

## Europe Trip 2021 - 20 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- **Which countries are we visiting?**

We are excited to announce that in 2021, we will be following *ACIS's Kingdom by the Sea* itinerary and traveling to England, Ireland, and Scotland!

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- **When is the trip and will I miss any school?**

April 1-11, 2021 - Since most of that is during Easter Vacation, students will only miss two days (April 1-2), and those days will count as excused absences (a school-related activity).

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- **Who can go?**

All LCHS students and their parents are invited to come! However, students who are in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2020-2021 school year must have a parent accompany them.

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- **Why should I go?**

Traveling is a life-changing experience. Not only does it awaken curiosity and promote respect for other cultures, it brings learning to life. Students get to visit the places they've learned about in the classroom while simultaneously developing vital critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills. A trip like this provides opportunities for students to go on the adventure of a lifetime, to build deeper friendships with their classmates, and to develop confidence as they navigate new cultures and experiences. In fact, 94% of students who travel internationally report that they feel more independent after their trip. Plus, trips to Europe with your friends and teachers are just really FUN.

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- **Who are the tour leaders?**

This year the tour will be led by Miss Blades and Mr. McKenzie, but Mrs. Wilson will likely be coming as well (in addition to Mr. Samuels!). Miss Blades has been teaching English at Linfield for 14 years and has assisted on 3 different Europe trips over the years; Mr. McKenzie has been teaching World/European History at Linfield for 8 years and has assisted on 2 Europe trips.

We will also meet up with an experienced ACIS tour manager once we land in Dublin, someone who will remain with us throughout the trip, coordinating all the details of our transportation/lodging/meals and providing valuable insights into the places we are visiting.

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- **What is the cost of the 2021 Europe trip?**

The current student price is \$4,640 (includes a \$100 early registration discount), which works out to be \$392 a month if you use the automatic payment plan.

\*Please note – the price will go up **after April 1, 2020**, but you can lock in the

discounted price with a \$200 deposit at [www.acis.com](http://www.acis.com) (Group ID – 261934/Leader – Blades).

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- **When is the final payment deadline?**

Full payment must be submitted by December 1, 2020.

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- **What is covered in the overall price?**

The cost includes round-trip flights from San Diego, daily breakfasts and dinners, rooms in centrally located 3 or 4 star hotels, the services of a 24 hour tour manager, local transportation on buses/ferries, local city tour guides, an Irish dancing lesson, entrance fees to a variety of castles, cathedrals, and other places of interest, etc. (Check out the ACIS trip site for more details – HS Forms & Links at [Linfield.com](http://Linfield.com) has the exact link)

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- **What other costs should I be prepared for?**

There are a few additional costs to be aware of. First, we all travel together to the San Diego airport because we need to check in as a group; if you need transportation home, that can be provided as well (but is not mandatory). We also all contribute to give tips to our tour manager and bus driver. For reference, in 2019 the tip & transportation cost was \$114/\$140 per person (depending on if they needed a ride home from the airport).

In terms of spending money, it depends on what you plan on doing/eating/purchasing, but many students plan for approximately \$500 to be safe. Most things are already included in the overall price, but you will need to purchase lunches and snacks for yourself, and there will be occasional times when we participate in optional activities as a group (such as going up on the London Eye, for example) and will need to purchase tickets ourselves.

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- **Is it safe?**

Yes, England, Scotland, and Ireland are incredibly safe for tourists in general, and students are never allowed to go off by themselves in free time (always in groups of 3-4 or with an adult). Safety is also the number one priority for ACIS. Not only will we be with a trained and experienced tour manager 24 hours a day, but the company also has offices in many European capitals (including London) and is able to respond quickly to any unforeseen events. They constantly monitor world situations and travel alerts to ensure that tours remain safe, and if there is even a chance of unrest or danger, they will reroute or change our plans accordingly.

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- **Where will we be staying and can I room with my friends?**

We will be staying in 3-4 star hotels in central locations, an amazing benefit that allows us to enjoy the cities we are visiting and not have to waste precious hours commuting. Much of the time, we will be able to walk or take a quick subway ride to visit top destinations.

Students will stay in hotel rooms in groups of 3, and we will do our best to accommodate friend groups; adults have double rooms unless they pay for the single option. Students may room with their parents if they so choose.

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- **Where will we eat our meals?**

Breakfast is typically provided at the hotel, and then for dinner, we will enjoy authentic multicourse meals in pre-selected restaurants. Vegetarian options are available as well. Everyone is on their own for lunch (usually during afternoon free time); you can grab items on the go or sit down to enjoy the ambiance in a local café.

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- **What does a typical day look like?**

While there will be a handful of days that involve longer bus travel (going from city to city), a typical day in a place like Dublin, London, or Edinburgh starts with a morning city tour with a local guide. They will lead us on a sightseeing journey and teach us about the city and its history (includes admission to castles/cathedrals, etc.), and then we usually have free time in the afternoon to visit places of specific interest. Mac might take a group to a history museum while Blades takes some students to visit Harry Potter sites, etc. Students may also choose to walk around in groups of 3 or more. After a few hours, we will meet up again for dinner, and often there will be an evening activity (Irish dancing, watching a play, an evening boat cruise, etc.).

\*NOTE: As you can probably tell, most days are very busy (we want to make the most of our limited time), and there is quite a lot of walking. So make sure to wear your most comfortable shoes!

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- **What options are available in free time?**

It depends on the location, but in preparation for the trip, you are encouraged to do some research and investigate what else you might want to do/see outside of the main itinerary. We will do everything we can to take you there or make it possible! Students and participants might want to visit local museums, churches, and places of interest, wander through parks and gardens, go shopping, or even just enjoy a cup of coffee in a local café.

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- **Will I have cell service?**

Before traveling to Europe, make sure to contact your cell service provider, and if you plan on using your phone while traveling, you'll need to set up an international plan for that month. Every company is a little different, but most have very reasonable options. \*If you do not plan on using your cell service, don't forget to keep your phone on airplane mode in order to avoid costly roaming charges (you can still access wifi when it's available in hotels, etc.).

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- **How do I get local currency?**

The most effective (and least expensive) way to exchange money is simply to visit a local ATM when we get there. We'll be using the euro in Ireland and the pound in England/Scotland, so we'll make sure to stop at local banks and ATM's and give everyone a chance to withdraw local currency.

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- **How much luggage can I bring?**

ACIS allows travelers to bring one piece of checked luggage (50 pounds or less) and one carry-on item (a backpack is usually the way to go). Remember that you will be carrying your own suitcase and carry-on through airports and hotels and up/down stairs, so make sure to choose a lightweight suitcase, preferably one with wheels.

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- **What should I pack?**

When we get closer to departure, we'll talk more about what we can expect in terms of weather, and we'll even do a packing demonstration. But there are some good general packing tips at <https://acis.com/getting-ready/packing-tips>.

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- **What do I need to do ahead of time?**

If you do not have a passport, make sure to apply for one and start the process early. If you do already have one, check the expiration date because it must be valid for six months after you return to the USA (so for this trip, your expiration date must be after October 2021). You can also contact your cell phone provider and start looking at international usage plans in advance.

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- **How do I sign up?**

Simply visit [www.acis.com](http://www.acis.com) and search for our trip (Group ID – 261934/Leader – Blades). You can also visit Linfield's specific trip site at [https://acis.com/tripsite-trip-overview/?p\\_year=2021&group=94653&program\\_code=KBS](https://acis.com/tripsite-trip-overview/?p_year=2021&group=94653&program_code=KBS) (or just go to HS Forms & Links on [www.linfield.com](http://www.linfield.com)).

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Any additional questions? Please let us know – you can contact Miss Blades at [mblades@linfield.com](mailto:mblades@linfield.com), Mr. McKenzie at [rmckenzie@linfield.com](mailto:rmckenzie@linfield.com), or Mrs. Wilson at [hwilson@linfield.com](mailto:hwilson@linfield.com). We can't wait to travel with you! 😊