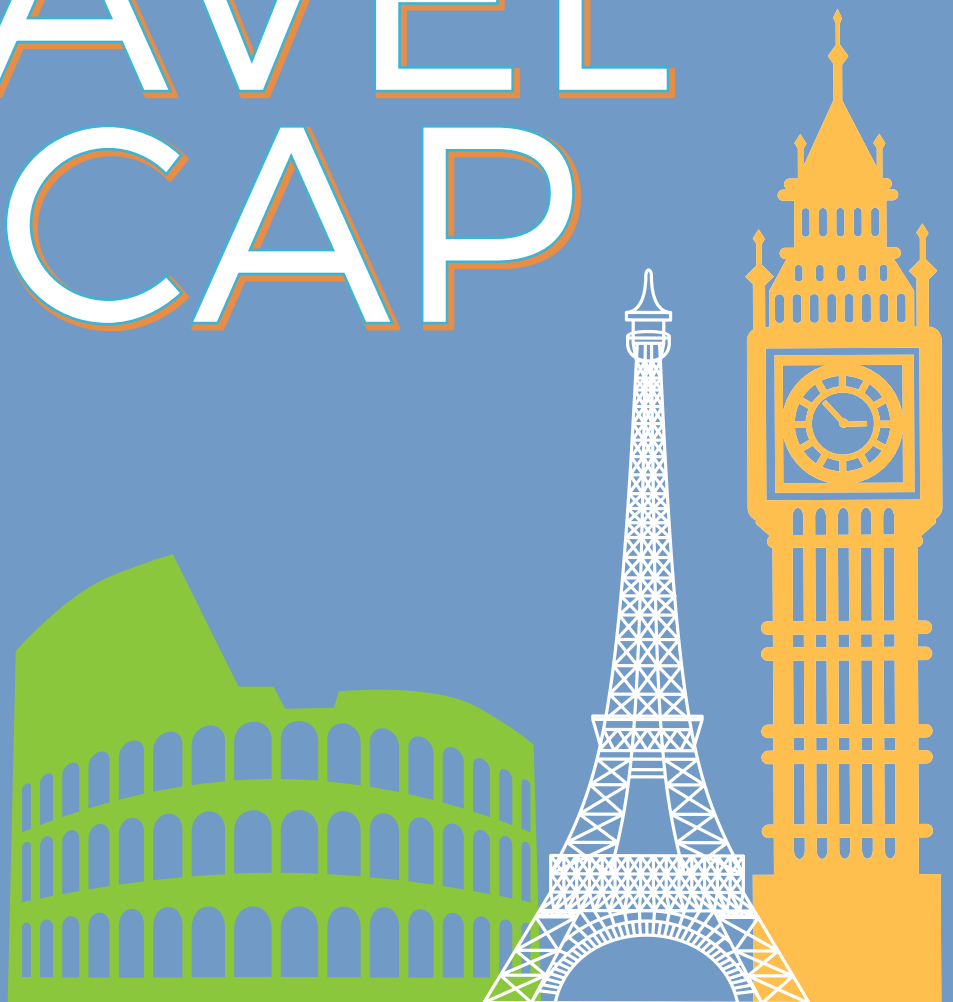




2016 SPRING TRAVEL RECAP



The last 6 months have seen new challenges unfold in international educational travel. In many ways, it has provided extra motivation for teachers and students to go out, see the world, and push on in their pursuit to evolve the next generation of global citizens. We at **ACIS** and **Encore** believe as strongly as ever in our mission:

Empowering teachers to introduce their students to the world beyond the classroom and inspire the next generation of global citizens.

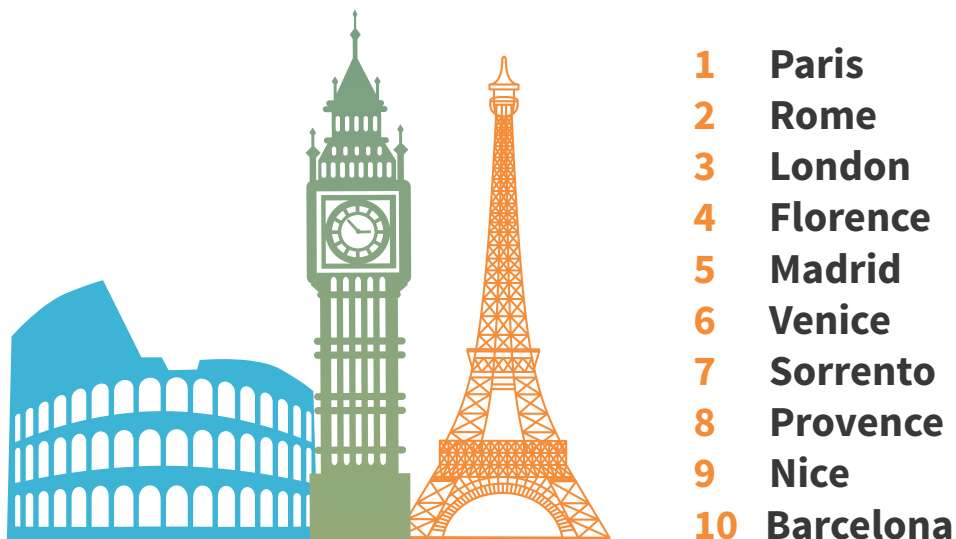
Over the last several months, we've been busy at work sending teachers and students all over the world. Just how busy have we been? Here are some statistics:

Over **28,000** flight segments booked

153 towns and cities visited

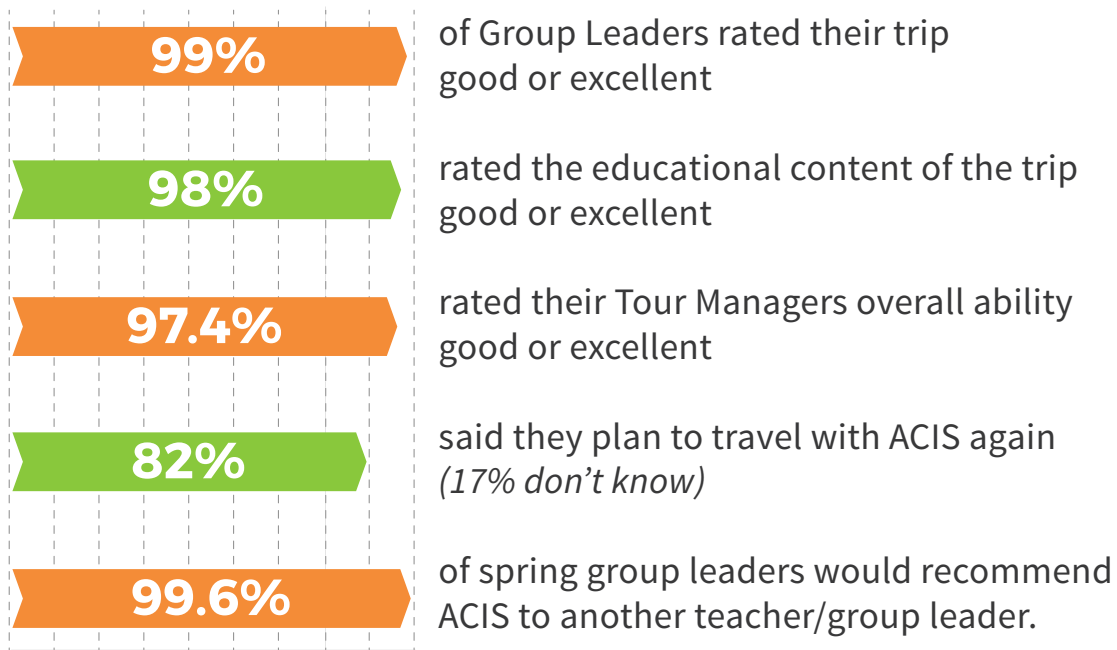


TOP TEN DESTINATIONS VISITED:



So for all of those teachers and students trotting all over the globe,

How were their trips?



TOP RATED CULTURAL CONNECTIONS:

- Barcelona by Bike
- Jaunting Tour in Killarney
- Monteverde Cloud Forest Canopy Tour
- Craft Workshop in Sarchi
- Pétanque lesson
- Mastering Mozzarella
- Face to Face with Students in San Carlos
- Guingette Dine and Dance
- Flamenco Lesson and Show in Madrid
- Pisac Indian Market Visit
- Appia Antica by Bike
- Traditional Cream Tea in Bath
- West End Theater Workshop and Performance
- Face to Face with Students in Peru
- International Perspectives: BBC Broadcasting House
- Ancient Greek Ceramics Workshop
- Lucca by Bike
- International Perspectives: Parisian Fashion Retailer
- Be Cézanne Painting Lesson
- Edinburgh Old Town Ghost Tour
- Welsh Family Dinner and Home Visit

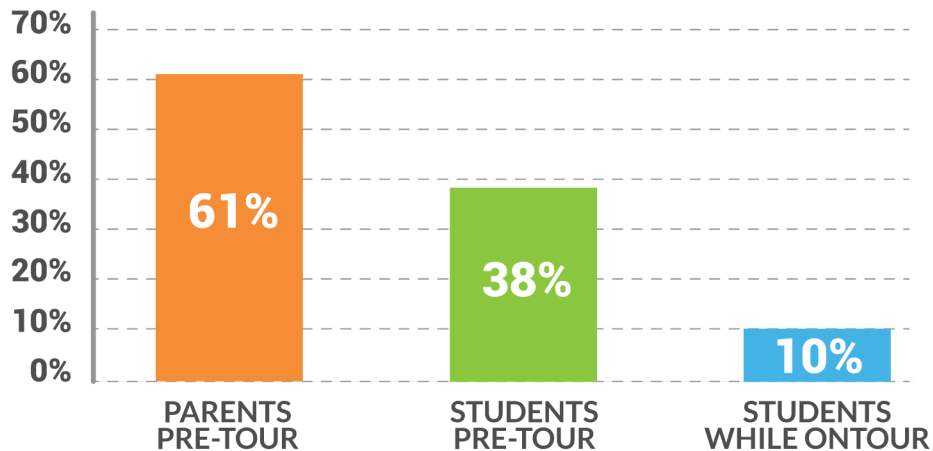


With the events of the last 6 months, safety has been at the forefront of everybody's mind even more so than usual. At ACIS and Encore, we take safety very seriously and put in place measures to protect all of our travelers at all times.

Often times the situation "on the ground" feels quite a bit different than what is reported by the media back home. Below are the results of a survey from over 500 people who have traveled with us this year.

99% of travelers (and their parents) said they were glad to have gone on their trip

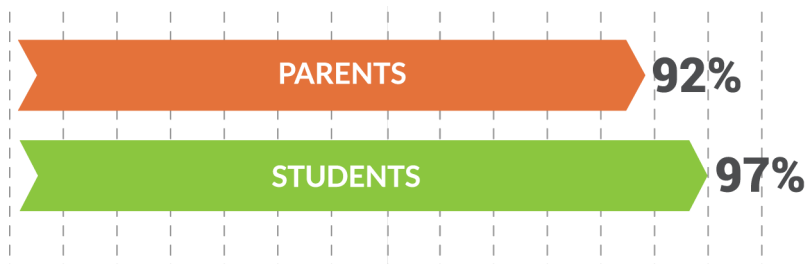
Who felt nervous about traveling?



Top 3 factors that made these travelers feel safer during their tour

- 1** The care they received from their tour manager
- 2** The hotels they stayed in all felt safe
- 3** Seeing all of the locals and visitors going about their daily lives

Would tell a fellow student/parent to "Not Miss!" a planned trip to Europe



HERE ARE SOME COMMENTS FROM GROUP LEADERS WHO'VE TRAVELED IN EUROPE THIS SPRING:

"One mother who traveled with us said she felt more safe with the increased presence of armed officers and the checking of the bags. Other than this, I haven't had anyone make any comments to me regarding safety. We all went about our business like normal.

The fact that ACIS acknowledges openly what is occurring when it is occurring, even if it is negative, is reassuring to me. I knew my students and I would be removed from a dangerous area if a travel warning was issued, and that gave me confidence. I think it's also important for parents to realize that safety procedures are in effect even without the threat of terrorism."

- Christy B

"Dominic [our Encore Tour Manager] was even better than our other trip. His ability to move us through any city quickly and safely is incredible. His knowledge of every city and place we visited is awesome and his ability to engage American Teenagers was perfect!! I always felt safe with my students around Dominic. He can judge a group and will never take us on a route or at a pace that my group could not handle."

- Tyrone J

"In terms of our group, our expectations were to live in the moment and enjoy the adventure that this trip had to offer. We feel 100% satisfied that this trip embodied both of these ideals, living in the moment and enjoying the adventure.

Our parents were extremely satisfied with the trip and overall experience. I have had numerous run-ins with other individuals in the community and they can't wait to send their son or daughter on a trip in the future. We have received a couple thank you notes that have really been considerate and special."

- Marc Z

"When we were in Italy, we were incredibly safe—the last time I had been in Europe was 2012, and have been traveling to the continent for over twenty years - the Spring 2016 trip was, by far, the SAFEST I have EVER felt in Europe."

- Kathryn S

"The highlight of my trip was singing at the John Lennon wall and not only sharing a special moment with my group but also touching the hearts of all the people listening to us."

- Ashley R

"Walking the streets of Paris with their friends is something they will always remember. Moreover, I have watched kids' confidence soar as they know they can read maps to get to where they want to go and navigate the public transportation system of a major city.

The terrorism threat was something that parents asked about but was never something that caused them to consider NOT going to Europe. I believe the messages that ACIS sent out as well as my own message went a long way to let parents know that we weren't going to let terrorists dissuade us from traveling. We ran a Twitter account and were constantly posting pictures and messages for parents and friends at home.

Having kids travel and start to appreciate the differences in cultures and people is our best defense against terrorists. Don't underestimate the power of a week-long trip to influence students for the rest of their lives. It's not just the famous sites they'll see, it's the new culture, another language, the mixture of anxiousness and excitement that lurks just under that surface, it's the sense of accomplishment when kids have their first exchange with a local and they realize they're not in suburban Minnesota anymore, and the confidence you can see on their faces when they realize that they can handle themselves in another culture. Those feelings... will stay with them for the rest of their lives."

- Eric V

"My principal asked me if I felt safe traveling and I assured him that I had. As I expected, the situation in France was no different after the November attacks than it had been before. Even after the Brussels attacks (which happened during our trip), I did not notice any significant changes."

- Lisa S

HERE ARE SOME PICTURES FROM THE ROAD THIS SPRING:

