



## **The Azores Student Travel Frequently Asked Questions For Parents**

### **What is included in the cost of the trip?**

The cost of the trip includes round-trip flights, daily breakfast and dinner, a 24-hour tour manager, centrally located hotels, and participation in cultural experiences.

### **What grades can travel?**

The student trip to the Azores is open to gifted and talent-development students in sixth through twelfth grade at the time of travel.

### **Can I travel with my child?**

We understand that parents may wish to join their child on this incredible journey. However, this trip has been specifically designed as a student-only educational experience, supervised by district staff. This structure ensures that students can fully engage in the planned activities, build independence, and foster connections with their peers. We appreciate your understanding and support as we give your child this unique opportunity to grow and learn in a new environment.

### **What are the roommate requirements? How are students grouped for sleeping arrangements? Age groups, gender, etc.?**

Pricing is based on hotel double occupancy. Students are grouped by gender and grade level.

### **How are food restrictions accommodated?**

If your child has food restrictions, please indicate them on your medical form. Every effort is made to accommodate food restrictions, but please be prepared to send alternative food options if you have concerns with the group meals. A vegetarian option will be available for all meals.



**Can I pay the gifted teacher directly for registration?**

The gifted teacher will not accept any payments for the tour registration. Payments can be made at the Office of Gifted and Talented Education or the link provided at registration.

**My gifted/talent development child has a sibling(s) who is not in the gifted and talent development program. Can they attend the trip?**

Unfortunately, this trip is specifically designed for students enrolled in the Gifted and Talented Development Program. The itinerary and activities are tailored to align with the program's objectives and learning outcomes, which makes it necessary to limit participation to those in the program. We appreciate your understanding and encourage you to look for other opportunities that may be open to all students.

**Can I make payment arrangements?**

Please contact the Office of Gifted and Talented Education directly to arrange payment.

**Will we receive a more detailed itinerary?**

A more detailed itinerary will be sent directly to all participants closer to trip departure.

**How can I receive more information about gifted travel/field trips?**

Please contact your school's gifted teacher or the Office of Gifted and Talented Education for questions concerning all field trips/student travel.

**Important Dates**

- **Deposit Due Date:** June 30, 2025
- **Final Payment Due Date:** December 15, 2025
- **Participant Travel Meeting:** January 14, 2026 (more info will be emailed)
- **DEPARTURE:** Potential Travel Dates February 13 - 22, 2026



## **Questions asked at the Interest Meeting held on May 21, 2025**

**Does APS organize this kind of international trip annually? Are there any separate considerations within the program towards different grader groups: 6-12 graders?**

District-organized travel has been limited since COVID. Moving forward, our office hopes to provide opportunities like this one at least annually, potentially more. International travel is typically restricted to 6-12. Future trips may target different grades.

**How large would the group be?** 10-25 students

**The bitly link isn't opening for me, and I've tried to open it on different devices.**

Try either link below to access the deposit website.

<https://bit.ly/AzoresDeposit>

[SchoolCashOnline.com](https://www.schoolcashonline.com): Deposit

If you have additional issues, please call the Office of Gifted and Talented Education Office at (404)802-7585.

**What is the difference in how the program activities and program structure are implemented comparing middle school to high school students?**

The program is designed to provide all participating students with the same enriching opportunities, immersive cultural experiences, and engaging educational activities, regardless of grade level.

**Will we be able to contact our children in any way, or will they be allowed to use devices?**

Parents will have access to an emergency line if students need to be reached. Chaperones will post pictures and send general updates daily. We recommend students leave expensive electronics at home. If students bring devices, they are responsible for their safekeeping.



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**Can you provide details about the risk, safety, and engagement training?**

**What is the procedure to manage an emergency, like a medical issue?**

- The group travels together at all times with students, chaperones, a trained Insight facilitator, and a local guide.
- Insight facilitators are trained in risk management and student safety. All have up-to-date basic first aid and CPR, submit annual criminal record checks, and sign a code of conduct.
- InSight Global Education conducts thorough due diligence screening of its partners to ensure their safety and vetting standards align with the organization.
- InSight Global Education submits a detailed risk assessment to the district with information on general travel and location-specific risks, as well as, an assessment for each itinerary activity that covers potential risks and mitigation strategies. They will also assess the risks of each student's available health and dietary information to ensure they are prepared.
- When medical emergencies or accidents arise, our local guide and facilitator collaborate to support the person in need. We will have 24/7 medical facility information available in our risk assessments. The leadership team will coordinate to give the person in need immediate basic first aid and get them to appropriate medical attention as soon as possible.
- The APS district chaperones will manage student supervision. The local guide and Insight facilitator will provide support and general student supervision while out on activities during the day. However, during free time or evenings, the chaperones will set expectations and monitor student behavior.
- Chaperones will keep student passports in their possession to ensure they are not lost or misplaced. In case of a lost passport, we would contact the local US embassy as soon as possible to collaborate on a solution to ensure the program stays on track. We also ask that families maintain and send a copy of the passports, as sometimes these are requested by embassies.



**Will there be language immersion opportunities for DLI students?**

DLI students will be able to interact with locals, engage in cultural activities, and practice their language skills in real-world settings.

**What is the expected weather that time of year?**

São Miguel Island, Azores

Average temperatures range from 50°F to 60°F

**Is the travel insurance primarily for the cost of the trip in the event of cancellation, or is this health insurance used in case of an emergency?**

The travel insurance covers both the trip cost in the event of cancellation and health insurance in case of an emergency. This ensures that students are protected financially if the trip is unexpectedly canceled and have coverage for medical needs while traveling.

**Where could I learn about the previous recent international trips that APS sponsored?**

Many APS high schools have sponsored recent international trips. Please reach out to the school directly for additional information.

**Any discount for multi-child?**

There is no discount available for multiple children.

**Is there a way to know the ages of the people who sign up? Our kid is excited to go, but if he's the only 6th grader in a group of 9-12 graders, he might not want to go.**

While we cannot share individual student information, we will email families a grade distribution of registered students to help determine whether their child will participate. In the past, students from all grade levels have participated, with older students often supporting younger students and looking out for them, like older siblings.



**How do you decide who goes if it is limited to 25 people? Is it first-come, first-served? Will there be a limit to how many of students per grade?**

Enrollment is handled on a **first-come, first-served** basis. Since interest may vary across grade levels, we have not set a specific number of spots per grade.

**For a rising 6th grader, is there a specific class my child needs to be enrolled in for next year?**

There is no specific class for a gifted-identified rising 6th-grade student to be enrolled in to participate in this experience.

**Is there an itinerary we could review?**

The itinerary can be viewed on the interest meeting recording or the APS Gifted website: <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/21024>

**Are there any specific vaccines required?**

No, but it is highly recommended that travelers are up-to-date on all vaccinations recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**How often do you conduct these kinds of trips for future consideration?**

At least annually, but we hope to move toward twice a year.

**Will pictures be captured of their experiences? Or will the students need to ensure they take pictures if they want them for memories?**

Chaperones and students may take pictures of their experience. Chaperones will post to a group chat to keep parents informed.

**Could siblings share a double occupancy room if they are of different genders or grades?**

Parents may request that siblings share a double-occupancy room, even if they are of different genders and grades.