Day 1

Depart the UK and travel to the French capital by coach, train or air. Take to the water for a relaxing and interesting river cruise alongside some of the main sights of Paris.

Day 2

Start the day with an unforgettable performance inside Notre-Dame Cathedral, quite possibly the highlight of the entire tour. Next stop is the Musée du Louvre, before scaling the dizzy heights of one of Europe's most iconic landmarks: the Eiffel Tower!

Day 3

Explore the opulent Château de Versailles. In the afternoon, perform at the Église de la Madeleine, where choirs and orchestras are warmly welcomed.

Day 4

Take an audio tour of the Cité de la Musique and discover the history of music through the thousands of instruments on display. Late morning, perform on the Jardin du Luxembourg Bandstand and then enjoy a guided tour at the Palais Garnier, the largest opera house in Europe.

Day 5

Time permitting, shop along Avenue des Champs-Élysées before returning to the UK.



GUEST BLOGGER

Top Tips for Tour Leaders

As the elected group leader for the Royal Holloway Gospel Choir, Thea Pope led the ensemble in Paris and shared with Travelbound her top tips to organising and surviving a music tour.

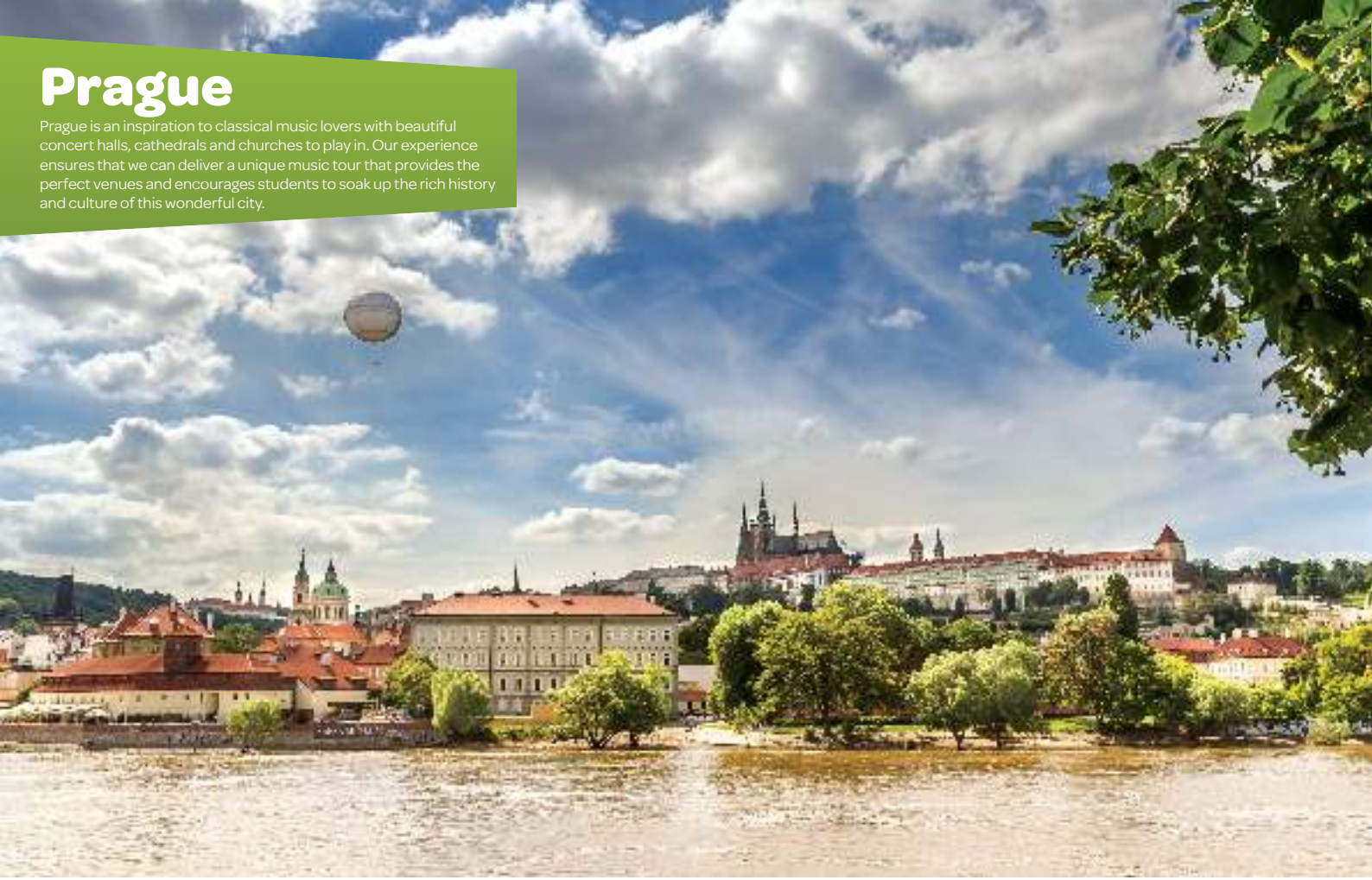
Read Thea Pope's article: travelbound.co.uk/BlogTopTips

Top Tip!

The best concert venues get booked up quickly so it is essential to book early to guarantee availability. Some venues also request an audition CD as part of the booking process.

Prague

Prague is an inspiration to classical music lovers with beautiful concert halls, cathedrals and churches to play in. Our experience ensures that we can deliver a unique music tour that provides the perfect venues and encourages students to soak up the rich history and culture of this wonderful city.



Performance Venues



The Church of Saint Nicholas

This magnificent Baroque church on the Old Town Square welcomes choirs, orchestras and other ensembles to perform in the regular afternoon concert series. Audiences are always good and appreciative, and our groups just love performing in one of Europe's most recognisable public spaces.



Mill Colonnade

This grand colonnade, in the equally grand spa town of Karlovy Vary, hosts summer concerts nearly every day. Entertaining programmes here attract large crowds of tourists who perambulate whilst sipping the medicinal waters of the spa.



Prague Hlahol

The building of Prague Hlahol was built in 1905 for choir rehearsals. Architectonically, the building is considered to be one of the finest Art Nouveau monuments of its kind. A piano, changing rooms and toilets are available in this concert hall for the group.



St. Anna's Church

We're fond of this deconsecrated venue which has begun another life as a culture centre in Karlovy Vary. Concerts are used as fundraisers for the restoration of the building and the current, rather bare, appearance provides a clean acoustic.

Suggested Itinerary

Day 1-2

Depart the UK and travel overnight to Prague. Upon arrival, get straight into town and explore the impressive castle district. Take in traditional food, music and dancing at Strahov Monastery.

Day 3

A full day in Prague begins with a wander over Charles Bridge and then a visit to the Czech Museum of Music. Perform at the Church of Saint Nicholas after lunch. Enjoy some free time around the Old Town Square for some shopping before attending a performance of Don Giovanni.

Day 4

Head out to the old silver mining town of Kutná Hora, where you can see the macabre Sedlec Ossuary before going on to the St. Barbara's Church. Return to Prague for your performance in the Church of Saint Simon and Jude. See Prague by night from the River Vltava, while enjoying a buffet dinner.

Day 5

Enjoy a day in western Bohemia as you visit Karlovy Vary. Take the funicular for a great view of the town before your afternoon Mill Colonnade concert. Don't miss the spouting geyser at the end of the spa hall!

Day 6-7

Enjoy some last minute shopping or catch the hourly changing of the guard at Prague Castle. Depart in the afternoon for your overnight journey back to the UK.

Top Tip!

For a full immersion into Czech Musical Heritage, add a typical folklore evening to your tour.

Rhineland

Land of castles and pretty spa towns, the romantic Upper Middle Rhine Valley is a UNESCO World Heritage region. Friendly locals love being entertained and venues range from town squares and city parks to parish churches, cathedrals, and ornate spa buildings.



Performance Venues



Bad Neuenahr Revolving Stage

Groups can perform on the revolving stage either indoors or outdoors. The stage is slightly smaller if groups perform outside. A piano, chairs and microphones are available for the group upon request.



Rüdesheim am Rhein Market Square

Everyone who's been on a concert tour will probably perform on this very lovely square surrounded by traditional cafés and wine shops. Audiences are appreciative and encouraging. Take advantage of your time in Rüdesheim am Rhein to enjoy a visit to the Siegfried's Mechanical Music Cabinet Museum.



Bad Ems

A fine example of the spa days of the town, the spa house here offers a pillared and opulent setting for any concert. Emperors, Kaisers and Kings have entertained and been entertained in the grand Marble Hall. More informal performances can be arranged at the bandstand in the lush gardens right on the riverside.



All Saints Church

This church in Cologne serves the Anglican community in the Rhineland and has developed a reputation in recent years for a lively cultural and musical programme. It is a modern building with sympathetic acoustics, making it suitable for very varied performances.

Top Tip!

For great prices and numerous performance opportunities as part of the local wine festivals travel in October.

Suggested Itinerary

Day 1

Depart the UK by coach and head off to the Rhineland.

Day 2

Cruise down the Rhine, past the Lorelei steep slate rock to Rüdesheim am Rhein, and visit Siegfried's Mechanical Music Cabinet Museum. This 16th century house contains the world's largest collections of self-playing musical instruments. In the afternoon perform on the busy Rüdesheim am Rhein market square and soak up the unique fairy-tale atmosphere of this Rhineland town. After dinner, enjoy an evening of bowling.

Day 3

Beethoven's birthplace is the main draw in Bonn, and visiting his house will not disappoint. Here you'll gain an insight into the composer's life, with over 150 exhibits – from musical instruments to portraits and documents. Next stop is the extremely popular Cologne Chocolate Museum, where students (and teachers) can indulge in the chocolate fountain. Visit Cologne Cathedral and then perform in All Saints Church, a modern building with sympathetic acoustics.

Day 4

Explore the Marksburg, one of the best-preserved castles in the Rhine Valley. Bad Ems is the location for your next performance, a beautiful spa town right on the riverside. Back at the hotel, enjoy an in-house talent show – the perfect way to spend your last night in Germany.

Day 5

Depart the Rhineland for the UK.

Travelbound, winners of the
2016 Best Group Tour Operator
Germany Product Award.

Germany
The travel destination
www.germany.travel



Rome

'The Eternal City' is rich with over 2,000 years of history to inspire and excite your students. A treasure trove of ancient buildings and archaeological sites, the city has many prestigious historic churches, making it an ideal destination for sacred choirs.



Performance Venues



St. Peter's Basilica

Would your choir love to sing at Mass in the most venerable church in the Catholic world? St. Peter's Basilica is possibly the most notorious work of Renaissance architecture and one of the world's largest churches. Be prepared for imposing acoustics in this church in Vatican City.



Pantheon

Choirs are invited to perform during the opening times of the monument and a sacred programme is required. Thanks to its circular shape and round opening in the dome, this venue has very interesting acoustics. The 2,000 year old dome is still the largest unreinforced concrete dome in the world.



Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore

One of 4 Papal basilicas in Rome, this is the most important Roman Marian church in the city, dedicated to worshipping the Blessed Virgin Mary. Choirs are invited to sing during Mass.



Arcibasilica Papale di San Giovanni in Laterano

The basilica is the cathedral church for Rome and the official episcopal seat of the Bishop of Rome, the 266th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Francis. Choirs can perform during Mass.

Suggested Itinerary

Day 1

Fly to Rome and check into your hotel. We recommend a visit to the Time Elevator for a fun and informative introduction to the city.

Day 2

In the morning, sing at Mass in the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore. After your performance, walk to the Colosseum and the Roman Forum to discover Rome's ancient history with a guided visit.

Day 3

A full day in Vatican City. Visit the Vatican Museums in the morning and marvel at the Sistine Chapel. In the afternoon, explore St. Peter's Basilica and climb up to the Dome before singing at Mass.

Day 4

Start the day with a group photo on the iconic Spanish Steps and enjoy some shopping in Via del Corso. Walk to Piazza Navona and to the Fontana di Trevi – remember to toss a coin with your right hand over the left shoulder into the Fontana to ensure your future return to Rome! Experience some surprising acoustics during your performance in the Pantheon.

Day 5

Depending on flight times, visit the Catacombs before returning to the UK.

Top Tip!

If you are planning to perform in St. Peter's Basilica ensure you book early to avoid disappointment. Demand is very high!

Tuscany

Glorious Tuscany offers a wealth of music culture, art and architecture, along with serene countryside and fine food. With the opportunity to visit Puccini's house in Lucca, the medieval towers of San Gimignano and the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, no wonder this is one of our most popular destinations.



Performance Venues



Chiesa di Santa Margherita in Santa Maria dei Ricci

This lovely church holds regular concerts for both amateur and professional ensembles to finance the maintenance of the organ. Extremely popular with our groups, this is a small, intimate venue right in the heart of Florence.



Terme Tettuccio

This sought-after professional venue is one of the most famous and historical spa establishments in Montecatini, dating from the 18th century. Its spectacular colonnade is a fantastic backdrop for any type of concert.



Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta

We like promoting concerts in the town of Montecatini Terme and the Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta welcomes groups for concerts and Mass. The large interior has excellent acoustics and is of a modernist design.



Barga

The town of Barga is a thriving resort in the summer with a long-standing connection to the UK. Groups with a light, popular repertoire are invited to perform on one of the town's squares as evening entertainment for locals and tourists alike.

Suggested Itinerary

Day 1-2

Depart the UK and travel overnight to Italy. Arrive at your hotel and spend the afternoon exploring the lovely town of Montecatini – home of Italy's premier *terme* (spas). Stroll along the streets and find the best ice-cream parlour in town.

Day 3

Explore the wonderful town of Pisa for a perfect iconic photo opportunity: a shot of you "holding up" the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Aside from this tourist hotspot, there is loads to see. In the afternoon, visit the medieval walled town of Lucca, the birthplace of composer Giacomo Puccini, before returning back to Montecatini and performing at the Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta.

Day 4

At least one day in Florence is a must. Here you can visit the world-famous Uffizi Gallery, the Palazzo Pitti, have your photo taken with Michaelangelo's David or stroll along the Ponte Vecchio. In Florence, we can also arrange a performance at Chiesa di Santa Margherita in Santa Maria dei Ricci, a small, intimate venue in the heart of the city.

Day 5

Spend the morning visiting Siena, one of Italy's best-preserved medieval cities. Next stop is the nearby town of San Gimignano, a classic medieval walled hill town known as the 'City of Beautiful Towers'. Whilst in San Gimignano you'll perform in the Chiesa di Sant'Agostino.

Day 6-7

Ride the funicular to Montecatini Alto for spectacular views and enjoy an informal sing in the charming Church of Santa Maria before an afternoon departure back to the UK.

Top Tip!

Do you lead a band/orchestra? Do not discount Tuscany. Traditionally more popular with choirs, Tuscany's cities and towns open their doors to other ensembles in the summer months, hosting a series of outdoor concerts.

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