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# HOSTING LOCATIONS

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## HOST LOCATION PREFERENCES

On the following pages you'll find information on the host locations available, as well as sample tour itineraries for each destination. Please share this information with your group. Your travellers are also welcome to do their own research into each destination.

The fairest way to determine your group's host location preferences is to take a vote. Once you've collated your group's preferences, complete the Host Location preference form and return this to EWT by the due date specified on the form.

We always attempt to satisfy requests for certain hosting locations but cannot guarantee them. EWT will advise your group's host location at your mid-year Group Leader Briefing.

Please note: the following sample itineraries are subject to change. Your final itinerary will be confirmed in your Group Leader Final Instructions document.

# GREATER SEATTLE

## WASHINGTON STATE



Seattle is two cities in one – it combines a world-class metropolis within wild, beautiful, natural surroundings. Visitors and Seattleites enjoy Seattle’s lively downtown, great shopping, wonderful restaurants, espresso carts on every corner, and a thriving community full of theatre, music and museums. Christened the “Emerald City” due to its nearby evergreen forests, Seattle is the largest city in the state of Washington, located approximately 120 miles / 182 kilometers south of the Canadian border in the Pacific Northwest of the US. Nestled between the huge inland ocean waterway of Puget Sound and the sprawling Cascade Mountain Range, the greater Seattle area has a population of approximately 3.5 million people. Seattle is the birthplace of Boeing, Starbucks, and Grunge, and is a great city for outdoor recreation.

### SEATTLE SKYVIEW AND MUSEUM OF POPULAR CULTURE (MoPOP)

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This morning you’ll make your way into downtown Seattle, aiming for the Columbia Centre – Seattle’s tallest skyscraper. Travel skywards to the 73<sup>rd</sup> floor to the **Skyview** observatory and enjoy the 360° view over the Emerald City. From here you can see out to the Cascade and Olympic Mountains, Mt Rainier, the Space Needle and the rest of the stunning Seattle skyline. Afterwards, walk across to the **Museum of Popular Culture (MoPOP)**, a new museum dedicated to the history and exploration of popular music, science fiction and pop culture.

### SNOW DAY AT SNOQUALMIE PASS

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Travel through rugged snow covered mountains and forests to **Snoqualmie Pass** and on to the **Snoqualmie ski area**, where you’ll have the opportunity to participate in an optional ski or snowboard package for approximately USD\$60pp. This package caters from beginners to experienced skiers and snowboarders and includes a 1 hour lesson, hire of all equipment and a lift pass. Those who don’t wish to ski or snowboard can play in the snow!

### SEATTLE UNDERGROUND AND PIKE PLACE MARKET

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Head under the streets of present-day Seattle and discover the history of the city in a tour of its **Underground**. Learn about the great fire of the 1880's which almost destroyed Seattle and explore some of the old shops and warehouses which still remain underneath the present roads and sky scrapers downtown. Afterwards, head across to **Pike Place Market** to check out the famed fish throwers, quirky gum wall and the first Starbucks coffee shop.

### SNOQUALMIE FALLS AND OUTLET SHOPPING

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Visit the picturesque **Snoqualmie Falls**, one of Washington State’s most popular scenic attractions known for its frequent appearance in the cult series Twin Peaks. Emerge from the mist to grab some bargains at the outlets this afternoon.

# PORTLAND

## OREGON



*(Limited hosting numbers 50 students)*

What makes Portland so special? Some will tell you it's all about the trees, fresh air and proximity to the mountains, rivers and oceans. Others think the indie music and arts scenes define Portland's particular brand of cool. From natural wonders to culture and cuisine, this irresistibly green city is the essence of the Pacific Northwest US. Built along the banks of the magnificent Columbia and Willamette Rivers at the foot of the Columbia River Gorge, Portland is the third most populous city in the region and home to 600,000 in the city itself and 2.35 million in the metropolitan area. Nicknamed "City of Roses", "Stumptown" and "Bridgetown", Portland provides magnificent scenery, massive spruce and pine forests, over 37,000 acres of open spaces and a waterfront spanned by nine attractive bridges. In addition to its reputation as the Greenest City in the US, Portland is renowned for being a creative mecca and some of America's best musicians, writers, chefs and artists call the city home.

### **DOWNTOWN PORTLAND CITY TOUR**

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Enjoy a **guided walking tour of the city** of Portland, visiting Powell's City of Books (one of the largest bookstores in the world - you'll need a map to find your way around the store's 68,000 square feet), checking out Pioneer Courthouse Square (colloquially referred to as Portland's "Living Room"), exploring the mysterious Shanghai Tunnels and Portland's historic underground, and taking in the city's attractive riverfront. Pick up a scrumptious lunch from one of the city's numerous food cart pods and reward yourselves with one of Portland's famous Voodoo Donuts!

### **COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE**

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Travel out to the beautiful **Columbia River Gorge**, the largest designated National Scenic Area in the US ,renowned for its stunning vistas and varied outdoor activity opportunities. You'll stop in at the Vista House at Crown Point for some beautiful panoramic photos and a peek into the museum before taking a short hike up to Benson Bridge to experience the full glory of Multnomah Falls.

### **SNOW DAY AT MOUNT HOOD**

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Spend the day at the impressive **Mount Hood**, the tallest mountain in Oregon. An optional ski or snowboard package will be available for approximately US\$60pp which includes equipment, a lift pass and a lesson.

### **OREGON COAST**

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Today you'll head out to the town of **Seaside** on the spectacular Oregon coast. Dip your toes in the chilly waters of the Pacific, wander along the beach, grab a bite to eat, pop into some of Seaside's quirky shops, or play some games at the old school Funland Arcade. Visit the **Tillamook Cheese Factory** where you can take a tour and see the Pacific Northwest's famous cheese being made. Sample the local ice-cream and grab a delicious grilled cheese from the cafe to keep you sated for the drive back to Portland.

# SACRAMENTO

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



*(Limited hosting numbers 150 students)*

Sacramento is the oldest incorporated city in California, and in the decades since fortune hunters flocked to the region in search of the glimmering metal it has emerged into a cosmopolitan state capital that still retains its unique Gold Rush history. Founded at the confluence of the Sacramento and American Rivers in the northern part of California's Central Valley, the city enjoys a mild Mediterranean climate with dry sunny summers and cooler, occasionally rainy winters. 485,000 people call Sacramento city home, and more than 1.5 million live in the greater Sacramento region. Locals and visitors alike enjoy Sacramento's historic Old Town, booming foodie scene and abundant recreational activities as well as the city's proximity to Lake Tahoe and Yosemite.

### **SACRAMENTO CITY TOUR AND OLD SACRAMENTO**

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Take part in a **city tour of Sacramento**, visiting the State Capitol and Old Sacramento, the unique 28-acre National Historic Landmark District and State Historic Park located along the beautiful Sacramento River. Bustling with activity, the district is alive with shopping, dining, entertainment, historical attractions and world-renowned museums set within the time of the California Gold Rush and the Transcontinental Railroad.

### **SNOW DAY AT SUGAR BOWL**

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Travel to the **Sugar Bowl ski field** at stunning Lake Tahoe, approximately 2 hours from Sacramento. An optional ski or snowboard package will be available today for US\$85.00, which caters from beginners to experienced skiers and boarders and includes a 1 hour lesson, hire of all equipment and a lift pass. Those who don't wish to ski or snowboard can play in the snow!

### **JELLY BELLY FACTORY AND VACAVILLE OUTLET MALL**

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Have a sweet time at the **Jelly Belly Factory** learning the secrets behind these legendary jellybeans on your 40 minute walking tour. Grab some souvenirs to go before heading over to the **Vacaville Premium Outlets** and pick up some more bargains!

### **WINCHESTER MYSTERY HOUSE**

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Drive down to San Jose and the **Winchester Mystery House**, once the personal residence of Sarah Winchester. A designated historical landmark, the Queen Anne style Victorian mansion is renowned for its size, architectural curiosities and lack of any master building plan. Marvel at the bizarre attributes that give the mansion its name; a window built into the floor, stairs leading to ceilings, doors that open onto blank walls, a seeming obsession with the numeral "13", cobweb motifs, and more.

# SAN DIEGO

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



San Diego calls itself “America’s Finest City” and its breezy confidence and sunny countenance filter down to folks you encounter every day on the street. It feels like a collection of villages each with its own personality, but it’s the nation’s eighth-largest city and we’re hard-pressed to think of a more laid-back place. 70 miles (112 kilometers) of beautiful beaches, swaying palm trees and a year-round nearly perfect climate define San Diego, which is located in the southwest corner of the country, neighbouring Mexico. This is where California was first discovered in 1542 and the city retains a rich Hispanic heritage found in beautiful missions and historic areas like Old Town San Diego. Over 3.3 million people call San Diego County home and its population stretches from the surf-central Pacific shore to the rolling desert hills in the east.

### SEAWORLD

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Spend the day at **SeaWorld!** You’ll have the opportunity to see Shamu, sharks, sea lions, high flying dolphins, whale acrobats, the Penguin Encounter, Whale and Dolphin Petting Pool and the World of the Sea Aquarium.

### SAN DIEGO CITY TOUR

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Explore the **city of San Diego** on today’s tour. Travel across the landmark Coronado Bridge to the famous Hotel Del Coronado, before taking the ferry back across the bay to the USS Midway, an enormous aircraft carrier permanently moored in San Diego Harbour. Tour this impressive ship before walking over to Seaport Village for lunch, and then spend the afternoon at Mission Beach, one of California’s premier surf beaches

### OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO AND SAN YSIDRO PREMIUM OUTLETS

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Enjoy the culture of **Old Town San Diego**, a charming historic district home to museums, shops and eateries harking back to the days of the dons. See the 1825 Casa de Estudillo, one of the finest adobe haciendas in the state. View a rare original stagecoach at the Wells Fargo Museum. See a scale model of nineteenth century Old Town at the reconstructed Robinson-Rose House, one-time Lodge of the Freemasons and home of San Diego’s first newspaper The San Diego Herald. After Old Town, the coach will take you to the **San Ysidro Factory Outlets** for an afternoon of shopping at your leisure.

### SAN DIEGO ZOO AND BALBOA PARK

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Today you will have the opportunity to visit one of the world’s most exciting zoos! **San Diego Zoo** is home to more than 4000 animals representing 800 species, many of which are rarely seen at other zoos. San Diego’s diverse collection of animals include snow leopards, pandas and polar bears. The zoo is located in the city’s famed Balboa Park, a 1200 acre urban cultural park featuring open space areas, natural vegetation zones, green belts, gardens, walking trails, museums and theaters.

# PHOENIX

## ARIZONA



*\*\*Additional AUD\$195.00 per person add on to standard tour cost\*\**

America's fifth-largest city still has cowboys and red-rock buttes and the kind of cactus most people see only in cartoons. It is the heart of the Sonoran Desert and the gateway to the Grand Canyon, and its history is a testament to the spirit of Puebloans, ranchers, miners and visionaries. In Phoenix you can experience the stunning southwestern landscape, explore Native American tradition and enjoy the agreeable desert climate. Greater Phoenix encompasses 2,000 square miles and more than 20 incorporated cities, including Glendale, Scottsdale, Tempe and Mesa, and is one of the fastest growing regions in the nation with a population of nearly 4.49 million. With more than 300 days of sunshine per year and an average annual temperature of 85°F / 29°C it's no wonder so many are flocking to "The Valley of the Sun".

### SEDONA

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Travel north to stunning **Sedona**, famous for its incredible red rocks, cinematic scenery and mystical "vortexes". Today you'll tour Tuzigoot National Monument, an ancient village built by the Sinagua Indians. A Native American guide will take you on a guided walk around Bell Rock, and tell you stories of the local history of the area. You can spend the rest of the day popping in to the unique shops in the township of Sedona or take a ride on the local trolley for a guided tour of the Seven Canyons and the Chapel of the Holy Cross. The Sedona area is truly spectacular, so ensure you bring your camera to capture all the highlights.

### GRAND CANYON

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Watch the scenery change as you travel via snowy Flagstaff – once a stop on the famed Route 66 - to the South Rim of the marvellous **Grand Canyon**. Here you can participate in Park Ranger lead talks, take a walk along the rim, visit the Geology Museum, shop for souvenirs or toss a snowball or two into the Canyon if the weather permits.

### SONORAN DESERT MUSEUM AND OLD TUSCON STUDIOS

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Drive through the desert to the **Sonoran Desert Museum** - a world-renowned zoo, natural history museum and botanical garden, all in one. After the sights and sounds of the Desert Museum you will continue on to **Old Tucson Studios**. Here at the base of the Tucson Mountains lies a preserved slice of Americana; saunter down the streets of Hollywood's most famous movies, walk in the footsteps of movie legends like John Wayne and Clint Eastwood, and enjoy the live show with thrilling stunts and Old West drama.

### ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY AND ARIZONA MILLS MALL

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Experience college life at **Arizona State University** - take a backstage tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright designed Gammage Auditorium, home to travelling Broadway shows, wander down Palm Walk and visit the **Planetarium**. You will spend the afternoon at **Arizona Mills Mall** - with over 100 stores, an Aquarium, and a 2 story arcade (Gameworks) - there is something here for everyone.