



Jason Dale

Why I love working with WorldStrides Canada

After many years with a competitor, I switched to WorldStrides Canada, simply because a colleague from another school assured me their website was more user-friendly. This is absolutely true! I never knew simplicity before switching to WorldStrides Canada.

A snapshot of my teaching career

I began teaching at the secondary level in Toronto in 1998, spent four years there, then moved back home to Port Dover. I've been teaching at the high school one town over for 19 years now and still love it. Looking forward to retirement in the next five years!

My favourite hobbies

Taking care of my three adopted sons, all teenagers now, and our beloved dog Elton who gave us life and joy throughout the pandemic—and still does. I love tennis, I'm president of our local tennis club and follow the pro tours.

A WorldStrides Canada trip to remember

My customized 2023 "Italian Highlights" tour of Venice, Verona, Florence, and Rome was truly spectacular. This trip was tailor-made, now that I've learned how to craft better itineraries. This time, we did all the typical touristy highlights of each location, but I also added many "extras" such as the Peggy Guggenheim museum, a gondola ride in Venice, visits to Burano and Murano, and so much more. Many of these added excursions were among the kids' favourite experiences on the entire trip!

What inspires me to organize educational tours

I grew up fairly poor and never had the opportunity to travel. I've always envied friends and relatives who had the ability to explore other parts of the world. Before university, I took two years off; one to save enough money to finally travel, and one to actually go! I visited Europe, then southern Africa (Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, and South Africa). Those adventures changed my life and opened my eyes to the wider world, which is an experience I was determined to try replicating for my students. Even though I've always loved the daily job of teaching, going on these tours has probably been the most rewarding aspect of my career.

Why I can help you lead a successful educational tour

Planning and organization! I'm admittedly an obsessive "master planner" and embrace that title with pride. I prefer to tailor and create itineraries for my students based on what I've learned from experience over the past 15 years of chaperoning and leading them all over the world. I know how to promote trips in-school and among the wider community and to properly prep everyone to a very high standard, including the "newbies" who've never been on a plane before (I even have a handout for that!). What's most important, in my opinion, is to train the youth to be wise, safe, open-minded, and life-embracing travellers who should be grateful for the incredible experiences and opportunities they are being given as teenagers.

My all-time favourite travel story

In Zimbabwe, I spent my nights in a lovely room overlooking the savanna. One evening, I decided to keep the door open to catch a warm breeze. As I was writing postcards home, I saw a sudden movement out the corner of my eye. I turned my head and discovered a humongous baboon INSIDE my room! I slowly went downstairs to tell the staff. Then, two staff members came to my room, opened the door, chased the baboon out, locked the door, laughed, and shook their heads at me while leaving. At checkout days later, my bill reflected a one-time "chase fee" of 30 U.S. dollars "for services rendered."

Location

Port Dover, Ontario

Language

English

Commonly used travel provider

Explorica

My favourite subjects & interests

History, Civics, Art, Architecture, and English Literature

My bucket list travel destinations

Rio de Janeiro, Morocco, Egypt, and Switzerland

My favourite international foods

French pastries and curries of any type

My favourite travel destination

Mediterranean coast of Southern Europe

