



Kaleidoscope
Adventures®

The Complete Performance Travel Guide for Band Directors





Table of Contents

As any band director knows, performance travel is more than just a few days away from school. It is an essential opportunity for student growth and program visibility.

A meaningful travel experience is a unique teaching moment that builds life skills that have an impact beyond the band room.

It also gives music programs a much-needed boost in visibility and credibility! Music education is often targeted for budget cuts. Performance travel is a chance to highlight students' successes, and the influential role music plays in education.

But planning a performance trip might feel a bit overwhelming – especially if you've never done it before or are thinking about a new destination.

The Performance Travel Guide for Band Directors breaks it all down into manageable, easy to understand bits that will make you look like a pro!

Why Performance Travel?

For Students

For Band Directors

3 - 6

3-4

5-6

Parades and Bowl Games

Major Holiday Parades

St. Patrick's Day Parades

Patriotic & Veterans Parades

Spring & Cultural Parades

Bowl Game Parades

Hawaii Based Parades

7 - 22

9-10

11-12

13-14

15-16

17-19

21

Theme Park Performance Trips

Walt Disney World Resort

Universal Orlando Resort

23-32

25-27

29-31

Top Performance Destinations

33-42

International Performance Trips

43-50

Travel with Confidence

Paying for the Trip

Real ID

Transportation

Top Travel Tips for Band Directors

About KA/Customizing Your Adventure

Safety & Support

Let's Start Planning

51-63

53-54

55

56

57-58

59

62

63



Why Performance Travel is Important for Students

Performance travel is a transformative experience that elevates student growth, confidence, and connection. When young performers take their talents beyond the classroom and onto national stages, they gain real-world exposure, cultural insight, and a renewed sense of pride in their craft.



Development of Life Skills

The rigorous demands of a parade, such as performing while marching for an extended period, instill discipline, responsibility, and perseverance.



Encourages Teamwork

As a highly visible group, the band must work together flawlessly. Each member is critical to the collective success, reinforcing teamwork and collaboration.



Builds Endurance and Stamina

Longer than a typical field show, parades and other performances may physically challenge students. Preparing for this extended performance helps build endurance and physical stamina.



Hones Performance Skills

Performing in different environments, including varying street conditions and audience proximity, challenges students to be versatile and adaptable musicians.



Fosters Leadership

Parades provide a platform for student leaders, like drum majors and section leaders, to demonstrate leadership, communication, and decision-making skills.

Why Performance Travel is Important for Band Directors

Performance travel isn't just a reward for hardworking band students—it's a strategic investment in the future of your music program.



Boosts Program Visibility

High-profile performances in parades and bowl games shine a spotlight on your band, drawing attention from school administrators, parents, and the broader community. Visibility leads to recognition—and recognition leads to support.



Demonstrates Tangible Impact

When stakeholders see your students performing on national stages, it reinforces the value of music education. These trips showcase discipline, teamwork, and excellence in action, making a strong case for continued investment.



Protects Against Budget Cuts

Programs that are seen as active, successful, and publicly celebrated are less likely to be cut. Performance travel helps position your band as a vital part of the school's identity and culture.



Encourages Recruitment and Retention

Students are more likely to join—and stay in—programs that offer exciting opportunities. Travel experiences create buzz, build camaraderie, and give students something to look forward to beyond rehearsals.



Strengthens Advocacy for the Arts

Every trip becomes a platform to advocate for music education. Whether it's a local news story, a social media post, or a proud parent sharing photos, your band's journey helps tell the story of why the arts matter.



A Kent University case study by a high school music educator found that

“Students gain a greater cultural understanding from travel. Students buy into their program, create a culture that is unique to their ensemble, and bring aspects of that culture back to their rehearsals at school.”

“Shared experiences bring people together and create a bond. In a musical ensemble whose goal is to blend, having a bond among its members is beneficial. Students get to travel that might not otherwise get those experiences. We get to hear honest feedback from respected adjudicators. Students see the director as more human and more relatable. Students gain real world skills, learn how to navigate a city, share a space with others, and they learn how to represent their school outside of the school setting.”

PARADES AND BOWL GAMES



www.mykatrip.com

1

- ❖ Parades, bowl games, and festivals are a fantastic way to showcase your skills and build your program’s performance resume.

Some of these events require strong showmanship and have rigorous participation criteria. Others are less stringent with broad participation. Some use an “invitation only” approach to selecting bands; others require well-crafted applications for inclusion.

The venue you choose really depends on what you want to accomplish with your program.

Most bowl games accept applicants based on factors like:

- Commitment to excellence
- Unique repertoires, marching styles & showmanship
- High-quality video or other performance recordings
- Performance histories
- Accomplishments and recognitions
- Community service and leadership initiatives
- Letters of recommendation from well-known music professionals

The following is a snapshot of some popular performance choices. We’ve highlighted key factors like competitiveness, application timelines, general criteria for participation, and what makes them stand out.

Note: *These are general guidelines – specific parade information may be subject to change.*

MAJOR HOLIDAY PARADES

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade



Competitiveness:
Extremely competitive

Application Timeline:
~18 months in advance
(i.e. Nov. 29th 2025 for
2027 parade)

Criteria:
High school/college
bands with exceptional
performance quality

**Required Minimum
Number of Participants:**
100+

Standout:
Nationally televised,
iconic NYC event with
massive exposure

Philly ABC Thanksgiving Parade



Competitiveness:
Moderately competitive

Application Timeline:
May 15th of the parade
year

Criteria:
Strong musicality and
visual appeal

**Required Minimum
Number of Participants:**
Flexible (75-100 typical)

Standout:
Oldest Thanksgiving
parade in the U.S.,
televised regionally

Hollywood Christmas Parade



Competitiveness:
Competitive

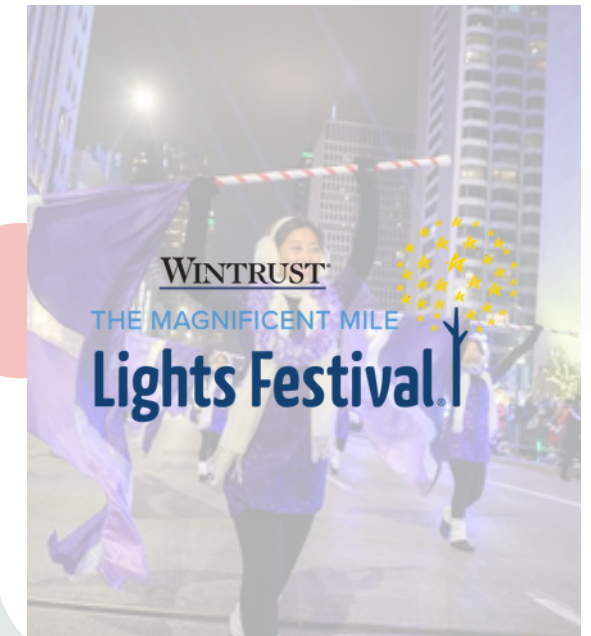
Application Timeline:
Deadline Feb 1st of the
parade year

Criteria:
Musicianship, marching
ability, field show
maneuvers

**Required Minimum
Number of Participants:**
No minimum; bands of all
sizes considered

Standout:
Nationally televised, red-
carpet route through
Hollywood

Miracle Mile Lights Festival in Chicago



Competitiveness:
Highly selective (5-6
bands)

Application Timeline:
Apply early (application
dates change yearly)

Criteria:
Strong visual and
musical performance

**Required Minimum
Number of Participants:**
Flexible (30-50 typical)

Standout:
Largest nighttime holiday
parade in the U.S.,
televised

ST. PATRICKS DAY PARADES

St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland



St. Patrick's Festival

Competitiveness:
Extremely competitive

Application Timeline:
At least 2+ years in advance; (current application is for 2028)

Criteria:
Overall talent, ability to represent the spirit of the St. Patrick's Festival

Required Minimum Number of Participants:
100+ recommended

Standout:
Marching in the birthplace of St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day Parade in Limerick, Ireland



Competitiveness:
Competitive but accessible

Application Timeline:
1 year in advance

Criteria:
Option to compete in Limerick International Band Championship

Required Minimum Number of Participants:
50-100 typical

Standout:
Only adjudicated band competition in Ireland

St. Patrick's Day Parade in NYC



Competitiveness:
Very competitive

Application Timeline:
At least 1+ year in advance

Criteria:
Strict traditional guidelines, specific dress code and presentation style

Required Minimum Number of Participants:
75 - 100 preferred

Standout:
Largest and oldest St. Patrick's Day parade in the world

St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah



Competitiveness:
Moderately competitive

Application Timeline:
Apply at least 9-12 months in advance

Criteria:
Family-friendly, honors Irish American heritage

Required Minimum Number of Participants:
None specified

Standout:
One of the largest St. Patrick's Day parades in the U.S. with 300,000+ spectators

PATRIOTIC & VETERANS PARADES

National Veterans Parade in DC



Competitiveness:
Competitive

Application Timeline:
Apply by May 1st;
decisions in July

Criteria:
Award-winning, strong
reputation; routine
celebrates courage and
sacrifice of veterans

**Required Minimum
Number of Participants:**
no minimum; bands of all
sizes

Standout:
March on Constitution
Ave, optional field show
on National Mall

Virginia International Tattoo Parade



Competitiveness:
Highly competitive

Application Timeline:
1+ year in advance

Criteria:
Military-style precision,
international appeal

**Required Minimum
Number of Participants:**
100+ preferred (for
massed performances)

Standout:
Largest tattoo in the U.S.,
global cast

Salute to Independence Parade in Philadelphia



Competitiveness:
Less competitive

Application Timeline:
Varies by year (December
31st 2025 for 2026
parade)

Criteria:
Patriotic theme,
community engagement

**Required Minimum
Number of Participants:**
No minimum; bands of all
sizes considered

Standout:
Honors veterans and
military service in a
historic setting

SPRING & CULTURAL PARADES

National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade in DC



Competitiveness:
Competitive

Application Timeline:
Deadline Sept 15 prior year

Criteria:
Bands with 100+ members preferred

Required Minimum Number of Participants:
100+

Standout:
Nationally syndicated, scenic Constitution Avenue route

Music in the Mountains Spring Parade in the Smoky Mountains



Competitiveness:
Open to local and visiting bands

Application Timeline:
Applications accepted on a rolling basis (sometimes within a month of the parade)

Criteria:
Family-friendly, energetic and fun (not an adjudicated event)

Required Minimum Number of Participants:
No minimum; bands of all sizes

Standout:
Celebrates Smoky Mountain traditions

Pegasus Parade (Kentucky Derby) in Louisville



Competitiveness:
Moderately competitive

Application Timeline:
Typically opens early in the parade year

Criteria:
Performance quality, visual appeal, overall entertainment

Required Minimum Number of Participants:
No minimum; bands of all sizes

Standout:
A signature event of the Kentucky Derby Festival and one of the largest and most colorful parades in the U.S

Calgary Stampede Parade in Canada



Competitiveness:
Open to local and visiting bands

Application Timeline:
Deadline Feb 15 prior year

Criteria:
Strong visuals, musicality

Required Minimum Number of Participants:
No strict minimum; must maintain a 2.36 mph pace over a 3.1-mile route

Standout:
Kickoff to "Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth," 300K+ spectators

BOWL GAME PARADES

Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena



Competitiveness:
Extremely competitive

Application Timeline:
2+ years in advance
(currently accepting for 2028)

Criteria:
Musicianship, field show ability, uniqueness

Required Minimum Number of Participants:
100+ (elite bands often exceed 200)

Standout:
Iconic New Year's Day parade, global broadcast

Vrbo Fiesta Bowl Parade in Phoenix



Competitiveness:
Moderately competitive

Application Timeline:
Deadline Oct 1st prior year

Criteria:
All styles welcome; strong visuals encouraged

Required Minimum Number of Participants:
No minimum

Standout:
Highlights Arizona's vibrant history and culture of kindness

Reliaquest Bowl Parade in Tampa



Competitiveness:
Open to high school bands

Application Timeline:
TBD by tour operator planning partner

Criteria:
Parade + halftime show + field competition

Required Minimum Number of Participants:
No minimum

Standout:
Includes mass band performance, fireworks at Busch Gardens

Junior Orange Bowl Holiday Parade



Competitiveness:
Open to high school bands

Application Timeline:
No specified deadlines – applications accepted on a rolling basis

Criteria:
Fun, energetic and family-friendly

Required Minimum Number of Participants:
No minimum

Standout:
Long standing association with the Orange Bowl Festival

BOWL GAME PARADES

Military Bowl Parade in Annapolis



Competitiveness:
Open to
school/community bands

Application Timeline:
No specified dates –
request through
organizer

Criteria:
Patriotic theme,
youth/military groups
welcome

**Required Minimum
Number of Participants:**
No minimum

Standout:
Led by Budweiser
Clydesdales, pre-game
parade to Navy stadium



HAWAII-BASED PARADES

Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade (Honolulu)



Competitiveness:
Competitive

Application Timeline:
1+ year in advance

Criteria:
Patriotic theme, mass
band performance

**Required Minimum
Number of Participants:**
No minimum (massed
band collab encouraged)

Standout:
Held on Dec 7th and
includes USS Missouri
concert and Marine Band
collab

Waikiki Holiday Parade (Honolulu)



Competitiveness:
Open to mainland bands

Application Timeline:
Apply early for best
placement

Criteria:
Commemorates Pearl
Harbor, non-competitive

**Required Minimum
Number of Participants:**
No minimum

Standout:
Scenic torch-lit route
along Kalakaua Ave



WALT DISNEY WORLD, UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT & OTHER THEME PARK PERFORMANCE TRIPS



www.mykatrip.com

2

- ❁ A park performance and/or educational opportunity is another popular option for marching bands. Many programs plan these trips every 2-4 years as a reward for their hardworking students.

Marching before an international audience and learning with professionals is a recipe for success. Toss in time at these world-renowned parks – and you have a trip that appeals to even the toughest teens!

Disney and Universal aren't the only parks at which you can perform. Six Flags, SeaWorld, Busch Gardens, Dollywood, Silver Dollar City, Cedar Point, and many others also have performance options. Again, it depends largely on your goals (and your budget!)





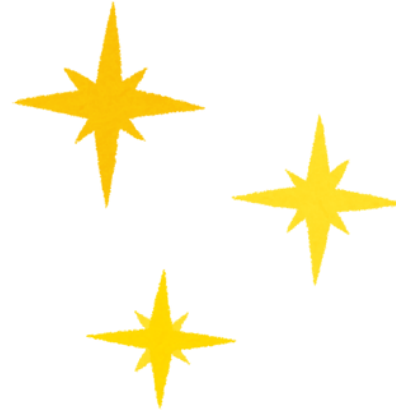
Walt Disney World® Resort in Orlando

Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando is a bucket list destination for many band programs. Disney Imagination Campus offers several outstanding performance options and top-notch music workshops designed specifically for student groups. Every experience gives participants a first-hand look at what it's like to be a professional Disney entertainer.

Disney Marching Band Performances – Key Highlights

Experience the Magic

- March down iconic Disney parade routes or perform on stage in front of live audiences
- Celebrate with your band in the theme parks after your performance
- A tradition that emphasizes discipline, excellence, and showmanship



The Disney Difference

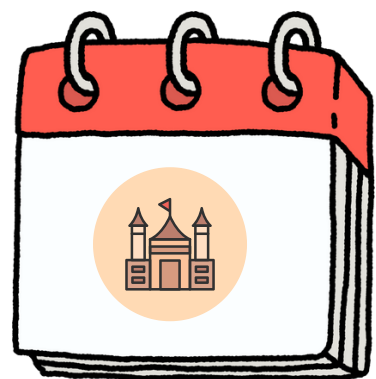
- Performers are honored as Disney Cast Members for the day
- Professional Disney coordinators support your ensemble
- Groups receive specially priced theme park tickets



Participation Requirements

- Video audition required for all ensembles
- Walt Disney World Resort requires a minimum of 40 performers

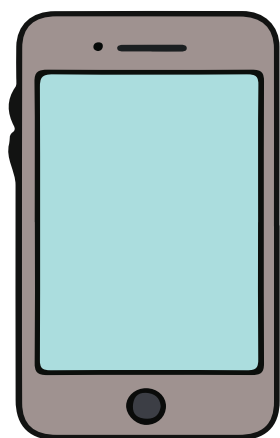




Timeline & Planning

- Apply early (at least 12–18 months in advance)
- Peak season is typically April 1–20 and November 7–December 31 are high-demand periods with larger crowds and higher costs
- Consider off-peak dates for better pricing and availability

Tech & Tools



- The My Disney Experience App is essential for managing park reservations, mobile dining orders, and itinerary planning
- Park reservations are required for entry – performance group tickets are not "date-based," each individual in the group will need a valid theme park reservation in addition to their ticket for the same park and date

We recently returned from an unforgettable high school music department trip to Walt Disney World with over 250 students, and we cannot speak highly enough about Kaleidoscope Adventures. From start to finish, their team demonstrated a true customer-forward philosophy that made the experience smooth, well-organized, and deeply meaningful for our students, staff, and families.

Coordinating a group of this size is no small feat, especially with performances scheduled at both the Magic Kingdom and Disney Springs. Kaleidoscope handled every detail with professionalism, precision, and care. Their expertise in educational and performance travel was evident at every step — from managing transportation and accommodations to facilitating park logistics and ensuring that our performances were seamlessly executed.

What sets Kaleidoscope apart is their attention to detail and their genuine investment in the success of the trip. They anticipated our needs before we had to ask, responded quickly to every question or adjustment, and treated our group not just as clients, but as partners in creating a powerful experience for young musicians.

The trip was a resounding success and left a lasting impression on our students — many of whom described it as one of the highlights of their high school careers. We are incredibly grateful to Kaleidoscope Adventures for helping us bring this vision to life, and we look forward to working with them again in the future. Highly recommended to any music program looking to travel with purpose and peace of mind.

By Brian T May 2025



Universal Orlando™ Resort

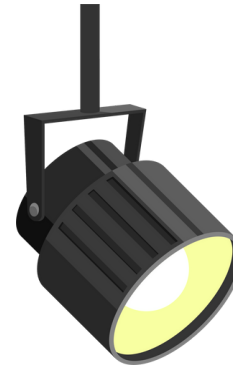
You've conquered the Friday night field and blazed through the band festival circuit... Once the pandemonium of performance season has passed, it's time to shine as part of a STARS Performance at Universal Orlando™ Resort.

Couple this electrifying experience with the energy and excitement of the parks and you'll find a STARS Performance hits all the high notes!

Universal Orlando Resort Marching Band Performances – Key Highlights

Take the Stage

- March through Universal Studios Florida™ in the Superstar Pre-Parade or Holiday Parade featuring Macy's
- Perform at iconic venues like CityWalk™ Lagoon Stage
- Showcase your ensemble's talent in front of cheering guests in a high-energy environment



STARS Performance Program Perks

- Open to marching bands, concert bands, choirs, orchestras, jazz bands, percussion ensembles, and more
- Performance group tickets are not date-based



Sound Design: Music and the Art of Foley Workshop

- A hands-on experience where students explore sound design for film
- Aligns with National Core Arts Standards and is NAFME endorsed
- Minimum 40 performers and 40 tickets
- Apply at least 6 weeks before workshop date
- Casual attire permitted; uniforms not required



Marching Participation Requirements

- Apply at least 6 weeks before performance date
- Audition video required
- Minimum 40 performers and 40 tickets (including performers and non-performers)
- Park-to-park admission required for all groups
- Uniforms or themed attire required
- Bands must play continuously throughout the full marching route



Stage Performances at CityWalk™ Lagoon Stage

- Deliver a 30-minute high-energy show that sets the tone for CityWalk™ visitors
- Minimum 40 participants (including non-performers) and 40 tickets
- Park-to-park admission required
- Apply at least 90 days before performance date (3-minute performance video, script, and list of music titles)
- Uniforms or themed attire required



Our trip to Washington, D.C. was fantastic. The company put together an itinerary that was the perfect balance between musical activities, educational experiences, and fun stuff for the kids. Highlights of the trip included the Smithsonian Museums, viewing the monuments in the National Mall, the Festivals of Music performance, the awards ceremony at Medieval Times, and the rides at Six Flags America. Our tour guides, Katie and Gabby, were outstanding. They helped the bus drivers navigate driving in D.C. They provided options for us when the weather decided not to cooperate. I hope to work with them again in the future.

By James N April 2025



TOP PERFORMANCE DESTINATIONS



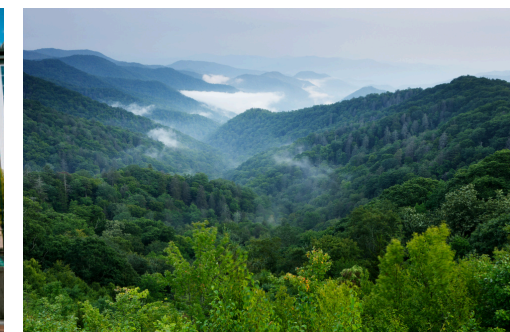
www.mykatrip.com

3

- Here's something you may not know... any destination can be a performance destination!

Kaleidoscope Adventures customizes every itinerary to meet your specific needs. Whether you're traveling to a festival, planning a museum performance, or hoping for a holiday show, there are endless possibilities to consider.

Need a little inspiration? Here are a few of our favorites to get you started.





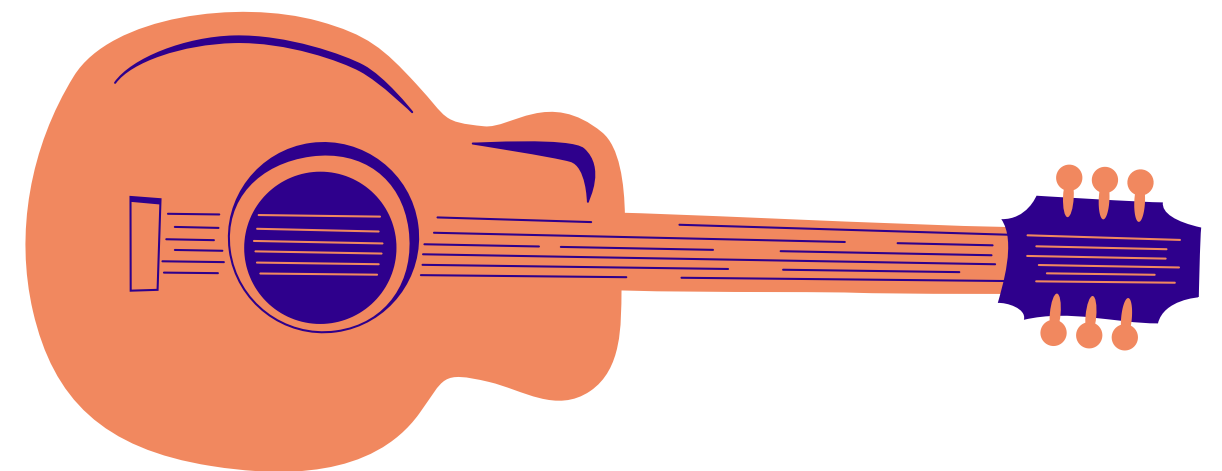
New York City

- New York Invitational Carnegie Hall
- St. Patrick’s Cathedral
- DCINY
- NYC Veterans Parade
- Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade
- St. Patrick’s Day Parade
- Broadway Classroom and Disney Theatrical Workshops
- 9/11 Memorial & Museum
- The Met Fifth Avenue (Metropolitan Museum of Art)
- Top of the Rock
- Empire State Building
- Radio City Music Hall
- Times Square NYC
- Museum of Broadway
- Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum
- The Museum of Modern Art
- Apollo Theater
- Edge at Hudson Yards
- Statue City Cruises



Nashville

- Ryman Auditorium
- Country Music Hall of Fame
- Musicians Hall of Fame
- Grand Ole Opry
- Historic RCA Studio B
- Vanderbilt University
- Opry Mills
- Cheekwood Gardens
- The Parthenon
- Goo Goo Cluster Factory





Smoky Mountains

- Dollywood
- Highlands Performing Arts Center
- The Island
- Music in the Mountains Spring Parade
- Smoky Mountains Music Festival
- Titanic Museum Exhibit
- Ripley’s Aquarium
- Anakeesta
- Rocky Top Mountain Coaster
- Cade’s Cove
- Stecoach Valley Cultural Arts Center



Louisville

- Pegasus Parade
- St. Patrick’s Day Parade
- Louisville Slugger Museum
- Frazier Museum
- Kentucky Derby Museum
- Kentucky Kingdom Theme Park
- Louisville Waterfront Park
- Waterworks Museum
- Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts
- Louisville Zoo
- Mega Cavern





Atlanta

- Music in the Parks
- Southern Star Music Festival
- World of Coca-Cola
- National Center for Civil and Human Rights
- Stone Mountain Park
- Trills & Thrills Music Festivals
- Georgia Aquarium
- Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame
- Atlanta History Center
- Skyview Atlanta



New Orleans

- Preservation Hall
- Jackson Square
- Royal Sonesta Hotel New Orleans
- Saenger Theatre
- French Quarter
- Steamboat Natchez
- Mardi Gras World
- National WWII Museum
- Cajun Pride Swamp Tours
- Audobon Zoo





Los Angeles

- Universal Studios Hollywood's STARS Performance Program
- Disneyland Disney Imagination Campus
- Music in the Parks
- Santa Monica Pier
- TCL Chinese Theatre
- Madame Tussauds
- Griffith Observatory
- The Grammy Museum
- La Brea Tar Pits & Museum
- Hollywood Walk of Fame



Washington D.C.

- Music in the Parks
- Festivals of Music
- Under the Sun Productions
- National Museum of the Marine Corps
- Trills & Thrills Music Festivals
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Arlington National Cemetery
- National Museum of African American History and Culture
- U.S. Capitol
- Historic America
- Ford's Theatre
- International Spy Museum
- Washington National Cathedral
- National Air and Space Museum
- National Aquarium
- National Air and Space Museum, Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center
- National Archives Museum



INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE TRIPS



www.mykatrip.com

4

- International travel is a feather in any band director's cap. It's a fabulous way for students to showcase their skills on a global stage. But more importantly, it's a chance for students to explore new places and experience different cultures.

[Ultimate How-To Guide for International Student Travel](#)

Many music programs are hesitant to travel abroad for many reasons:

- Not sure where to go
- Too expensive
- Safety concerns
- Passports and other required documents

That's where your planning partner comes in! A professional tour operator like Kaleidoscope Adventures addresses your concerns with the expertise that comes from more than 30+ years of performance travel experience.

Let's break it down...



Where To Go

The world is (literally) your stage!

From the historic grandeur of Vienna and Salzburg, where classical music echoes through cobblestone streets, to iconic St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Ireland, international trips offer unforgettable experiences.

Global performance destinations not only provide world-class stages but also expose students to diverse musical traditions, iconic landmarks, and the kind of camaraderie that only comes from traveling together.

A few destination ideas to start you dreaming....



Ireland

- St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin (apply 2+ years out)
- Cork St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Limerick International Band Championship
- Sligo St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Derry Halloween Festival
- Cliffs of Moher
- Blarney Castle
- Rock of Cashel
- Bunratty Castle
- Kilkenny St. Patrick's Festival

Perform in Ireland for St. Patrick's Day





London

- Royal Albert Hall
- St. Paul's Cathedral
- Central Hall Westminster
- West End
- National Theatre Backstage Tour
- Shakespeare's Globe
- Beatles Walking Tour
- Victoria Embankment Gardens
- Hyde Park
- Parade Garden's Bandstand in Bath
- Gresham Hall
- Cadogan Hall
- London Band Week



Vienna

- Haus der Musik
- Music Mile
- Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival
- Beethoven Pasqualatihaus
- St. Stephen's Cathedral
- Vienna Konzerthaus
- Mirabell Gardens
- Schönbrunn Palace
- Mozarthaus

Plan an Extraordinary Performance Trip to Vienna





Calgary Stampede

- Calgary Stampede Parade
- Showband Showdown
- FANFARE
- The Steps
- Caravan Breakfasts
- Chuckwagon Races
- Grandstand Show
- Heritage Park
- Calgary Tower
- Calaway Park

Round Up Your Marching Band for the Colossal Calgary Stampede



Our trip to France was AMAZING in every possible way. Our guide Shona was phenomenal, cannot say enough about her. She was funny, engaging, informative & learned everyone's name (41 of us) by the end of our trip. She's the best! This trip will be one of the highlights of my life. We saw beautiful Nice, Aux-en-Provence, Avignon, Monaco & Paris. The Eiffel Tower was breathtaking & the Louvre was impressive. The French people were so nice & we enjoyed every aspect of this trip. Accommodations were great as well, and the food was outstanding. A+++ for this trip.

 Merci beaucoup!!!

By Judith T May 2025

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE



www.mykatrip.com

5

❖ Travel Confidently – Regardless of Where You Go

Again, this is where a professional planning partner is essential. It's vitally important that you choose a reputable student trip planner – one with a track record of success and the resources to handle whatever may pop up.

What to Look For:

- Established reputation and great reviews
- Carefully vetted vendors
- Highly trained on-site tour directors
- Emergency line staffed by a team member 24/7 during your trip
- Travel protection options
- Active member of the Student Youth Travel Association (and access to its global membership and resources)
- Certified member of the World Travel & Tourism Council's #SafeTravels program
- Fully insured

When your planning partner checks these boxes, you'll know you're in good hands. If you need some additional reassurance, here are a few great resources to read and share.

[How to Travel Safely with Students](#)

[Travel Protection 101](#)

[10 Big City Safety Tips for Student Groups](#)

[SYTA Safety Guides](#)

❖ Can We Afford It?

If we've peaked your interest in international but cost is still a concern, consider that the U.S. dollar is strong right now.

Currency Exchange Snapshot (October 2025)

EUR/USD: €1 = \$1.1634

GBP/USD: £1 = \$1.3395

This means that your money will go further for things like dining out, shopping, and sightseeing.

When you consider that a 100-member band is likely to pay between \$50,000 and \$60,000 for 3-day passes at big U.S. theme parks in April (NOT including anything else), Europe suddenly feels like a reasonable option.

Flight prices to Europe are also trending down. Overall airfare (2025 vs. 2024) is slightly lower – especially if you book well in advance.



❖ How to Offset Costs (for Domestic and International Trips)

Whether you are traveling internationally or a little closer to home, there are many ways to help offset the costs associated with band travel.

Scholarships, grants, sponsorships, crowdfunding, and fundraising opportunities are all great ways to keep your budget in check. Below is a helpful resource that you can review and share with your booster association to help strategize your savings plan.

[How to Make 'Cents' of Your Student Trip: The Ultimate Financial Guide](#)



❖ Is ID Required?

REAL ID

As of May 7, 2025, EVERY air traveler 18 years or older MUST have a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, state-issued enhanced driver's license, or another acceptable form of ID to fly within the United States.

[Get REAL ID Ready](#)

Passports

There are a few changes with getting in and out of Europe. Passports are still required for any traveler 18 years and older.

UK Electronic Travel Authorization (UK ETA)

In addition, ALL travelers need UK ETA authorization as well. The online application for ETA UK is easy to complete and costs approximately \$20. Once a traveler is approved, it's good for two years.

European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS)

ETIAS authorization is set to launch in the last quarter of 2026. The ETIAS will require all travelers from 60 visa-exempt countries, including the United States, to obtain the electronic travel authorization before entering the Schengen region.

[Learn More About ETIAS and UK ETA](#)

❖ Getting From Here to There: Choosing Transportation

Getting From Here to There – Choosing Transportation
Once you've decided where you want to go, it's time to decide how you want to go.

Typically, students travel by motorcoach or air. If you plan to travel by motorcoach, ask for the safety record of the company. Find out when the coach will be moving and avoid driving through the night if possible. While many groups find this a cost-saving option, it also comes with safety risks.

[Bus vs. Plane: Which is Better for Your Student Group?](#)

If you are traveling by air, be sure you know the ID requirements (including passports, REAL ID, and new EU entry rules.) Also determine if the group will fly together or separately.

If you're worried about your instruments... don't! We've got you covered from Allegiant to Southwest.

[Airline Policies for Musical Instruments](#)



🍷 Top Travel Tips for Band Directors

Before you hit the road with your students, be sure you are prepped and ready with a few insider secrets for a successful trip. Proactive is always better than reactive!

Simplify your planning process with these helpful travel tips. Better yet – let a planning partner do the heavy lifting so you can get back to what you do best.

[Learn More About the Top Travel Tips for Band Directors](#)

-  **1. Consult the calendar**
-  **2. Choose a great destination**
-  **3. Build in practice time**
-  **4. Think through transportation**
-  **5. Ask about ID**
-  **6. Pick the perfect chaperones**
-  **7. Expect the unexpected**
-  **8. Keep mobility and other special needs in mind**
-  **9. Color code**
-  **10. Use common sense**

🍷 About Kaleidoscope Adventures

Kaleidoscope Adventures is a full-service student trip planner with **30+ years of experience** delivering travel beyond expectations. We specialize in thoughtfully crafted domestic and international adventures with an emphasis on inspiring performance trips.

Kaleidoscope's expert team will turn your travel vision into an unforgettable adventure - while online registration and payments, convenient crowdfunding options, and impeccable customer care make planning easy and convenient!

🍷 Customizing Your Adventure

Imagine your students experiencing the thrill of **marching down Main Street U.S.A.** or performing on an **iconic Vienna stage.**

Perhaps they'll explore **Broadway in NYC**, soak in the vibrant **jazz culture of New Orleans** or play an **ancient piazza in Sicily.**

Maybe they'll dig into **Costa Rica's Calypso legacy** or discover **Ireland's passion for traditional folk music.**

Regardless of where you go, your customized itinerary is designed to inspire curiosity, deepen learning, and create memories that last a lifetime.

Our recent trip to England and Wales with Kaleidoscope Adventures was absolutely unforgettable, and I can't recommend them highly enough! As a loyal client for 27 years, I've had the pleasure of working with Joseph Hodge and Keith Kelly, two top-notch professionals who always go above and beyond. Their deep understanding of touring with a band and choir makes every detail of the journey run smoothly.

From the very beginning, Joseph and Keith and Alex were there to handle all aspects of the tour. Whether it was coordinating travel logistics, securing performance venues, or troubleshooting any unexpected issues, they made sure everything was taken care of. Their expertise and calm under pressure allowed us to focus entirely on what we love most - the music. It's a rare and valuable gift when you can trust the people you're working with to anticipate and resolve challenges before they even become a problem.

The experience was seamless, allowing the entire group to enjoy the rich culture and beautiful sights of England and Wales without any stress. I can't thank Kaleidoscope Adventures enough for their dedication to excellence. Their professionalism truly stands out, and I look forward to many more years of touring with them. If you're planning a tour with your band or choir, Kaleidoscope Adventures is the absolute best choice.

By Jacob W April 2025

It was a great trip. Very motivating and inspiring for the kids. It was a great opportunity for the staff to connect and build morale as well. It also provided an opportunity with the tour groups and time spent together for staff to get to know the kids in the rest of the band outside of their own sections. The weather was great the entire time, and I feel like this trip benefited everyone who was on it. Definitely worthwhile and would suggest booking a similar tour in the future.

By Reuben G August 2025

Direct quote from my 14 year old: "It might have been the best 9 days of my entire life"

By Lindsay D August 2025

- **Prioritizing Safety and Support**

At Kaleidoscope Adventures, safety and support are at the heart of everything we do. We provide 24/7 on-trip assistance, rigorous risk management protocols, and comprehensive training for tour directors. Our flexible budgeting options, real-time itinerary adjustments, and transparent communication give planners complete confidence and control from start to finish.





What Makes Kaleidoscope Adventures an Exceptional Planning Partner

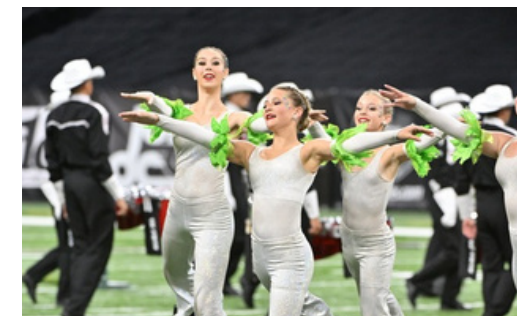
We are committed to tailoring each trip to the unique needs of your group. We work closely with educators and leaders to align travel experiences with academic goals, extracurricular interests, and budget parameters—ensuring every journey is as meaningful as it is exciting.



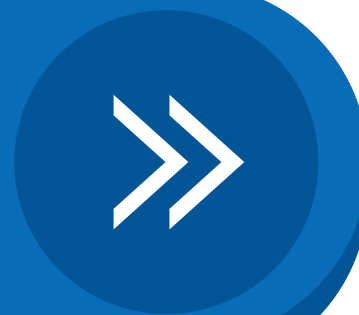
Let's Start Planning Your Next Band Adventure

Whether it's a parade, bowl game, festival, or performance, travel fosters teamwork, celebrates achievement, and creates lifelong memories that resonate far beyond the final note.

When you plan with Kaleidoscope Adventures, your students will not only see incredible destinations—they'll experience them in ways that inspire, educate, and transform young lives!



Request a Free Quote!





**Kaleidoscope
Adventures®**



Office :

301 South Tubb St. STE H-1
Oakland, FL 34760

Phone Number :

[\(800\) 774-7337](tel:(800)774-7337)

Email :

info@mykatrip.com