

Planning Your Recruitment Meetings

& Tips to Grow Your Ensemble



Beyond travel, Encore is dedicated to assisting with music education at home. We continue to support our musical communities all year round, with everything from director workshops and professional networking events to our scholarship programs for aspiring musicians. Our goal is to “take your music program to new places,” and we are committed to being with you every step of the way. Every music program depends on its upcoming musicians, and the future success of a director’s music department is largely dependent on their ability to recruit well. Unfortunately, simply relying on an announcement or flyer just does not work. That is why we have shared our favorite strategies for recruiting and hosting your own tour meetings.



ABOUT US

Successful music programs and great music travel go hand in hand. Our customized touring packages help define a sense of purpose for ensembles, build ensemble unity and musicianship and strengthen friendships. They help boost the ensemble’s reputation in the community and enhance recruitment and fundraising efforts. And, perhaps the most important, they allow diverse cultures to come together and share in the universal language of music.

BEFORE YOUR FIRST MEETING

GAUGE THE ENSEMBLE’S TOURING INTEREST

Before you spend time customizing and planning a music tour, you may want to first gauge the interest of your ensemble. Finding out which of your ensemble members are interested in touring, their maximum price points and which destinations are the most appealing to them can be crucial in recruiting enough members to join your tour.

Luckily, gauging your group’s interest is easy, thanks to free survey platforms online like SurveyMonkey. Sign up for an account, create a quiz and send it to your group. It’s that simple! **[Here’s a template to get you started.](#)**

GET A QUOTE

Once you have collected your results, contact an Encore Tour Consultant to discuss! Review both the performance and travel details with your Encore representative and together, craft an itinerary that works for your touring group. Your Encore consultant will send you a per person quote for this itinerary.

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

Hosting a meeting with potential participants is the first step in the recruitment process!

When selecting a date, try to choose an evening in the middle of the week so people are more likely to be available. You can also choose to host your recruitment meeting before or after your rehearsal to ensure maximum attendance. Invite your ensemble members to the first tour meeting via email, and make sure to invite any parents or partners, if appropriate. Meetings with snacks typically draw a larger crowd, and you can generate even more excitement by selecting regional foods from your destination country. Once you have a date and time in mind, you will want to leverage all the tools at your disposal. At Encore, our Tour Consultants will come to your meeting (either virtually or in-person) to help you promote the tour to your participants! They know your tour inside and out, which means they are adept at generating excitement and can handle any questions your group may have.

It is crucial to get buy-in from everybody in your organization, but it all starts with the artistic director or conductor.

This may seem obvious, but we have seen countless trips fall apart due to a lack of director involvement. Make sure they realize the benefits of touring -- whether that is the impact on fundraising, recruitment, musicianship, reputation, or ensemble unity. At Encore, we also offer director workshops, professional networking events, scholarship programs, and professional development credits for music educators. Once the director is on board, they should be prepared to give a speech when the tour is first introduced to the ensemble. If the director is not also serving as group leader, you should make sure that person is included as well. It is amazing how powerful it can be to hear a director give a brief speech about the destination, the venues, and the music they intend to perform. Many directors have previously toured before, often while at college, and discussing that personal experience is always a crowd pleaser.

Taking your ensemble on a performance tour is a great resume builder for both the artistic staff and the organization. Once your ensemble is fully committed, our team will take care of all the planning and logistics so you can focus on what matters most: the music.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Include food and drinks at every meeting – ask for refreshment volunteers.
- Keep destination excitement going with destination-themed activities.
- Have registration forms and/or a computer available for open registration.
- Work with your Encore Tour Consultant to obtain necessary materials.
- Ask a volunteer to help you coordinate planning, communicating and following up with your passengers.
- Use your Encore online account to communicate with your passengers.
- Schedule your meetings before or after a rehearsal, when possible. If not, schedule it on a weeknight in the evenings.
- Be confident in the tour's success. Let your passengers know that it is happening and that spots will fill up quickly! Let them know that they will be supported with fundraising efforts but there will need to be individual fundraising as well.
- Use your rehearsals to generate excitement about the trip.
- Every piece of music was a part of the adventure. Choose a repertoire that complements your tour.

MEETING 1: THE TOUR REVEAL

PREPARATIONS

- Choose date/time - ask Encore Tour Consultant to attend.
- Send an invite and deposit information to participants
- Tell participants the secret touring destination will be announced at the meeting – this is a special surprise!
- Put together the “mystery presentation” announcing the tour destination
- Ask a person to film the passenger reaction to your destination reveal
- Decide whether you are considering a “Friends and Family Tour” – if so, speak with your Encore Tour Consultant to obtain a separate quote
- Choose an incentive for early registration

MATERIALS

- Computer, projector and power
- Mystery PowerPoint/Presentation
- Encore Tour Consultant
- Encore Tours Registration Booklets
- Tour Itineraries
- Trip PowerPoint/Presentation
- Encore’s Safety & Security Handbook
- (Optional) Friends and Family Tour Itinerary, Registration Forms and Survey
- Destination-themed snacks/drinks
- Meeting Agendas

RESOURCES

- [Passport/visas article](#)
- Sample invitation

MEETING 1: THE TOUR REVEAL

AGENDA

MYSTERY POWERPOINT (2 minutes)

- Play the "mystery PowerPoint" complete with photo and text hints for your touring destination. Example can be found [here](#)!
- Remember to have someone film their reaction.

WELCOME BY GROUP LEADER (5 minutes)

- Hand out registration forms, tour itineraries and "Friends & Family" survey
- Introduce your Encore Tour Consultant

TRIP PRESENTATION BY GROUP LEADER AND ENCORE CONSULTANT (30 minutes)

- Destination-themed activity to generate excitement
- Run through itinerary
- "My Account" tour
- Passenger FAQ's and Q&A
- Client Services contact information

WRAP-UP AND IMMEDIATE REMINDERS BY GROUP LEADER (5 minutes)

- Sign up in the next 48 hours and you will be entered for a chance to win an incentive (pre-determined by Group Leader)!
- Do not delay on passports and visas – get started now. Make sure you list name on registration form EXACTLY as it appears on your passport. If passport is not available, use name on your birth certificate.

OPEN REGISTRATION AND SOCIAL (20 minutes)

- The rest of the meeting will be a social hour with food and drinks while participants register via cellphones, computer or paper registration forms.
- Your Encore representative will be there to answer and passenger questions.

TIP

Use MyAccount to email participants. No need to collect email addresses at the meeting. We do this for you! Login to your online account to email your participants from the registered list. You can even add additional emails for those who haven't registered yet!

MEETING 2: THE FUNDRAISING PLAN

PREPARATIONS

- Determine how much money each individual needs to fundraise.
- Ask a volunteer to be the “fundraising counselor/mentor”.
- Decide on date and time of meeting and send invitations. Let participants know to look nice as you will be shooting a fundraising video!
- Send out sample interview questions ahead of time along with your group's mission and purpose.
- Find a room you can use for holding video interviews and set it up.
- Ask that all participants be present at event even if they are not planning to fundraise for themselves, others may need their support.
- Check to see about any restrictions if your group has a 501c3 status.

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- Have you ever traveled before? If yes, do you have a memorable experience to share?
- What are you most excited for on tour? Why?
- Which piece of repertoire are you most excited to perform?
- What do you think the destination will be like? What are you picturing your experience to be?
- Which sites do you want to see?
- Are you excited about a particular performance or venue?
- How do you think travel will impact you?
- How do you think travel might impact your community?
- If you could describe the destination you are visiting in a few words, what would they be?
- What are you hoping to bring with you overseas? What do you hope to bring back?

RESOURCES

- [Fundraising on a Major Scale](#)
- [Sample fundraising cheat sheet for passengers](#)
- [Rebuilding your ensemble after Covid19](#)
- [A master gardeners advice on growing Your music ensemble](#)
- [4 international themes for your Valentines day performance tour recruitment meeting](#)
- [How to grow recruitment and ensure retention in your strings program](#)
- [Enhance cross curricular learning through your recruitment strategies](#)

MEETING 2: THE FUNDRAISING PLAN

AGENDA

FILM YOUR STORYTELLING FUNDRAISING VIDEO (during meeting)

Throughout the meeting, pull various individual aside to answer interview questions on film. Your purpose is to film a storytelling video that you can send along with requests for donations.

WELCOME BY GROUP LEADER (5 minutes)

- [Show funny videos about fundraising](#)
- Explain the importance of fundraising and that it is something that everyone is responsible for.
- Talk about your group's mission and story. Why are you traveling with your group? What do you hope to achieve?

OVERVIEW OF GROUP FUNDING PROJECTS (10 minutes)

Review the projects as decided by you and your fundraising chair. Let the participants know how much you are expected to bring in with your group projects and how much will be distributed to the individual. Give them a schedule of all live events and a list of ways the group is accepting donations.

DISCUSS INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY (20 minutes)

- Cover how much participants will need to pay for themselves or fundraise to cover the remaining amount after group project funds have been applied.
- If your group has decided on "group-sanctioned individual fundraisers" like selling raffle tickets, products or something else on an individual level, announce this project to your passengers. Give them all of the resources to learn more and start fundraising immediately.
- Supply them with individual fundraising tips that they can do on their own, such as set up a "GoFundMe" account or email family/friends.

FUNDRAISING MENTOR INFORMATION (5 minutes)

Should someone be falling behind in fundraising or making payments, give them a contact person to discuss this with. Ask them to not cancel until they have spoken with their fundraising mentor to determine whether there is any way to help them. This person can help them come up with creative ways to fundraise.

CALL FOR DONATIONS (2 minutes)

Ask that if there are those who are affluent enough to donate above and beyond their trip costs, that these fees could help those who might not be able to afford the trip on their own. Thank them for their consideration.

TRIP REMINDERS (5 minutes)

- Reminder to get passports/visas early!
- Review payment plan and payment deadlines again
- Reminders on how to use "my account" and to sign up for autopay

OPEN REGISTRATION AND SOCIAL (20 minutes)

TIPS

- Download our eBook "Fundraising on a Major Scale".
- [Use video storytelling to your advantage.](#)
- Tweak the sample interview questions as needed.
- Motivate every passenger to be responsible for their individual and group fundraising projects

MEETING 3: PUBLICITY PREPARATIONS

PREPARATIONS

- Look into GL My Account to find out which passengers are missing signed applications, outstanding payments, etc.
- Check on your ensemble balance and missing passports with your Encore Program Manager
- Email participants to bring their passports to the meeting and signed applications if missing
- Check with your Encore Program Manager to see if you are missing any promotional materials. If you are missing a video/photo, plan to have participants prepared for a recording/photo. Let them know specific details such as attire, pose and song.
- Prepare destination jeopardy game
- Hire a photographer or ask a volunteer to take photos of the group
- Ask a non-performing volunteer to help assist with taking the recording of the group for your publicity packet
- Create sample practice schedule of touring repertoire and print for hand-outs

RESOURCES

- [Ultimate Guide to Creating Your Ensemble's Press Kit](#)
- [Country/Flag Jeopardy Questions](#)
- [Country/Capitals Jeopardy Questions](#)
- [Countries of the World Jeopardy Questions](#)
- [Country Jeopardy Game Online](#)
- [Meeting Inspiration Video - "How to Take a Photo" \(funny\)](#)

MEETING 3: PUBLICITY PREPARATIONS

AGENDA

OPENING ACTIVITY: DESTINATION JEOPARDY (10 minutes)

Get passengers hyped about the destination they are visiting, while learning too. Put together a series of fun trivia questions about the destination. Winner of jeopardy gets a prize!

FUNDRAISING UPDATE BY FUNDRAISING CHAIR (5 minutes)

- How much money has been raised?
- How much is left?
- Upcoming fundraisers?

RECRUITMENT/ENSEMBLE BALANCE UPDATE BY GROUP LEADER (5 minutes)

Let group know where you stand in your recruitment efforts.

- Do we need more singers/players for a balanced ensemble?
- Are we on track to keep the same tour price based on the number of registered passengers?
- How can students help recruit others to join the tour?

PASSPORTS & VISAS (5 minutes)

- Encore passport and visa article can be found [here](#)
- With the participants' passports, have them sign in online and update their account information
- Double-check that participants' registered names match EXACTLY as listed on passport
- Encourage non-U.S. citizens to look into visas immediately
- (If whole group is traveling to country that requires a visa, contact your Encore Tour Consultant prior to the meeting to learn more)

INSTRUMENT INSURANCE & FEES (2 minutes)

- Note that it is possible to upgrade insurance to include up to \$1,000 in instrument insurance. Participants can contact Encore's Client Services department to learn more.
- Remind participants that it will be their responsibility to pay for airline baggage and instrument transport fee (unless otherwise determined by Group Leader).

REPERTOIRE & PRACTICE (2 minutes)

Remind them the importance of practicing repertoire at home. They should be fully prepared for the overseas tour! If available, hand out a practice schedule outlining the timeline for learning the repertoire with sample practice sessions.

OBTAIN PUBLICITY MATERIALS (10-15 minutes per recording/photo)

If you are missing publicity materials for the group, obtain them tonight. Plan scheduled time for either a group photo or to record a piece. Download the "[Ultimate Guide to Creating Your Ensemble's Press Kit](#)" for a detailed explanation of what to do.

OPEN REGISTRATION AND SOCIAL (20 minutes)

During the social, leave the "instrument list" provided by your Encore Program Manager on the table for each participant to fill out with the instrument details. Have students leave serial number of instruments as well.

MEETING 4: TOUR PREPARATIONS

PREPARATIONS

- Look into GL My Account to find out which passengers are missing signed applications, outstanding payments, etc.
- Check with your Program Manager to see if any participants are missing passports
- Email participants to bring their passports to the meeting and signed applications if missing
- Obtain flight splits/bus splits/rooming/ instrument list from your Encore Program Manager

RESOURCES

- [Packing List](#)
- [Travel App Article](#)
- Venue Photos and Bios (if available - ask your Program Manager)
- Hotel Information (if available - ask your Program Manager)
- Flight Information (if available - ask your Program Manager)

MEETING 4: TOUR PREPARATIONS

AGENDA

DESTINATION-THEMED ACTIVITY (5-10 minutes)

Learn “hello,” “goodbye,” “thank you,” “excuse me,” “you’re welcome” in the language of the country/countries you are visiting

FUNDRAISING & RECRUITMENT UPDATES (5 minutes)

Final payments are due _____

SIGNED APPLICATION FORMS (2 minutes)

Stress the importance of the signed application form. We will not send air tickets until everyone has this in. Individually follow-up with missing forms.

PACKING PREPARATIONS (5 minutes)

- Remind passengers that they will need their own **foldable music stand** (if applicable) or their own **music folder**. Label your stand and folder. Recommend purchase of hard case for traveling instruments

REVIEW TOURING GUIDELINES (15 minutes)

Review behavior guidelines/school guidelines (if applicable)

DOWNLOADING THE TRAVEL APP (5 minutes)

Have students download the ACIS/Encore Travel App. Do a quick demonstration of what they can see, if needed. Go over hotels, flights, alternate returns/departures, chaperone lists, rooming lists, instrument lists, stage layout, venues and more.

OPEN REGISTRATION AND SOCIAL (20 minutes)

- Last call for registrations
- Finalize all lists: Your Encore Program Manager will supply you with a list of your passengers and the number of seats per each flight/bus (if a split is required). They will also send you rooming configurations at each hotel and request that you finalize your instrument list and list of allergies/dietary restrictions. Print off these lists and have it available on the table for your passengers to fill out during the meeting.

MEETING 5: PRE-DEPARTURE MEETING

PREPARATIONS & MATERIALS

- Ask participants to bring their passports in
- Prepare two suitcases – one LARGE suitcase with bricks or very heavy objects and one small, light suitcase
- Print out copies of behavior guidelines for your passengers (youth groups)
- Ask chaperones/assistants to plan to meet for 30 minutes either before or after meeting to discuss role
- Obtain emergency cards from Encore Tours
- Print copies of phone chain

RESOURCES

- How to Run the Suitcase Challenge
- [Sample Behavior Guidelines](#)
- [Packing List](#)
- [Money Matters Article](#)
- [Travel App Article](#)
- Group Leader Overseas Manual
- Emergency Cards (available in your Encore pre-departure packet)
- Final rooming/bus/flight/hotel information (available in your Encore pre-departure packet)
- Chaperone Roles & Responsibilities

MEETING 5: PRE-DEPARTURE MEETING

AGENDA

OPENING ACTIVITY (15 minutes)

Suitcase Challenge – winner gets prize? Go over suitcase restrictions – see ACIS website

PASSPORT COLLECTIONS (2 minutes)

Have a volunteer collect all of the passports and photocopy them for your records. Keep in a safe folder which will travel with you or an assistant of your choosing. Have them double-check full names as they appear on their passport against the Encore participant list online. Note any errors and send to Encore immediately.

IMPORTANT TRIP REMINDERS (25 minutes)

- Pack repertoire and required concert items, such as black folder, music lights, concert attire, bows, foldable music stands, hard cases, etc.
- Hand out packing list
- Do not forget your passport
- Review international data options
- Discuss options for traveling with cash vs credit cards
- Place a travel alert with your bank
- Review options for communicating with friends and family at home
- Download Travel App
- Discuss power converters needed

REVIEW BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES (YOUTH GROUPS) (10 minutes)

FLIGHT INFORMATION (5 minutes)

Double-check that everyone has flight info and knows when and where to show up at airport.

REVIEW EMERGENCY SYSTEM (5 minutes)

Hand out your contact information and ACIS emergency contact cards. Discuss the phone chain with family and hand out phone chain.

Define “emergency” for passengers:

- Missed or delayed flights
- Passenger illness/injury/death
- Family death/illness that requires ACIS to provide transportation for student
- Etc. – See group leader overseas manual

CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES OVERSEAS (5 minutes)

Remind passengers of [contest opportunities](#) overseas where they can earn money back for their tour

OPEN REGISTRATION AND SOCIAL (30 minutes)

- Hand out luggage tags and garment bags
- Finalize any outstanding lists
- Chaperone/Assistant Meeting (separately with Group Leader)

RECRUITING FOR CONCERT TOURS

Performance tours are an excellent way to improve your recruitment efforts. They create a common goal, build ensemble unity, and our data shows that returning groups on average are 26% larger than first-time groups. These are some of our best tips for embarking upon your first international trip!

- Choose a great company to work with! A good travel company can make or break a performance tour, and over 95% of clients evaluate their travel experience with Encore Tours as excellent. People want to know they can consistently depend on excellent value, dedicated service, exciting itineraries, and meaningful performance opportunities. This kind of satisfaction and consistency will keep them coming back and establish a tradition with new participants who want to share this incredible experience.
- Allow plenty of time to plan for the trip. Time is one of the greatest gifts you can give your participants so get yourself on a consistent cycle. For example, many ensembles travel every two years so members can plan ahead. Even if a participant can only travel every four years, they know what the cycle is going to be.
- Make sure your participants understand the sticker price, and plan accordingly. If your participants have 18 months to plan financially, a \$4,000 trip is only \$7.50 a day, with over \$80 more of additional spending money. Show them that the trip is doable.
- Another thing that can help with the price is fundraising! For many, fundraising is another four-letter word, but it does not have to be. Be smart about your fundraising efforts and find the right people to do the job. The right fundraiser can seriously lift a lot of the financial weight from your ensemble's shoulders, so here are some things that can help:
 - › Encore's Fabulous Fundraiser (included when you travel internationally) has raised over \$50,000 for some groups, and the average earning is close to \$10,000.
 - › Personal fundraising pages can also help individual passengers afford to travel and make a performance tour more accessible to those who might not have otherwise been able to go.
 - › Encore offers many opportunities to earn scholarships and travel vouchers. These can help defray the cost of your trip!
- Have people who have traveled with the group in the past speak about their experiences. This keeps the trips alive and in the forefront of everyone's minds, and personal accounts of an experience are always best!
- Create a voluntary buddy system. Assign a person that you know is participating in a trip to a person who might be on the fence and needs some encouragement to sign up. People often need a nudge to make it to the finish line.

RECRUITMENT TIPS

IMPROVE YOUR EXPOSURE

Speak with the director of music at your school, the principal, and your department chair. Describe your desire to host an annual recruiting event featuring

performances and instrument demonstrations by area musicians, instrument dealers, and other students. Recruiting requires getting out there and talking to as many people as possible. Ensure that you are always in

the students' line of sight, even if that means dropping by their classes for a quick demonstration. You'll also want to find opportunities to involve younger students and help nurture them along the way. That could involve collaborating with other directors to find openings in a high school marching band or orchestra show. Physical materials help tremendously, but it's even more imperative that you're reaching students via social media. Don't just discuss the benefits of participating in the band but show perspective members what they're missing out on. If your ensemble travels, you'll want to share highlights from the road and videos from past performances.

USE A PERSONAL TOUCH

If you're a middle school band director, you may want to meet with every interested 5th grader personally, so they have the opportunity to try out instruments. That personal connection can mean a lot to them and their parents. To bookend that experience, try having our 8th-graders write their letters to an incoming band student. Engaging your older students as "brand ambassadors" is a very powerful tool, and they'll be able to communicate with younger students in a uniquely authentic manner. Have them write about why they selected their instrument, some of their favorite songs to play, or just a cherished memory from their time in band. Other personal touches that might help with recruitment and retention include writing Christmas cards to all current and potential students, encouraging perspective band members to bring a friend, setting up time for one-on-one meetings, sharing some of your favorite songs and artists, and maintaining constant contact with music educators at feeder schools.

ENGAGE THE PARENTS

One interesting strategy is to organize an event where parents of prospective band students are invited to join the marching band for an hour of practice. When the parents arrive, they are given a drill sheet and an instrument to carry (even if they are completely unable to play it). The ultimate goal is for the parents to master a drill that has 32–64 counts, as they receive

assistance from the students. This allows parents to learn how to read the drill set sheet, comprehend the directions, stand at attention, and march in a straight line. As they begin to understand the skills necessary to be in a marching band, they are more likely to truly see the value of what their children are learning, which leads to more engagement and encouragement. Similarly, you may want to consider hosting any informational meetings immediately after a performance since the students' parents will already be there. Obviously, the students will want to participate (and their excitement is critical), but they will typically require the time and financial support of their families.

DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS

One of the best ways to make sure that new students know about the benefits of band is through word of mouth, whether that's from the older band ambassadors or from other teachers. We love the idea of educators helping each other and would strongly recommend supporting the drama club performances at your school. You could volunteer yourself and your students to play in the pit orchestra for the musical or as background music for the other shows. Collaborate with another teacher to bring students on a trip that is educational as opposed to being performance focused. This could be a collaboration with a history teacher on a trip to learn about Ireland's history of rebellion as told through their music. You could join forces with a Spanish teacher and take your students to an opera like *Il Postino* or *Maria de Buenos Aires*. The opportunities are seemingly endless, and this tactic can create more visibility (and advocacy) for your program. Keep in mind, you don't even need to have a large ensemble to take your ensemble on a performance tour! If recruitment numbers are low, but you still have a core group that wants to travel, there are always options for your group whether it's finding ringers, combining ensembles, or finding appropriate festival opportunities.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

GERMANY & CENTRAL EUROPE

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

- **Mini Oktoberfest at Rehearsal** – With the music, clothes, decorations, food, drinks (minus the alcohol for youth), the works!
- **Sprockets Skit**
- **Fasching Presentation**
- **Name that Castle** – identify pictures of German castles.
- **Beethoven & Bach Facts**

DESTINATION SLIDESHARES

- **For PC**
- **For Mac**

SAMPLE FOOD

- Sausages
- Sauerkraut
- Pretzels

SAMPLE DRINKS

- Gluhwein (adults only)
- Bier (adults only)

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

ITALY

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

- **Make Your Own Pizza Party** – Ask participants to bring in one topping, you bring the crust, sauce and cheese. Have a blast!
- **Opera Duel** – Two participants compete in an opera duel at the beginning of your meeting. Winner gets a prize!
- **Name the Artist** – name artists based on pictures of art pieces currently in Italy.
- **Name those Italian composers/tunes** – Play a piece of Italian music or show a picture of an Italian composer and have your participants guess.
- **Wine tasting (adults only)** – guess the region of wine.

DESTINATION SLIDESHARES

- [For PC](#)
- [For Mac](#)

SAMPLE FOOD

- Pizza
- Pasta
- Gelato
- Tiramisu

SAMPLE DRINKS

- Limoncello (adults only)
- Bellini (adults only)

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

IRELAND

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

- **Irish Traditions** – Tell the story of the Blarney Stone.
- **Irish Song** – Learn an Irish song together with a pennywhistle purchased online.
- **Irish Jig** – Show them a video of the Irish Jig, Riverdance or ask a local dance troupe to come in and do an Irish dance presentation.
- **Irish Celebrity Challenge** - Name Irish celebrities based on their pictures.
- **Irish Movie Scenes** – Show the class scenes from these [famous movies with filming locations in Ireland](#).
- **St. Patrick's Day Party** – Celebrate in your rehearsal with green decorations, food and drinks!

SAMPLE FOOD

- Irish Stew
- Irish Potato Pancakes
- Shepherd's Pie

SAMPLE DRINKS

- Guinness (adults only)
- Baileys (adults only)
- Green anything!

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

GREAT BRITAIN

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

- **Tea Party** – Have a tea party at the end of your meeting. Ask an event center to donate fancy china for the night. Complete the event with tea, scones and crumpets.
- **Royal Family Quiz** – Can your group collaboratively name all members of the Royal Family in under 10 minutes?
- **Name That Shakespeare Play** – Have a list of quotes from famous Shakespeare plays. The person who gets the most right, wins a prize!
- **England Celebrity Challenge** – Name English celebrities based on their pictures.
- **Kilt Day** – speaks for itself!

DESTINATION SLIDESHARES

- [For PC](#)
- [For Mac](#)

SAMPLE FOOD

- Yorkshire Pudding
- Scones
- Crumpets

SAMPLE DRINKS

- Tea
- Pimm's (adults only)

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

SPAIN

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

- **Siesta in Rehearsal** – 15 minute nap celebrating the laid-back Spanish lifestyle!
- **Host Your Own La Tomatina** – Tomato food fight (famous in Bunol, Spain)! Warning: this is going to be messy. Go outside and line out newspaper/trash bags on a rather large area in the lot. Bring a lot of tomatoes and start throwing!
- **Flamenco Video/Demonstration** – Show your group a video of the Flamenco or ask a local dance class to come demonstrate at the beginning of your meeting!
- **Tapas Potluck** – For one of your meetings, ask everyone to prepare a Spanish tapa for your social potluck!
- **Spanish Wine/Cava Tasting (adults only)** – Try to guess the region of wine.

DESTINATION SLIDESHARES

- [For PC](#)
- [For Mac](#)

SAMPLE FOOD

- Tapas – All the tapas!
- Gazpacho
- Patatas bravas
- Olives
- Tortilla Española
- Serrano Ham
- Manchego

SAMPLE DRINKS

- Sangria (non-alcoholic versions available)
- Cava (adults only)
- Valencian Horchata

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

FRANCE

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

- **Wine and/or Cheese Tasting** – Try to guess the region of wine or type of cheese.
- **French Celebrity Game** – Name French celebrities based on their pictures.
- **Movie Night with Les Misérables** – Show clips from the movie or schedule a hang out to watch the whole movie.
- **Pronunciation/Spelling Game** – Host a tournament to see who can get the most pronunciations or spelling right on the hardest French words (accents and everything!)

DESTINATION SLIDESHARES

- [For PC](#)
- [For Mac](#)

SAMPLE FOOD

- Quiche
- Baguette and cheese (try Brie, Camembert or Roquefort)
- Pastries and Croissants
- Crepes
- Chocolate éclairs
- Macarons

SAMPLE DRINKS

- French wine (adults only) – get something from the region you are visiting!
- Café au Lait

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

COSTA RICA

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

- **Rainforest Mediation** – Have the group close their eyes and imagine they're in the Monteverde Cloud Forest. Talk about interesting facts about the rainforest focusing on sensory ones ("hear the toucans croaking," etc.). Have a spray bottle on hand and walk around "misting" the group!
- **Chocolate Tasting** – Using the chocolates of the world template with the purchase of a few Costa Rican chocolate bars online, host your own "tasting" experiment analyzing sight, sound and smell!
- **Coffee Smelling** – Purchase bags of Costa Rican coffee on the internet and place the beans in separate bowls. Allow your group the opportunity to smell the different coffees and imagine tasting them on tour!

DESTINATION SLIDESHARES

- [For PC](#)
- [For Mac](#)

SAMPLE FOOD

- Gallo Pinto (National dish)
- Olla de Carne
- Fried Yucca
- Sweet Plantains
- Tamales
- Tres Leches Cake

SAMPLE DRINKS

- Costa Rican Delight
- Cacique Guaro (adults only)
- Refrescos
- Agua Dulce
- Costa Rican Coffee

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

ARGENTINA

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

- **Dancing with the Stars** - Argentina is renowned for its dancing. Try out some steps with your ensemble for the Argentine Tango Lesson followed by a competition!
- **Argentina Song Revamp** - Prefer singing? Choose your favorite song about Argentina (Buenos Aires/Evita soundtrack have some fun ones!) Re-craft the lyrics to fit your trip. Challenge your students to write an anthem for your tour.
- **Asado** - Have a traditional Argentinian BBQ and sample some traditional Argentine recipes.
- **Wine Tasting (adults only)** - Guess which region your wine is from.

SAMPLE FOOD

- Asado
- Empanadas
- Pizza - (Argentinean style)
- Dulce de leche

SAMPLE DRINKS

- Yerba mate - A herbal and caffeine-infused drink
- Submarino
- Malbec wine (adults only)

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

CHINA

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

- **Martial Arts Demonstration** – Ask a local martial arts center to come do a 5-minute open presentation to get your group excited for the trip!
- **Feng Shui Class Day** – Have your students help rearrange the rehearsal room with Feng Shui influence. Do a week or more in this set-up!
- **Chinese Food Day** – Order Chinese take-out for a day of rehearsal or at your meeting
- **Chinese Tea Day** – Go over the tea drinking customs of China
- **Chinatown (cities)** – If you're in a city, take a fieldtrip over to Chinatown
- **Hot Pot Party** – Have everyone bring different ingredients for a hot pot party with a slow cooker

DESTINATION SLIDESHARES

- [For PC](#)
- [For Mac](#)

SAMPLE FOOD

- Century Eggs
- Wontons
- Chow Mein

SAMPLE DRINKS

- Tea
- Pearl Milk Tea

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