



EXPLORE
AMERICA



What we'll cover today

Tour Overview

Flight Itinerary

Flight Reminders

Tour Tips

Packing Tips

Safety & Support

Your Travel Tools

Rules of the Road

Mission Statement

Our Tour

Departure Date

March 5th

Return Date

March 10th

Drop Off Spot &
Time

11:59 PM Departure

Meet at Sky Harbor Airport at 9:50 PM at the United Airlines checking counter (terminal 3, 1st floor).

Pick Up Spot &
Time

8:05 PM Arrival

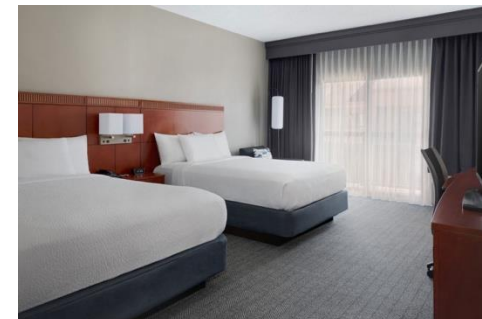
Meet at Sky Harbor Airport at terminal 3, baggage claim area.

Home away from home

Courtyard Landover

8330 Corporate Dr

Landover, MD 20785



EF Tour Director:

Amy Wooten

Our dedicated EF Tour Director will be with us 24/7 to handle tour logistics and help bring our destinations to life! They are there to support us every day and they will even stay at the hotel with us each night.

Flights

EF advises packing a carry-on bag and a personal item (your EF backpack). Carry-on baggage fees are included in our program fee. Be sure to check our airlines website for baggage size limitations.

If you would like to check a bag, you are responsible for any baggage fees.



Departure Itinerary

Depart

3/5/2025	11:59 PM	Phoenix	United Airlines
3/6/2025	6:03 AM	Wash, DC (Dulles)	Flight# 1578

Return Itinerary

Return

3/10/2025	5:45 PM	Wash, DC (Dulles)	United Airlines
3/10/2025	8:05 PM	Phoenix	Flight# 1938

Preparing for Takeoff



Arrive at the airport

When we arrive at the airport, we will stay together as a group!

Be sure to arrive in clothes that you will be wearing when we hit the ground running.



Check In

I will be checking our group in. Please do not check in online.

Travelers 18+ will need a Government Issued Real ID* to fly.

*Real ID will be required in all states within the US (including Puerto Rico) for travel effective May 7, 2025. If you do not already have your Real ID, adults 18+ will need to make sure this is updated before your tour date to make it through airport security.



Security

We will all go through security after check-in.

Anything we take must comply with TSA restrictions.

We may need to take larger electronics out of our bags or take our shoes off.



Boarding

We will wait at our gate before we board.

Boarding often starts around half an hour before our flight, so it's important that we get there early!



Arrival

Our Tour Director will meet us upon arrival, and we will hop right on the bus!

It's important that we have anything we may need for the day in our carry-on or in our backpacks.

Just in case



We're seeing more travel disruptions than in past years, and EF is hearing from trusted industry partners that this trend is likely to continue. While EF makes every effort to minimize these disruptions, it's important to keep you informed about what to expect and provide suggestions to ensure we are prepared in the event of a delay.

Steps I will take as your Group Leader:

- I will speak directly with the airline to get information about our options as they are responsible for rebooking our flight if necessary.
- Myself or one of our chaperones will share updates with you all via our designated on-tour communication channel.
- I will communicate itinerary updates directly with EF, so they are aware and can make changes accordingly. To help streamline communication, there is no need for you to call EF as well unless you have a personal emergency separate from our delay.

Steps our travelers and families should take:

- Travelers should save receipts from expenses incurred during a delay as they will be necessary for potential insurance claims or reimbursements. See policy for coverage detail.
- While never ideal, when faced with disruptions, our most important jobs are to stay calm, be flexible, and keep a positive attitude (we're going on an amazing adventure, after all!).

Monthly Weather - Washington, DC

As of 3:42 pm EST

< Feb

Mar ▾ 2025 ▾

View

Apr >

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
23 ☀️ 50° 30°	24 ☀️ 54° 39°	25 ☀️ 60° 43°	26 ☀️ 56° 39°	27 ☁️ 55° 35°	28 ☀️ 48° 31°	1 ☀️ 51° 35°
2 ☁️ 47° 29°	3 ☀️ 48° 37°	4 ☁️ 52° 43°	5 ☁️ 54° 34°	6 ☁️ 45° 31°	7 Avg 53° 34°	8 Avg 53° 34°
9 Avg 53° 34°	10 Avg 54° 35°	11 Avg 54° 35°	12 Avg 54° 35°	13 Avg 54° 35°	14 Avg 55° 36°	15 Avg 55° 36°



EXPLORE
AMERICA

Packing Tips

Pack Light

We are responsible for loading our luggage on and off the bus and into our hotels. Remember to leave room for souvenirs if you plan on shopping.

Baggage

Be sure to pack everything you need for the first day in your personal item, as we won't check into our hotel until the end of the day. Carry any valuables, personal items and/or medications in your EF backpack or carry-on.

For a full packing list, please visit EF's help center, using the QR code above, or the site below:
<https://www.efexploreamerica.com/help-center/preparation/what-to-pack>



Clothing

The weather on tour may be different from what we're used to at home. Be sure to check the weather and bring layers in case you get cold or warm throughout the day. We will be touring rain or shine! Pack two comfortable shoes at the most! This will save room (and weight!) in your suitcase.

Snacks

We will do LOTS of walking! Be sure to have a reusable water bottle so that you can stay hydrated. If you have any allergies, or think you may get hungry between meals, feel free to bring extra snacks!



WHAT TO BRING

To help you prepare for your upcoming Service Learning Tour, here is a full list of things to bring and keep in mind while working in and visiting local communities. While you're packing, remember: service isn't about flair so please bring only what you need.

Clothing and accessories

You will be outdoors and working hard during your trip, so please bring clothing that you do not mind getting dirty. You should check the local weather before departing, and remember to dress appropriately for the outdoor activities you'll be doing.

- ☐ Large backpack
- ☐ Comfortable walking/hiking shoes
- ☐ Sandals
- ☐ Shirts (short and long sleeved)
- ☐ Socks and underwear
- ☐ Watch
- ☐ Shorts/pants/jeans (no leggings/yoga pants)
- ☐ Long pants
- ☐ Pajamas

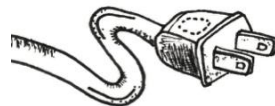
Money

- ☐ ATM card
- ☐ Personal credit card
- ☐ A secure pouch for storing cash

- ☐ Bathing suit and towel (if applicable)
- ☐ Raincoat and/or umbrella
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Lightweight nylon jacket or warm-up top (rather than bulky sweatshirts)
- ☐ Hat with a brim
- ☐ Reusable water bottle

Toiletries

- ☐ Toothbrush
- ☐ Toothpaste & floss
- ☐ Shampoo/conditioner
- ☐ Soap
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Hairbrush/comb
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Any medications (in addition to a copy of any prescriptions)
- ☐ Contact lenses/glasses with spare sets (if applicable)



Electronics

- ☐ An alarm clock
- ☐ Camera with extra batteries or chargers

Documents

- ☐ A copy of the tour itinerary
- ☐ A list of important phone numbers and addresses to send postcards home

SNACKS:

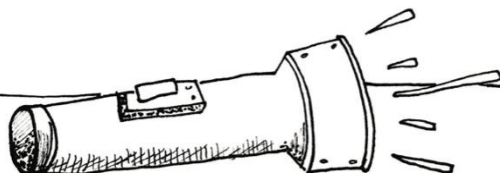
* For the flights: We will have time to purchase food, water, etc., at our flight's gate.

* While on tour: We will stop by a store to buy snacks, etc.

Carry-on bag

Your EF backpack is a perfect carry-on bag. Here's a short list of things you might need on the first day of the trip. These should be packed in the carry-on in case the checked luggage is delayed.

- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Airline ticket
- ☐ Toothbrush and toothpaste (Check tsa.gov for current security requirements.)
- ☐ Hairbrush
- ☐ Contact lens case/glasses (to sleep comfortably on the plane)
- ☐ A change of clothes
- ☐ Any medication you may need
- ☐ Any valuables (only bring what you absolutely need)

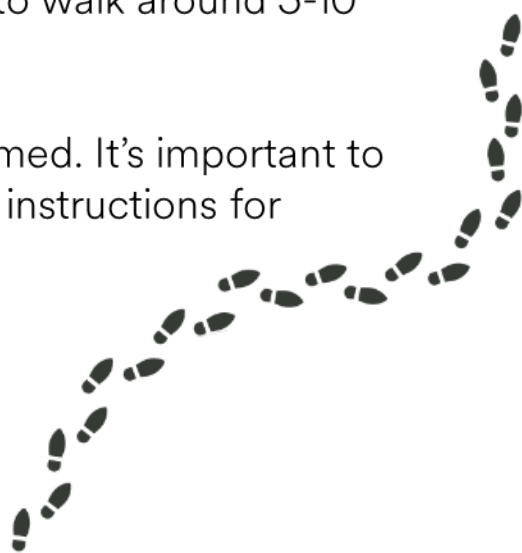


Explore America

Pace & Timing

We'll be seeing a lot in a short amount of time, so the days will be long (especially Day 1)! Our tour will move fast in order to make the most of our time. We can expect to walk around 5-10 miles a day while on tour.

Some activities may be timed. It's important to follow our Tour Director's instructions for meeting times.



Rules of the Road

Participation

Your attendance at scheduled programs is mandatory. We are representing our community, so please be punctual, attentive and respectful.

Other Travelers

At the hotel and throughout our tour, please be courteous of other guests and travelers. You are financially responsible for any damage caused while on tour.

Patience

As many of our partners – hotels, restaurants, busses, airlines & attractions – are now held to new health & cleanliness standards, we remind travelers to be patient and understanding as they work hard to keep guests safe and healthy.

Prohibited & Illegal Activity

Smoking and alcohol use are prohibited. Any illegal activity will result in automatic dismissal from tour. You will be sent home at your own expense. Beyond your assigned roommates, visitors or other group members are prohibited from entering your room.





Meals

Breakfast will be provided by our hotel each morning. Lunch will often be on-the-go (lunch money is not included on tour). Our Tour Director will provide local, affordable options along the way. Dinner will vary each night!

If you have not already, please inform me of any allergies or dietary restrictions.

Be sure to bring spending money for the following:

- Breakfast upon arrival
- Lunch each day
- Airport spending money for the way home
- Snacks and souvenirs throughout tour

Safety & Support

My Rules of the Road

- **Follow** our Tour Director's **instructions on safety**
- **Remain timely** throughout tour
- Keep all **possessions in a safe place**
- We expect a **respectful and safe use of your phone**, at all times!
- Please **do not bring any gaming consoles or non-essential electronic devices**.
- **Promptly communicate** with your chaperones if there is a problem.



EF Tour Director:

Amy Wooten

Tour Directors are our support on the ground. Tour Directors, all of whom have passed a background check and screening process, have 24-hour access to local EF offices such as our Washington, D.C., office and our Boston headquarters.

In addition, EF provides professional, overnight security at our hotels.

Group Leader

My Name:

Mrs. Flores Perez

Contact:

GroupMe App

Fill out your
EF Lanyard!





'25 Senior Trip - Parents

<https://tinyurl.com/y9rxw3ej>

Why Use GroupMe?

- ✓ Quick Communication: Instant notifications & updates.
- ✓ Ease of Use: Accessible from your smartphone or desktop.
- ✓ Group Messaging: A single thread ensures no one misses critical information.
- ✓ Free to Use: GroupMe is free and available for download on iOS, Android, and web browsers.

How to Get Started with GroupMe?

1. Download the GroupMe app
2. Once installed, create an account using your email or phone number.
3. After creating your account, join the GroupMe team, by scanning this QR code (or click on the link). I will accept your request as soon as I receive it.
4. You will receive an invitation to join the Group Chat.
5. Accept the invitation, and you're all set to stay informed!



'25 Sr Trip - Students & Chaperones

<https://tinyurl.com/bdffwbsp>

The EF Traveler App

Tour Number:

2758321PP

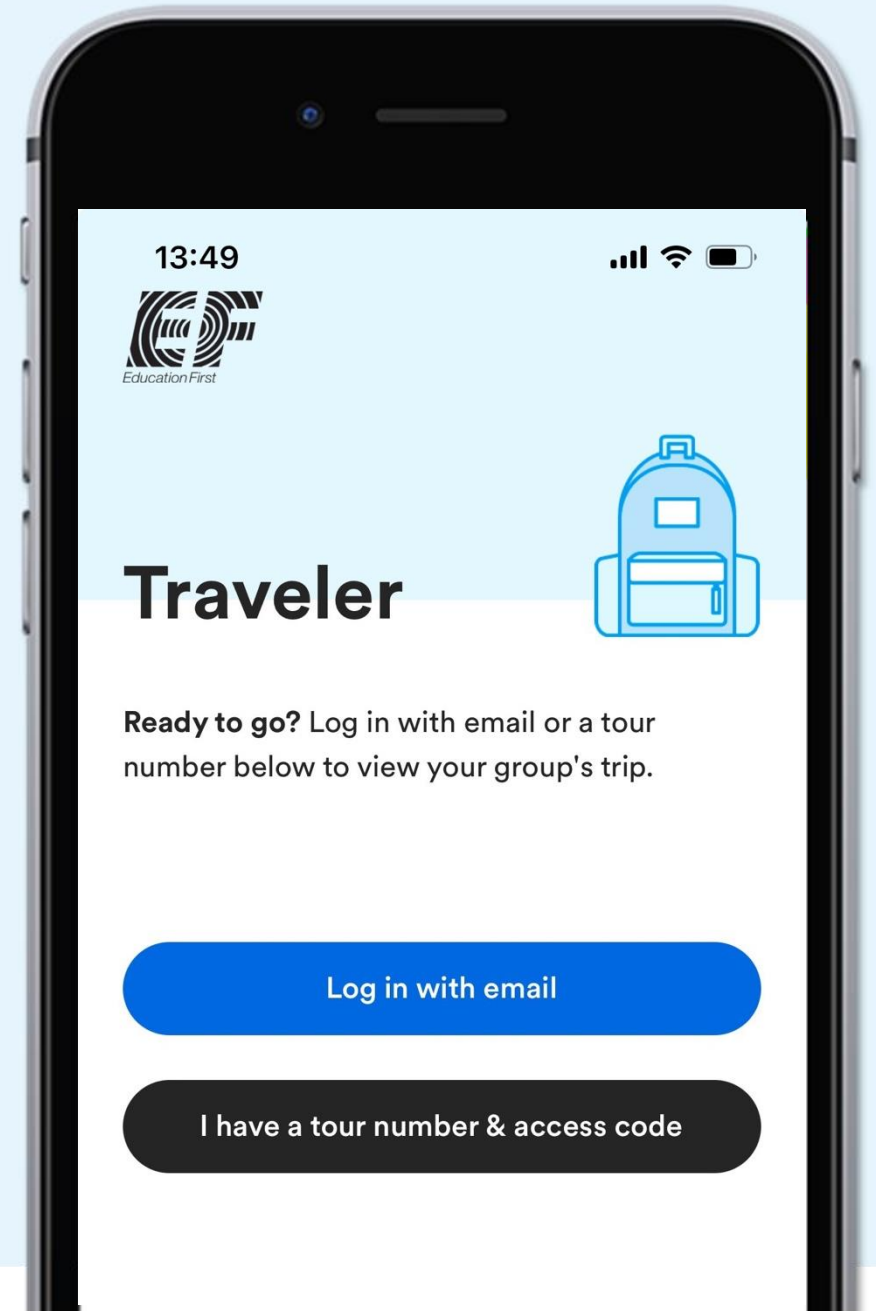
Access Code:

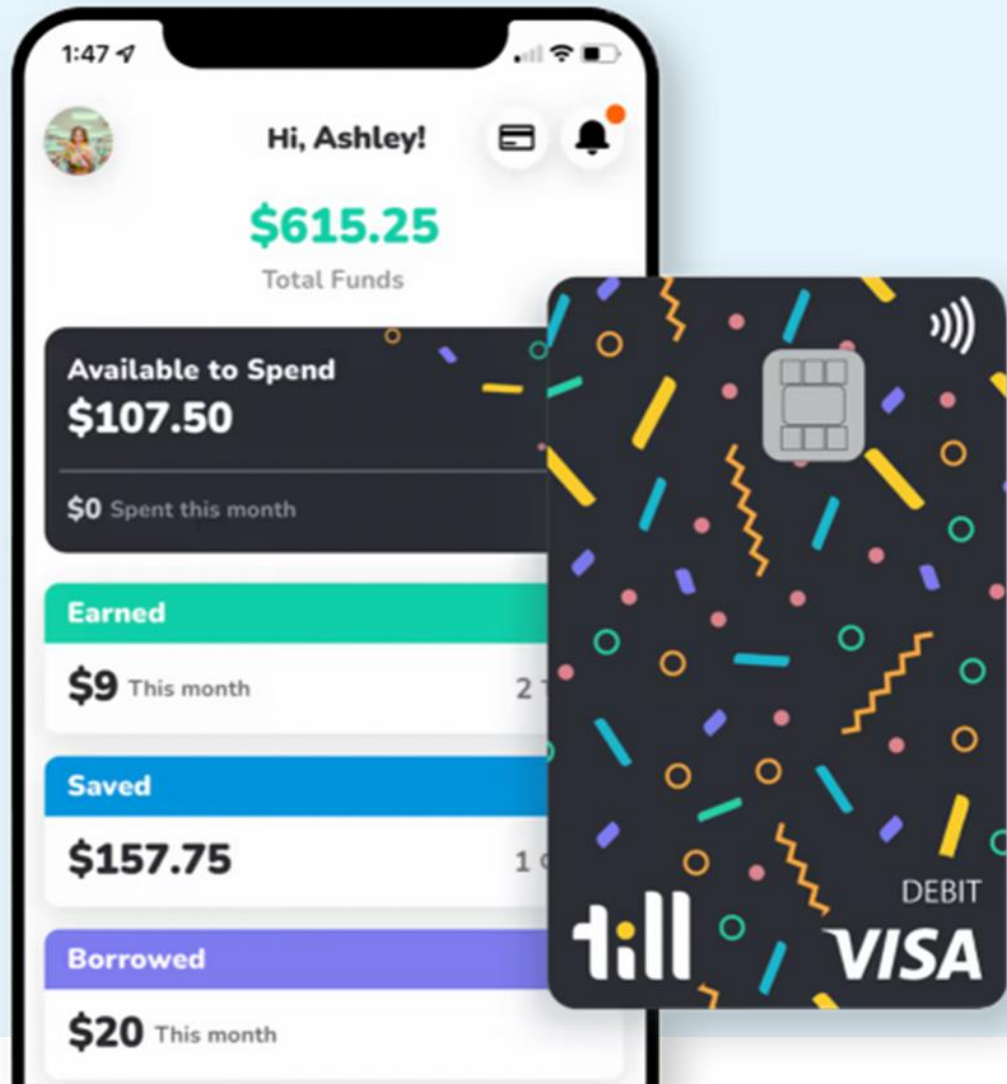
681561



To view our itinerary, hotels, restaurants and more search **“EF Traveler”** in the app store!

Or, log into the EF Traveler App with the same email and password as your EF account!





The Till App

EF is cashless! See QR code below to download.

Before the trip: Till cards can be loaded by parents ahead of the trip to help their kid practice getting comfortable using their Till card (and can add funds for extra expenses like souvenirs and gifts).

On the trip: Parents and students can check their balance on the app and load more money onto their students' card. Safe and seamless!

Any time: Parents and students can use the app to check their balance, add funds, track spending, and more.





For over 55 years, EF has been working to keep minds and the world wide open. We design tours to help educators teach, and so students can learn more—about **tolerance, other perspectives, and themselves.**

At EF Explore America, our trips are specially crafted to help students **go beyond the ideas and experiences they know.** Because the world is filled **with endless potential.** And we show our students that they are, too.

Whether with other travelers or the cultures and communities you experience on tour, we are excited for everyone to know that our travelers are **respectful, curious and kind!**

