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## 2023 Travel Study Catalog

Illinois Math and Science Academy

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## 2023 Intersession Travel Study Programs

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### Overview - Please Read Carefully

Find below descriptions of three potential 2023 Intersession Travel Study offerings. Please note that **each program is pending final approval** from IMSA's Intersession Review Committee and the Principal's Office. However, planning and booking for potential programs will need to begin in under one month, and so this program guide and the [Travel Study Program Application Form](#) are being sent to students and families now so that you can consider your options and complete the application form.

**COSTS.** The costs for each program are projections that include airfare, lodging, transportation, admissions, and some meals. Any money not spent on/during the trip on additional meals will be returned to families at the end of the trip. IMSA wants to provide equitable access to our Travel Study programs. As the application indicates, scholarships and financial assistance will be available. Full details on eligibility and award amounts are forthcoming.

**INTERSESSION PARTICIPATION.** All students must participate in Intersession; however, Travel Study programs are only one portion of the full catalog of offerings being developed. IMSA will also be offering programs on-site at IMSA, virtual sessions, and local travel programs in the Chicagoland area that do not require an overnight stay. A full catalog of all Intersession offerings will be available before the end of October.

**QUESTIONS.** Lastly, if you have questions about a specific Travel Study program, please contact the listed faculty sponsors. If you have general questions about Travel Study, please contact the Principal's Office at [prinoffc@imsa.edu](mailto:prinoffc@imsa.edu).

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## 2023 TRAVEL STUDY PROGRAMS

Art, Architecture, and Culture in Italy



**DATES:** January 4-13

**FACULTY SPONSORS:** Julie Dowling (jdowlin@imsa.edu), Patrick Kearney (pkearney@imsa.edu)

**FACULTY EXPERIENCE:** This Intersession has taken place three previous times and the sponsors have experience traveling abroad with IMSA students.

**LOCATIONS:** Rome, Vatican City, Florence

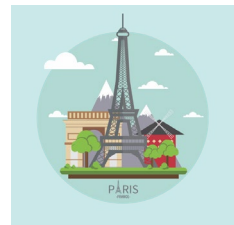
**TENTATIVE ITINERARY:**

- Wednesday, January 4, 2022- Departure from Chicago O'Hare Airport- Parents will be responsible for dropping off their students
- Thursday, January 5- Arrive in Rome, Italy- check into Hostel. Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, Coliseum, Roman Forum- all outdoor and easy to walk between
- Friday, January 6- Feast of Epiphany- go to Saint Peter's Square, Vatican City- Parade in the morning, hear the Pope speak live in the morning. Afternoon- Piazza Navona, Pantheon, Basilica di Santa Maria,
- Saturday, January 7- Borghese Museum and Galleria, St. Castel, Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican museums- may be adjusted due to the holiday and busyness of facility. Back up plan- National Gallery of Ancient Art in Barberini Palace, National Museum Palazzo Venezia, Basilica Papale di Santa Maria Maggiore
- Sunday, January 8- Trevi fountain, National Gallery of Ancient Art in Barberini Palace, National Museum Palazzo Venezia, Basilica Papale di Santa Maria Maggiore
- Monday, January 9- possible train to Florence in evening - morning will be spent at locations not able to fit in schedule previous days
- Tuesday, January 10- Duomo Cathedral + climb, Ponte Vecchio, Palazzo Vecchio
- Wednesday, January 11- Museum Day- Uffizi, seeing the David, Ponte Vecchio, Palazzo Vecchio, If possible we could visit the Dante museum.
- Thursday, January 12- travel back to Rome for flight in afternoon, morning in museums not fit the previous day
- Friday, January 13- Flight out of Rome. Parents will be required to pick up their children from the airport.

**Cost: \$2600** (any money not spent during trip will be returned to families at the end of the trip or spent on additional meals during the trip- In 2019 we returned over \$300 but we are trying to account for inflation and varying flight costs). First deposit of \$1300 due on October 11 so flights and hotels can be booked.

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**Paris Intersession: Culture, Art, and Literary History**



**DATES:** January 5-14

**FACULTY SPONSORS:** Erin Micklo (emicklo@imsa.edu), Devon Madon (dmadon@imsa.edu)

**FACULTY EXPERIENCE:** Ms. Micklo has experience taking students on international trips to France and London and Dr. Madon is currently teaching a Travel Writing English elective at IMSA.

**TENTATIVE ITINERARY:**

- **January 5:** Leave for Paris (parents must bring students to O'Hare for departure)
- **January 6:** Arrive in Paris and settle in
  - Pick up Paris Pass
  - Pantheon and Saint Sulpice (largest church in Paris)
- **January 7:** Hop-on-Hop-off bus tour (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- **January 8:**
  - Walking Tour: [\*Montmartre & Sacré Coeur walking tour\*](#)
  - Notre Dame and the Archeological Crypt experience
- **January 9:**
  - Walking Tour: [\*Hidden Gems in Le Marais – Walking Tour\*](#) or *Eiffel Tower Guided Climb*
  - Musee d'Orsay
- **January 10:**
  - Versailles
  - Evening River Cruise on the Seine
- **January 11:**
  - The Louvre
  - Champs Elysees (visit Ladurée for macarons!)
  - Arc de Triomphe at sunset
- **January 12:**
  - Walking Tour: *Latin District Tour* **or** *Literary Women Walking Tour with Sweet Tastings*
  - Visit Sainte Chapelle
- **January 13:**
  - Possible day trip if funding allows (depending on number of students on trip)
- **January 14:**
  - Fly home (must be picked up by parent/guardian or parent designee)

**Cost:** \$2950\* including airfare, hotel (double or triple occupancy), Paris Pass that includes cost of walking tours and entrance to museums, monuments and exhibits, airport transfers in Paris, four group dinners, daily breakfast, travel insurance and metro cards. **Payment Due Date(s):** \$1400 is due on Tuesday, Oct. 11, remaining balance (\$1550) is due on November 30.

**Not included:** Passport fees, lunch each day, four dinners and personal spending money

*\*Please note that any money not spent on the planned activities and meals will be refunded to families or spent on additional meals for the students. Trip costs may vary a bit due to flight costs, currency exchange rates, etc., so we are estimating on the high end to make sure costs are covered. If flight costs are less than expected, payment #2 may be reduced. On our last trip to France each family did receive a small refund after the trip.*

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## Mexico: History, Culture, and Science in the Yucatan Peninsula



**DATES:** January 5-12 or January 6-13 (dates will be determined by airfare)

**FACULTY SPONSORS:** Sarah O'Leary-Driscoll(solesry@imsa.edu), second sponsor TBD.

**FACULTY EXPERIENCE:** Ms O'Leary has taken IMSA students and college undergraduates to do research with her colleague Dr. Melissa Lenczewski, from Northern Illinois University, to this area in the past, and spent most of the past summer there for graduate school purposes, so she is very familiar with the area. In addition she has traveled to Hawaii and internationally with students several other times in the past.

**LOCATIONS:** Puerto Morelos, Quintana Roo Mexico & surrounding areas in the Yucatan peninsula

### **TENTATIVE ITINERARY:**

For this intersession trip, students will travel to Puerto Morelos, a port town on the Yucatan peninsula. While it is nestled between some major tourist destinations, it retains much of its local charm and culture as a fishing village, and will be a perfect immersive home base for our explorations. This trip will have plenty of history, exploring Mayan ruins and archeological sites such as Chichen Itza or Coba, and experience culture as we visit local markets, restaurants, and local artisans along the way.

One of our major goals on the trip, though, will be to explore the ecology and geology of the area, specifically surrounding water. We will swim in underground caves in RioSecrato and the local cenotes or swimming holes, snorkel in beautiful lagoons, and combine our adventures with observations about local biodiversity along with a research project of examining and testing the water characteristics and quality in these locations as well as other places in the surrounding areas to compare, contrast, and draw conclusions about potential impact of human development on the natural ecosystems and water overall in the area. Students will learn some basic research skills, specifically surrounding water collection, and will also gain some experience making connections between the science they are learning and the local history and culture. They will also work together on compiling their data collection and create a poster, or depending on student numbers, a series of posters to share what they have learned with the IMSA community.

During the trip, we will be following approximately the schedule below. Our trip will include quite a lot of time outdoors, as we both explore the local areas and history, and do some research, collecting data at nearby cenotes. Cenotes are what you might think of as "swimming holes" in the forested jungle, and are quite beautiful! The data that we collect and analyze will contribute to a larger ongoing research project between professors in the area in Mexico and at Northern Illinois University.

- Day 1: fly-in and get settled. Shop for groceries

- Day 2: Rio Secreto cave tour in the morning and Playa del Carmen or Puerto Morelos in the afternoon
- Day 3: Cenote sampling, swimming, and hiking (location TBD)
- Day 4: Snorkeling in Akumal and learning about sea turtles and biodiversity
- Day 5: Cenote sampling, swimming, and hiking (location TBD)
- Day 6: Maya Ruins at Coba historical sites
- Day 7: Mayan Museum in Cancun; Data analysis from collections/ Puerto Morelos area exploration and dining in the afternoon/evening
- Day 8: Leave for airport

**Cost: \$2300**

First, the highest priority for planning is to secure airfare and pay for housing. We are planning to leave on January 5th or 6th from Ohare airport and return on January 12th/13th (dates adjusted based on airfare) . For housing, we will be renting air b&b houses in a small gated neighborhood with an on site pool. To make sure we have secured airfare and that these are all reserved, we will need an initial \$1000 (of the \$2300 total) from each student.

The rest of the \$2300 needed will go towards:

- Transportation (car rental, etc)
- Admission to sites
- Supplies
- Food (groceries for breakfast and snacks, and meals out)
- Chaperone costs for airfare and housing

The plan is to collect this money from the students, convert what will be needed for admissions and food to pesos here in the US to save transaction fees for the group, and then redistribute daily expenses to students on the trip. We are attempting to account for inflation of airfare and car rental costs but will refund any unused expenses to families.