

2025 8TH GRADE TRIP

WASHINGTON DC & NEW YORK CITY



6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS TRIP – APRIL 21 – APRIL 26, 2025

ORGANIZED BY MATT EBINER OF GEOTOURS LLC

MATTEBINER@GEOTOURS.US

310-686-8171

1. What is GeoTours LLC?

- Travel company founded by Matt Ebiner in 2010
 - o Matt - 30+ years as College Geography Professor
- International group tours to 85 different countries since 2010
 - o Carefully designed and organized, conscientiously guided
- Small company, but competent, professional, responsible, local, and excellent value
- Legal
 - o GeoTours LLC registered with CA Secretary of State
 - o GeoTours LLC is a Seller of Travel registered with CA Dept. of Justice
 - o GeoTours LLC has a Business License with city of Covina

2. Goals of the 8th Grade Trip

- Educational – expands on topics studied in 8th grade
- Fun – time with friends experiencing new places
- Inspirational
 - o Inspired by American achievements & sacrifices
 - o Increased Interest in US History & Government
 - o Appreciate the greatness of America
- Everyone stays safe and enjoys the trip!

Travel arrangements by GeoTours LLC, CST # 2099683-40 - WWW.GEOTOURS.US/TOUR/2025DCNY

1547 E. Puente Street, Covina, CA 91724

Matt Ebiner – mattebiner@geotours.us; 310-686-8171 (email is preferred)

3. Dates of 2025 8th Grade Trip to Washington & New York

- 6 Days/5 Nights
- Monday April 21, 2025 - Saturday April 26, 2025
 - o 3 nights in Washington DC
 - Hyatt Centric Arlington (4*)
 - 1 mile to Arlington Cemetery, 2 miles to Lincoln Memorial, 3 miles to White House
 - o 2 nights in New York City
 - New York Marriott at Brooklyn Bridge (4*)
 - 5-minute walk to subway station; 20-minute ride to Times Square, Empire State Building

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

4. DAY 1 – 4/21/25

- Depart ~ 8 am on American, United, Delta, or Alaska Airlines, fly to Washington Reagan National Airport
- Arrive Washington around 4 pm
- 56-seat bus meets us at the airport
- Drive into DC, orientation tour from the bus
 - o U.S. Capitol Building group photo (outside)
- Dinner at Uno's Grill, Union Station (DC)
- Nighttime tour of the illuminated memorials (by bus + walking) with local, professional guide
 - o World War II Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Korean War Memorial...

5. DAY 2 – 4/22/25

- Mass and tour at Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, largest Catholic church in USA
- U.S. Supreme Court – outside
- U.S. Capitol Building – hopefully tour inside (tix are not guaranteed)
- Washington Monument - go to the top for views (tix not guaranteed, but got them for 2024 group)
- Arlington Cemetery, see Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Changing of the Guard
- Dinner at Chevy's Mexican Grill, Arlington
- Optional sunset walk (15 minutes) from hotel to Marine Corps (Iwo Jima) Memorial for awesome views

6. DAY 3 – 4/23/25

- Lincoln Memorial (inside), Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- The White House – hopefully tour inside (tix not guaranteed, but got them for 2024 group)
- Smithsonian Museum of American History
- Mid-day free time (2 hours) to visit another museum (Air & Space; Natural History; National Archives,...)
- Library of Congress – tour inside
- Dinner in the Georgetown District of DC (Pinstripes Restaurant); can explore Georgetown after dinner

7. DAY 4 – 4/24/25

- 7:30 am, depart on our bus to Philadelphia and New York City (about 2.5 hours to Philadelphia; +2 hrs to NYC)
- Visit Philadelphia, 10:00-2:00 pm
 - o Independence Hall, where Declaration of Independence (1776) & Constitution (1787) were signed
 - o Liberty Bell
- Arrive Brooklyn, 4:30 pm
- Dinner in DUMBO district of Brooklyn, with magnificent views of the high-rise buildings of Manhattan

8. DAY 5 – 4/25/25

- Walk Brooklyn Heights Promenade for beautiful views of Manhattan
- Walk across Brooklyn Bridge (pedestrian level on top) with awesome views of New York's skyline
- Ride the subway to Grand Central Station
- SUMMIT at One Vanderbilt – go to the observatory floors for outstanding views of NYC
- Central Park walk
- Walk down Fifth Avenue (window shopping), visit St. Patrick's Cathedral & Rockefeller Center
- Times Square
- Dinner at Hard Rock Café, Times Square
- Friday evening free for optional activities (extra cost, but GeoTours can help arrange)
 - o Broadway show or Yankees baseball game (if possible; 2025 schedule to be determined)

9. DAY 6 – 4/26/25

- Subway from Brooklyn to Manhattan (one stop)
- Ferry to Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island
- Wall Street
- 9/11 Memorial
- Private bus takes us to Newark or JFK airport
- Evening flight to LAX

10. Additional Comments/Advantages of the Itinerary and Trip Overall

- Hotels are close to the sites, so no long drives each morning or at the end of the day
- Go inside places; don't just see them from the outside
- Itinerary has a Catholic perspective (Easter at home, visits to Catholic churches, possibly attend Mass)
- Will not combine our kids with any other school group
- Unbeatable price for this itinerary with 4* hotels in these locations
 - o About \$500 less per person than any comparable program
- Matt & Suzan are easily accessible in person, email, and phone/text to answer questions/concerns before the trip.
- Matt & Suzan will do everything possible to create and lead an excellent trip with true concern for the group

11. Extra Perks of GeoTours 2025 Washington-New York trip

- Free custom hoodie for students if we have 20+ students in the group
- Permission to access and download Matt Ebner's professional-quality trip photos, available after the trip
- Illustrated 20-page information packet that summarizes the DC places we're visiting, written by Matt Ebner

12. Important points to know before signing up

- There is a lot of walking, up to 5 or 6 miles a day; trip is not recommended for those incapable of walking that far.
- Cannot expect perfect weather; it might be hot, cold, and/or rainy.
- Early start each day; breakfast starts at 6:30 am, leave the hotel at 7:30 am each morning.
- Strict schedule with limited time at each location; we cannot spend hours at one place.
- Meals are on a timed schedule, especially for lunch, which is usually 1 hour.
- All participants have a responsibility to the group to be on time and to accept the schedule.
- This trip is NOT recommended for:
 - o Those who are unable or unwilling to spend hours on their feet.
 - o Those who want to spend hours at a single place.
 - o Those who want to sleep late.
 - o Those who want to have long, leisurely meals, or who expect gourmet restaurants.

13. Pricing of 2025 8th Grade Trip to Washington & New York – PRICE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON DATES

- Pricing per person (pp) including round-trip airfare from Los Angeles
 - o \$2390 pp – Quad Room for 4 people (2 Queen beds)
 - o \$2490 pp – Triple Room for 3 people (2 Queen beds)
 - o \$2690 pp – Double Room for 2 people (2 Queens or 1 King)
 - o \$3390 pp – Single Room for 1 person (1 King)
- Prices above require \$200 deposit pp by May 20, 2024
 - o Price increases \$100 per person for registrations after May 20, 2024.

14. Trip Price Includes:

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| - Round-trip airline tix | - Entries/Activities |
| - 5 nights at centrally located 4* hotels | - Professional tour guides |
| - Breakfasts & Dinners | - Matt & Suzan Ebner as tour directors/leaders |
| - All transport (56-seat bus) + subway tickets | - Tips to guides & drivers |

15. Trip Price Does Not Include:

- Lunches
- Shopping
- Personal Travel Insurance
- Transport to and from LAX (group transport Covina-LAX-Covina can be arranged for an extra cost, \$20 pp each way)

16. Personal Travel Insurance (not included, but recommended)

- **AIG TravelGuard Preferred** (found on www.travelinsurance.com) is recommended
 - Costs around \$150 for adults, free for kids
 - \$50,000 coverage for medical
 - \$1,000 coverage for lost/stolen items
 - Trip Cancellation Coverage of 100% of trip cost
 - For covered, unforeseen events
 - Sickness, Injury, Accident
 - Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) costs +\$55
 - Get 50% refund of non-refundable payment
 - CFAR must be purchased within 15 days of 1st payment
 - Read the policy details carefully; don't simply rely on the brief information above

17. 2025 8th Grade Trip Payment Schedule

- \$200 deposit (per person) due within 7 days of completing registration form
- \$400 pp due August 31, 2024
- \$600 pp due November 30, 2024
- Final payment due February 15, 2025; late fee of \$50 per person applies after February 28, 2025
- OTHER PAYMENT PLANS ARE AVAILABLE - OK to make smaller, more frequent payments

18. How to Sign up for the Trip?

- **Online registration form (click here)**
- Deposit of \$200 per person is due by May 20, 2024

19. How to Make Payments?

- Check payable to GeoTours LLC, sent by US mail to GeoTours, 1547 E. Puente St., Covina, CA 91724
- Check payable to GeoTours LLC, handed directly to Matt or Suzan Ebner.
- Zelle to 310-686-8171 (GeoTours phone #) or payment@geotours.us
- Venmo to 310-686-8171 or Matt-Ebner (need the dash in the middle)
 - o If paying by Venmo, please do NOT "Turn on for Purchases" (adds 2% fee)
- Zelle & Venmo are the preferred ways for GeoTours to receive payments

20. Cancellations

To cancel your participation, you need to inform GeoTours in writing or by email. Cancellation date is the day when GeoTours has received your written notice. *Cancellation penalty is the fee listed below PLUS any non-refundable expenses already paid on behalf of the participant.

On or before May 31, 2024 - \$0
October 1 – Nov 30, 2024 - \$400*
After March 1, 2025 – No Refund

June 1 – July 31, 2024 - \$100*
Dec 1, 2024 – Jan. 31, 2025 - \$600*

August 1 – Sept 30, 2024 - \$200*
February 1 - 28, 2025 - \$800*

21. Terms & Conditions

The program participant agrees that this trip is not approved or sanctioned by any school and that GeoTours LLC assumes no liability whatsoever for loss of property, injury, accident, illness, death, irregularity, and delays during the duration of the tour. In addition, the program participant agrees to hold GeoTours LLC harmless for damage and delay due to equipment problems, quarantine, declared or undeclared war and insurrection, terrorist and criminal activity, revolt, civil disturbance, hostility, military action, strikes, labor unrest, any "act of God" or nature and for any act of any third party. The participant, by registering for this tour, agrees that GeoTours LLC is not responsible for delay, rerouting, omission, and additional expense resulting from the passenger's improper travel documents such as passport, visa, and health document. Any losses and expenses related to such circumstances are within the responsibility of the program participants and not of GeoTours LLC. GeoTours LLC is not responsible for acts of any government authority. GeoTours LLC reserves the right to adjust itinerary and contents and to substitute accommodation providers as deemed necessary. GeoTours LLC reserves the right to accept or decline any person as a program participant as well as to refuse to retain any participant's membership in the program. Participants that do not participate in an activity or entry, or who leave the tour early or arrive late, will not be entitled to any refund. By registering for this tour, the participant agrees to all terms and conditions.

Travel arrangements by:

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