

SPAIN 2010

This is a six day trip to the Spanish Land and it combines culture and action. There are many wonderful things to see: Madrid with its fantastic night MOVIDA and art collections and the so called “Madrid Golden Triangle”. We will try some of the famous TAPAS, PAELLA and other Mediterranean blessings.

Going down you will enjoy the warm atmosphere of Southern Spain’s fabulous weather and relax wandering about, visiting most impressive Muslim architectural sights in Cordoba. Cadiz constitutes a unique jewel not to be missed and Gibraltar stands on the Hercules Pillars where the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Ocean meet.

Trip Leaders: Antonella Micone, Marianita Calderon. Participants 20

Participants: maximum 20

Cost per person €700

ICELAND- THE LAND OF VIKINGS PAST

After a day and night exploring the sites and sounds of Britain’s capital, you will be off to a truly unique place in the world— Iceland. Iceland is not only closer than you think, but far different than you ever imagined. Where else can you witness firsthand the language of the Vikings, swim in the steaming waters of the Blue Lagoon to the backdrop of ice capped mountains, behold such marvels of Mother Nature as spouting geysers and volcanoes (hopefully dormant) and endless lava fields, plus take in the warmth of Icelanders day and night in the many restaurants and cafes of the capital Reykjavik. Winters are not as cold as you might expect. So if you want adventure and to sample something unlike any other, this is the trip for you!

Leaders: Fiona Stewart and Melinda Berry

Participants: 20 maximum

Cost: €1100 (5 nights/6 days)

MOROCCO

Morocco is well known for its hospitality and welcoming locals. It is a country of enormous environmental contrasts; from its Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts, plains sweep to the foot of the forested Middle Atlas mountains. Beyond, rise the High Atlas Mountains with peaks over 4000m, before the long, dry, stony descent to the great emptiness of the Sahara. It is a country which embraces rich agricultural land, the oasis valleys in the south with their millions of palm trees, and barren mountains and desert.

Join us in an eye-opening experience; expand your knowledge and fieldwork skills. For the environmentalists amongst us, this will be a unique experience to observe ecosystems entirely different from our own and it will allow for hands on experience that will allow us to better understand this environment. Furthermore, our lives will be enriched by contact with the locals and we will be able to better appreciate the impact of developing society on the environment.

Our journey will include Casablanca, the oasis town of Zagora (where we will enjoy a camel ride into the desert), Imil – a Berber village and of course Marrakech. Time permitting we will also have a relaxing afternoon at the coastal town Essaouira. It goes without saying that part of the tour of Marrakech will be on horse-drawn *caleche*. We will also explore the maze of souks, each devoted to a separate trade. Afterwards, we head back to the centre to the Jemaa el Fna – Marrakech’s famous square, which is the city’s living theatre, where milling throngs of people watch displays by musicians, dancers, storytellers, boxers, snake-charmers and more besides, and all put on for the benefit of Marrakechis, not the tourists. Stalls sell freshly-squeezed orange juice, peanuts and roasted chick peas, while cooking smells waft from stalls selling soup, kebabs and grilled fish, amongst other weird and wonderful local delicacies.

This trip is going to be completely led by local guides and we will travel by private transportation. It is a trip designed only for those who can respect the culture and traditions of the country and are looking for a hands-on experience along with exploring a new place.

Leaders: Eleni Mantzarlis and Luca Derito

Participants: 20 maximum

Cost: €40 (depending on airfare; 7 nights, 8 days)

JORDAN

Our adventure begins in Amman, the modern and ancient capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. From this home base for the first two nights, we’ll visit the ancient Roman city of Jerash and the Muslim fortress of Ailoun al Rabadon. On the third day, we’ll head south towards the desert on the 5,000-year-old King’s Highway, passing through Madaba, the Roman Byzantine “City of Mosaics”; the revered holy site of Mount Nebo, where Moses was buried, with its dazzling view across the Jordan Valley to the rooftops of Jerusalem; and Kerak with its twelfth-century crusader castle. We’ll arrive in the early evening at our main destination: the rose-colored city of Petra. The following day will be dedicated to exploring this UNESCO World Heritage site, which was carved out of kaleidoscopic sandstone by the Nabataeans more than 2,000 years ago. Special side highlights include a hands-on cooking lesson in the regional cuisine and a visit with students at a local rural school. On the fifth and sixth days, in the Wadi Rum desert, which was made famous by the film Lawrence of Arabia, we’ll discover breathtaking sandscapes by foot, camel, and 4x4 jeep; feast on traditional mezze; and stargaze by our Bedouin tents. The trip concludes with the 250-kilometer return by coach to Amman via the Dead Sea. Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime, truly unforgettable experience!

Leaders: Mr. Brouse and Ms. Chen (6 nights/7 days)

Participants: 20 maximum

Cost: €1410

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ALEXANDER

Alexandria, superbly situated on the Mediterranean coast near the Nile Delta, was one of the most famous and most cosmopolitan cities of the ancient world. Founded by Alexander the Great in 334 B.C., it was the capital of Egypt for over 1000 years. Here was the great Library, where Euclid wrote *The Elements*, here was the famed lighthouse, one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world, here Cleopatra ruled, and here she committed suicide.

We shall explore the ancient remnants of the city and enjoy some of the more recent features. We shall stroll through the junk shops of the Souq al Attarine, walk out to Fort Qaytbey, built in 1480 on the foundations of the lighthouse, have coffee in one of the great 1930's Art Nouveau Bars, eat a sea-food dinner along the corniche, and visit the new Library, a super-modern and stunning architectural wonder of the modern world. From Alexandria we shall proceed along the Mediterranean coast to El Alamein, site of 2 important battles in World War II, where we shall visit the war museum. Winston Churchill said: "Before Alamein, we had no victory and after it we had no defeats". Our next stop will be the fabled Oasis of Siwa, deep in the desert, where Alexander the Great made a special detour to visit the Temple of Amun. Siwa is one of Egypt's most isolated settlements, with a population of around 23,000 ethnic Berbers, who have their own distinct culture and language. Within this lush setting of 300,000 date palms, 70,000 olive trees and over 1,000 natural springs, we shall have a chance to relax, swim in the hot springs (Cleopatra's Pool), hire bicycles or donkey carts to explore the 13th century fortress town of Shali, built of natural rock, mud-brick and palm logs.

But perhaps the most exciting part of this trip will be 2 nights camping out in the desert around Siwa. Here we will enjoy spectacular sand dunes, star-studded nights and eating around the fire in the evenings.

This is a trip for those who seek something different – a combination of history, nature and unique culture. (N.B. We have an outstanding guidebook to ancient Alexandria in the library.)

Leader: Dr.Pope

Participants: 18 maximum

Estimated cost: €1200 (7 nights, 8 days)

ALTERNATIVE COPENHAGEN

Copenhagen is considered one of the most ecological cities in the world. That is not the only way in which it is alternative. This year we want to explore the town's Christiania neighbourhood, formed in 1971 after squatters took over abandoned military barracks and proclaimed the area an autonomous neighbourhood. A sign on the exit gate of Christiania reads: "You are now entering the European Union". Copenhagen is also famous for being a capital for modern design. We will be staying in a new hostel furnished by a MOMA designer with views on the beautiful Island Briggs harbour. We'll visit the Danish Design Museum and Architecture Center. We'll take a day trip to the ultra-

modern art museum, the Louisiana, and stroll through the permanent exhibition of over 3000 art pieces dating from 1945 to 2009. We won't pass on history either: we'll take you to visit the Resistance Museum, where we'll learn the story about the "Churchill Club", a group of 15-17 year olds who decided to fight the Nazis on their own initiative, before any adults dared to. If we want a taste of modern Danish cinema we can get it at the Cinema Institute and Museum, with a tour and perhaps a screening. If all of this hasn't convinced you yet, we'll throw in one last surprise, and the only concession to tradition we'll make on this trip: a visit to the city's historical Carlsberg brewery. BEVAR CHRISTIANIA!

Leaders: Pringle and Sara Veroni
Participants: 24 maximum
Cost: €700 (7 nights/8 days)

COLOURFUL PRAGUE

Golden Prague is the ancient capital of Bohemia, now persisting as the Czech Republic. How it reached this stage is a long story of dynastic kingdoms, Holy Roman Empire, Hapsburgs, religious struggles, national revival, the Czechoslovak Republic, Nazi occupation, the communist regime, its collapse, the Slovak divorce, and here we are. This is a trip to a Bohemian city full of art, breathtaking sites, delicious flavors and too many consonants. We will explore Prague and its attractions from the Old Town, the Jewish Quarter, to the New Town and the Castle of Prague. With leisurely walks we will enjoy the delightful Golden Lane, observe the Wall of Hunger, and the pleasant promenades by the river Vltava. We will pause by each sculpture on the Charles Bridge and continue on to the monuments of the Old Town Square. We will be able to admire some of the most outstanding Art Nouveau buildings, such as the Town House, Hotel Europa, St. Vitus' tainted glass windows, and the museum of Alphonse Mucha. While the chilly weather will keep us moving fast through the day, in the evenings we will be able to enjoy delicious and sumptuous Czech cuisine.

Leaders: Dr. Sacchetti and Mrs. Podagelyte
Participants: 15 maximum
Cost: €700-€750 (depending on the airfare; February 21/22 –February 26)

DUBLIN/IRELAND

Although this trip was initially conceived as an extension of the James Joyce English HL tutorial, any eirophile or bibliophile is welcome. Our journey begins in that great city on the Liffey, where we will explore literary Dublin. Sites and activities will include a day in the footsteps of James Joyce's protagonist Leopold Bloom, a trip to Trinity College, the alma mater of Jonathan Swift, Thomas More, Samuel Beckett and Oscar Wilde, and home to the awesome Book of Kells. The soul of Dublin, however, lies less in its libraries, and more in its people, its very vibrant musical tradition and its hearty pubfare. We will make a visit to the Guinness Brewery, one of the tallest buildings in Dublin, the observation deck of which affords views of some of the cities most important landmarks

accompanied by relevant quotations by Irish authors. The second half of the trip will take us to Ireland's west coast, where students will get a feel for Ireland's rural cultural tradition and green. Among other excursions, we will visit the Cliffs of Moher (two hundred meters straight down!), and ferry over to the Aran Islands, the home of the imposing Dun Aengus fortress, humanity's last foothold, hanging over the precipice of an unfeeling, hostile sea. Hope ya come!

Trip leaders: Brad Masoni and Pete Sheppard

Cost: €700-€750 (6 nights/7 days)

Participants: 24 maximum

BERLIN

Berlin is an extraordinary city. Twenty years after the Berlin Wall, and the ongoing celebrations of the event highlight this aspect, the city is working furiously to recreate itself as the capital of Germany and as an international metropolis on the level of London, Paris and Rome. In this six days (five nights) tip we will try to see everything that the city has to offer. It will be an exciting opportunity to visit the outstanding architecture, museums and galleries, castles, parks and also experience the culture and traditions of this multiethnic city.

All the visits that we have scheduled for this trip (including half days excursions to sites near Berlin like Potsdam, the royal palace, or Sachsenhausen, one of the biggest concentration camp in Germany) are of extraordinary importance and some of them might be of strong emotional impact.

In many ways this trip offers the unique opportunity to explore a city that has changed the history of the world, and is now the modern and vibrant capital of central Europe.

Trip leaders: C Negrone and F Boccuni

Cost: €700 (5 nights/6 days)

Participants: 22 maximum

TUNISIA

Tunisia has for over 3000 years witnessed the passage of Phoenicians, Romans, Vandals, Byzantines, Arabs, Turks, and French. Then there are the Berbers, still present, and going back even further. They all came as colonizers, fugitives, nomads, conquerors or adventurers, each leaving part of their story in stone, mosaic, textiles and cuisine.

We shall start our journey exploring the ruins of Carthage, ancient city founded by the queen Dido, visiting the "medina" of Tunis and tasting delicious traditional Tunisian cuisine. From Tunis we will also drive to the picturesque village of Sidi Bou Said and to Bulla Regia, one of the major Roman site of the country. The quarries of marble "giallo

antico” in Chemtou will be our next destination before heading to Dougga, a wonderful Roman site. Our travel program shall also involve a loop southwards to El Jem, famous for its Roman amphitheater, Sbeitla, an ancient Roman city, the holy muslim city of Kairouan, then into the desert fringe, with camels and date-palm shaded oases. We will cross the Chott-el-Jerid, Tunisia’s salt lake and arrive in Douz for their weekly market. From there we will probably embark on a camel trek that will let you experience the desert and learn about the lifestyle and the traditions of the indigenous Berbers. A traditional Berber dinner shall be served and we might even sleep in tents in the desert. During our adventure we will try to meet with Tunisian high school students and local artists.

Leaders: Agnès Martin and Kristina Larsen

Participants: 14

Cost: c. €850 (6/7 nights out)

ALBANIA

Land of Albania! Let me bend mine eyes
On thee, thou rugged nurse of savage men!
The cross descends, thy minarets arise,
And the pale crescent sparkles in the glen,
Through many a cypress grove within each city’s ken.

XLII

Morn dawns: and with it stern Albania’s hills,
Dark Suli’s rocks, and Pindus’ inland peak,
Robed half in mist, bedew’d with snowy rills,
Array’d in many a dun and purple streak,
Arise; and, as the clouds along them break,
Disclose the dwelling of the mountaineer;
Here roams the wolf, the eagle whets his beak,
Birds, beasts of prey, and wilder men appear,
And gathering storms around convulse the closing year.

XLIII

Now Harold found himself at length alone,
And bade to Christian tongues a long adieu;
Now he adventured on a shore unknown,
Which all admire, but many dread to view:
His breast was arm’d ‘gainst fate, his wants were few;

Peril he sought not, but ne’er shrank to meet:
The scene was savage, but the scene was new;
This made the ceaseless toil of travel sweet,
Beat back keen winter’s blast, and welcomed summer’s heat.

If these verses of Lord Byron (c. 1810) give you a slight frisson, this may be the trip for you; if not, you’d be much happier elsewhere. Though not a standard school trip destination, the Land of Eagles is now quieter and more accessible than in Byron’s (or any) time, so we’ll give it a try. Not only has it a magnificent landscape and an ancient enduring people, but also a rich and very Balkan history: Illyrian, Greco-Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman (to 1913) and a stressful last century of struggle, precarious independence, King Zog, Italian imperialism and the paranoid Stalinist dictatorship of comrade Enver Hoxha (1945-1985), now transmuting rapidly into something else. Albanians are largely muslim, although there are substantial Orthodox and Catholic communities. The communist regime repressed all quite efficiently. There is an interesting religious revival underway, including the former powerful muslim Bektashi

order of dervishes, whose supreme Dede we'll visit. Tirana is the modest metropolis and capital. Our travel will be south. If the passes are open, we'll visit Korçë and the forgotten Vlach village of Voskopojë, once (as Moschopolis) the commercial centre of the Ottoman Balkans. If weather is uncooperative, our first stop will be Berat, with its mighty fortress and snowy Tomorit above, then (in this variant) Apollonia, a classical-Byzantine site. A high point will be Gjirokastrë, the superb stone town. Then down to the coast at Sarandë, via the Blue Eye spring, a splendid Byzantine church and an ancient citadel. Near Sarande is the derelict ancient city of Butrint, one of the greatest natural and archeological sites of the Mediterranean. A spectacular coastal road takes us to Himara, Vlorë and back to Tirana. Albanians are generally friendly and hospitable (unless there is a blood feud, which wise visitors will avoid). The country is very poor and a traumatic modern history has left scars. This is a trip for flexible, uncomplaining and diplomatic aspiring Balkanophiles. There will be required preliminary sessions on Albanian history and society. You wouldn't want to confuse Ghegs with Tosks...

Leaders: Jack Ullman, Will Johnson

Participants:

Cost: €750 (8 nights out)

VERDI IN THE VENETO

Were you inspired by SSS's first ever green week? Interested in a Eco-Friendly trip? Passionate about reducing your CO2 footprint or just want to spend a week in February doing something right for the environment?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, join us on a 5-day adventure to the province of Venezia where we will roll up our sleeves, put on our Wellington boots and learn the art of building straw bale houses. These 'case di paglia' are the latest in green-construction: all the materials used are bio-degradable and renewable and therefore safe for the environment. If you have thought about becoming an engineer, architect, or if you are possibly interested in a green career, this trip would be perfect for you! We will be working at LA BOA permaculture center in Belfiore di Pramaggiore, VE (check out the farm's website: <http://www.laboa.org/index%20gb.html> -- great video of the technique) the home of Italy's first ever full-scale straw bale house. Together with practicing green-architects and organic farmers, we will volunteer on local building projects using straw bale techniques and help out with crops and animals on the farm. As a team we'll stay in the big straw bale home, make delicious meals together, and have a messy, wild good time! Bring your green vision, bring your guitar.

This trip is designed to have a low CO2 emission, so we will be traveling by train (not plane) and we are purposefully finding fun close to home. Bring on the local, green movement and learn to use the technologies of the future! CAS credit galore!

Leaders: L. Clark and E. Johnson-Mottola

Participants: 14

Cost: €550-€600 (5 nights/6 days)

WINTER WONDERLAND IN SLOVENIA

Slovenia is a wonderful little *dragulj narave* (jewel of Nature) bordering with Italy.

In this special 2010 Spring Trip we will be enjoying the culture, nature and wonderful hospitality offered by the Slovenes. We will brave the ski slopes and the snow-capped mountains in the Triglavski Narodni Park (the splendid Triglav National Park), visit the renowned caves of Skocjanska Jama, witness the echoes of the First World War in Kobarid (the famous Caporetto), gaze in awe at the *imago paradisi* represented by the fairy-like lake of Bled and enjoy the vibrant and bustling life of Slovenia's small capital, Ljubljana.

During this wonderful week we will be staying in a **5-star eco-friendly hotel** near the enchanted lake of Bohinj (enjoying the comforts of an indoor waterpark, different types of saunas, private cinema, bowling, ice rink and a fitness centre) relaxing after our skiing and winter-sports adventures.

Leaders: Jan Claus Di Blasio, Scott Berry

Participants: 20/28

Cost: €690/€720 (depending on numbers; 6 nights/7 days- 20-26 February)

U.S. COLLEGE VISIT

There are lots of ways to find out about a college, from brochures to videos to college fairs.

But nothing beats going to a college and exploring it for yourself.

We are organizing another college trip to the East Coast of the U.S. for a spring trip option. Juniors interested in colleges in the U.S. should consider joining the trip. We will accept a maximum of 15 students. Our stops will be to colleges in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York City, and finally, Boston. We will stay in inexpensive hotels, and travel by van.

A list of possible schools include: Columbia University, Barnard College, New York University, Eugene Lang College, Parsons School of Design, Bard, Sarah Lawrence, SUNY Purchase, University of Pennsylvania, Swarthmore College, Dickinson College, Haverford College, Goucher College, Johns Hopkins University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, Boston University, Boston College, Emerson College, Tufts University, Harvard University, Hampshire College, Brown University, Rhode Island School of Design.

We have selected a sampling of schools that have a variety of characteristics: large, small, liberal arts, all female, open curriculum, Ivy League. We have also focused on schools where St. Stephen's alumni currently attend. Wherever possible, alumni will be leading tours and making themselves available to give their insights and answer

questions. Also joining us will be Jo Ann Clark, Director of St. Stephen's' New York Office (and former IB English faculty) and her New York colleague, Lee Schmidt.

Approximate price range: €1400 to €1950

Number of nights out: 7

ROME-BASED ACTIVITIES

From Monday through Friday of Trip Week, faculty will offer a variety of activities, and those choosing this option will choose one (or more) each day. The scheduled offerings are still taking shape, but Angela Marra is planning a week full of unusual and enticing activities, including one or more overnight trips... **Please be aware that this option is not the equivalent of a week off of school. Daily participation is obligatory in order to take full advantage of the program. Once the group of students is confirmed, a letter will be sent home detailing the schedule and choices for the week.**

Coordinator: Angela Marra

Costs: Whatever the expenses of each activity are (train tickets, entrance fees, theater tickets, supplies, etc.). These will be announced.