

How Prométour's Customized Tours Change Students' Lives

It starts with a dream: to turn classroom lessons into reality, to get your students excited about learning, to open their eyes to new possibilities, to show your students the world.

Sometimes, though, that dream meets a less positive reality and you may be left wondering if you can really pull this off. Will your students be able to afford to travel? Will you have to spend hours every night planning and organizing the tour? How will you manage your group of students in a foreign country?

Every day, Prométour works with teachers just like you to plan, organize and lead students on life-changing, educational travel experiences. We empower teachers like you—those who go the extra mile—to offer their students the world. We make it easy, because we know about all the hard work you already do.

Read on to find out about three teachers who decided to entrust their groups' travel experiences to Prométour, and how those experiences changed their students' lives.



All about the experience

Stephanie's first trip abroad with her students was with an educational tour company well known for offering low prices and consolidating student groups. Her school already had a contract with this company and, as she had never traveled abroad with her students before, she was open to trying it. Unfortunately, just about everything that could go wrong did: the tour was unorganized, the tour guide was deceitful, and the restaurant choices were anything but authentic. She was wholeheartedly disappointed by the experience.

She did believe strongly in the lessons unique to international travel, though, and so she decided to try again.

PROMÉTOUR PLANNED A TOUR FOR STEPHANIE AND HER STUDENTS THAT THEY WOULD NEVER FORGET.

From day one, our tour in Quebec was exceptional and the experience was far superior to the one we'd had in France with another educational tour company.

Our guide was fun and engaging and motivated the students to practice speaking French with him. We did an interactive historical tour in Quebec City, and the students could recall what they'd learned. We had a guided tour of that year's hôtel de glace, ran and rode in our own dogsleds by moonlight, ice skated, snow-shoed, skied Mont Ste-Anne, and went snow tubing in a waterpark-turned-sledding-village in the winter. We visited a traditional sugar shack, learned how maple syrup is made and feasted on a traditional lumberjack meal. They sang traditional songs, played spoons and danced jigs. We also visited Wendake, a modern village with a traditional interactive site to learn the history of the Huron tribe of Amerindians. We went to the Carnaval, looked at the amazing ice sculptures and waved at le Bonhomme de neige. Students raved about each and every experience."



When building Stephanie's itinerary, Prométour staff had one thing in mind: Educational travel is all about the experiences that students will remember.

To that end, restaurants were carefully chosen that served hearty, traditional cuisine—both experience and fuel for the day's activities. Activities were chosen that allowed the students to participate in the destination's culture—not just see its most famous sites from a bus window. And the tour, like all Prométour trips, was private—allowing Stephanie and her students to spend their time bonding and having fun, not learning how to get along with strangers for a week-long trip.



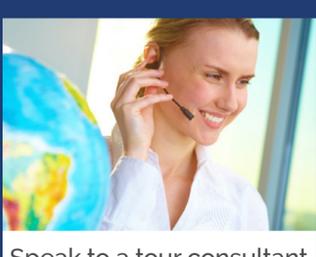
Meet Stephanie Segretto
Oswego, New York

Her challenge:

Another educational tour company had left a bad taste in her mouth—multiple times. And she wasn't keen on her group traveling abroad with another group of students they didn't know.

The Prométour Solution:

A private, customized tour, both educational and fun, that would renew Stephanie's faith in student travel



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"Upon our return stateside, parents wrote me and approached me for weeks, thanking me and saying that their children seemed more worldly, more confident from the experience."

When Stephanie switched schools, she once again was stuck using the first educational tour company. She gave them another try, but this time was even worse than the first. The arrival of students at the destination was mismanaged, safety was questionable, much time was wasted traveling to and from hotels far from the city center, the restaurants were terrible, the tour guide's nonchalance was frustrating, and there was an awkward dynamic with the two other school groups with which they were combined.

She decided to make a case to the school about switching to Prométour. She succeeded, and her next trip to Europe was just as memorable as her trip to Quebec.

How they make it happen

Prométour worked hard with Stephanie to identify her priorities and to tailor the trip to her budget. Stephanie also addressed parents' concerns about the price by offering the possibility of fundraisers.

For all these reasons, Stephanie is emphatic when she says, "There are many companies out there, but I will always go with Prométour."



Meet Alisa Dupuy
Princeton, New Jersey

Her challenge:

To immerse her middle school students in cultural and linguistic experiences without flying across an ocean

The Prométour Solution:

A family stay in Quebec . . .



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Cultural immersion

When Alisa first traveled as a chaperone on another teacher's tour, she was no stranger to educational travel. She knew well the importance of an immersion experience. It was the way she herself had learned French and other languages years ago. When Alisa decided to lead her own students on a tour, two criteria topped her list: **1.** A chance for them to practice French. **2.** An opportunity for them to truly experience another culture

France was not an option. Alisa was hesitant to take her middle school students to Europe and instead sought out an equally authentic experience closer to home.

Prométour was the only student travel agency to offer family stays in Quebec, and it was this immersion opportunity that made the travel experience authentic and memorable for Alisa and her students. The French-speaking Canadian province was the perfect fit, and Prométour made the trip extra special for Alisa's group by adding other memorable activities, like a walk across the suspensions bridges at Canyon Ste-Anne.



Since that very first trip, Alisa has always had another preoccupation in the back of her mind: she wants to drum up interest in the local high school's French program. Alisa meets that goal every year by fueling her students' enthusiasm and showing them the practicality of learning a foreign language. Her trip to Quebec is a huge draw for her students, and she sends them off to high school with a very positive French-learning experience.

"I think the French program has stayed afloat all these years thanks to the trip. Students often choose French so they can participate. After the trip, they invariably say it was the best trip they've ever been on and they feel they learned a lot."

How they make it happen

Alisa generally has no trouble getting students to sign up for her trip to Quebec. While she doesn't organize fundraisers, parents of her traveling students do hit the phones to solicit donations. More affluent families fund full or partial scholarships that allow less fortunate students to travel; and in this way, Alisa brings all the lessons inherent to travel to as many of her students as possible.

Alisa's yearly Prométour trip allows her students to learn about Canadian history on site where it happened, participate in Great-North cultural experiences, live in a French-Canadian home, and practice their language skills. It encourages their enthusiasm both for traveling and for continuing their French studies.

That first trip with a family stay in Quebec met Alisa's exacting educational travel requirements, and the care taken by her Prométour tour consultant Steve, has kept her a loyal customer for over 20 years.



Meet Lynn Dixon.
Shelton, Connecticut

Her Goal:

Finding a hassle-free trip that met her educational requirements

The Prométour Solution:

A customized tour to Europe, carefully arranged by an attentive Prométour tour consultant and led by a highly experienced tour director



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A Hundred Extra Miles

To travel with her students was an easy decision for Lynn. She's been traveling since 1983 and has tried a few travel companies. After a particularly disappointing experience with one student travel company, Lynn accompanied another teacher on a Prométour trip to Spain and knew that Prométour was the company for her.

Lynn was wary of taking her students abroad only to stay in tiny, cramped rooms far out in city suburbs. She didn't want to eat at tourist traps. And above all, she recognized the importance of a highly knowledgeable and experienced tour guide. She wanted a native of their destination to bond with her students, show them the places' hidden gems and communicate a spirit of excitement in exploration.

IN 2007, SHE FOUND AN ATTENTIVE EAR AT POMÉTOUR.

"[My tour consultant] Jennifer has gone a hundred extra miles to accommodate all my requests, before and after the trips. She has aided me in individualizing my itineraries, and she has always been extremely prompt and effective in responding to me whenever I contact her. I honestly have to say that my loyalty to Prométour rests quite squarely on her shoulders."



Her positive experience with Prométour didn't end with the ease in planning her student trip, though. On tour, she was happy to find centrally located hotels, authentic meals—and most importantly, a dynamic, knowledgeable tour guide who showed them around his native land with ease.

"Taking on the responsibility to take other parents' children across an ocean to a foreign country demands incredible trust in the educational tour company who organizes these trips. This trust that I have in Prométour is another of the main reasons for my loyalty."

How they make it happen

Lynn's fundraiser of choice is a school-wide candy sale. Nearly a decade later, Lynn is still traveling with Prométour. When asked what her students get out of their travels, Lynn replies, "a love of travel and an understanding that the world is made of people who live in varied ways. I hope this access to different cultures will breed tolerance and acceptance of peoples' differences."

Conclusion

When choosing a student travel agency, we hope you'll go with Prométour. One of our dedicated tour consultants will work with you to customize your itinerary to meet the needs and goals of your group while respecting your students' budgets.

We don't do cookie-cutter tours. Our expertise lies in creating high quality educational trips that cover the must-sees but also leave the beaten path. We believe your students should participate in their travel, not just be spectators. Life-changing travel is all in the details.

TRAVEL WELL, AND TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE. GIVE US A CALL TODAY TO GET STARTED PLANNING YOUR DREAM STUDENT TRIP!



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