



HILLSDALE COLLEGE

High School Summer Study & Travel Programs

What College is Meant to Be

Summer 2026

Travel with Hillsdale *this Summer!*

High School Summer Study and Travel Programs with Hillsdale College provide a unique opportunity for rising high school juniors and seniors to earn three college credits from Hillsdale College while also traveling to cultural and historic destinations domestic and abroad.

Courses are open to high school students of strong academic backgrounds interested in any future college major, and are especially enticing to those inspired to learn about some of the great ideas, events, and individuals that have shaped the Western world. All trips are led by members of the Hillsdale faculty, and Hillsdale professors are extraordinary teachers. They bring the past alive with their lectures and discussion, both on site and in the Hillsdale classroom.

Students begin the two-week programs with a short stay at Hillsdale College, where orientation and intensive course instruction are provided. Students learn much in those few days to prepare them for what they will see and do off campus. Course syllabi are sent in advance of the trips so participants have adequate time to prepare.

Because these programs offer the opportunity to earn three Hillsdale College academic credits, students must apply for admission. Further information about the application process, as well as scholarship information, can be found in the back of this brochure.

Applicants generally hear from our office regarding acceptance three to four weeks after all application materials are received, beginning in December. Completed applications received after February 15 will be considered until programs reach capacity. Course spaces are limited and held on a first-to-deposit basis, usually capped around 45 students each.

Our office welcomes any additional questions you may have. I hope you'll decide to study and travel with us this summer.

Best,



Zack Miller, '11

Associate Vice President of Admissions

Applications
Encouraged by
February 15
hillsdale.edu/hs-programs



TRAVEL TO

Rome
Pompeii
Florence
Venice

JUNE 15-28, 2026

Western Civilization: Visions from Italy

From the politics, philosophy, religion, art, and architecture of Italy, cultural forms evolved that inspired much of later Western Civilization. In Ancient Rome and Renaissance Florence and Venice, citizens struggled to find the proper relationship of Man to his God(s) and to his community, both in times of political and cultural domination, and in times of societal collapse and civic despair. Explore the material expression in the artistic and architectural treasures of these three fascinating cities: Rome, a city whose history spans more than 2,800 years, one of the oldest continuously occupied sites in Europe; Florence, the “Athens of the Middle Ages” and one of the wealthiest cities of that era; and Venice, the beautiful island city that served as an important center of commerce and culture.

LEAD TEACHER



Joseph Garnjobst, Ph.D.
Professor of Classics

WESTERN CIVILIZATION: VISIONS FROM ITALY

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

DAY 1 | HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Arrive at airport; transfer to Hillsdale College campus via Hillsdale shuttle; check into residence halls; orientation activities

DAY 2 | HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Lectures and coursework

DAY 3 | HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Lectures and coursework

DAY 4 | DEPARTURE DAY TO ROME

A.M. Lectures and coursework
P.M. Depart for airport for group flight to Rome

DAY 5 | ROME

A.M. Arrive in Rome; settle into hotel
P.M. Orientation and brief walking tour, including stops at St. Peter's Square, a plaza located directly in front of St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, the papal enclave inside Rome, and Piazza Navona, with the Fountain of the Four Rivers

DAY 6 | ROME

Visit the Vatican Museums, with highlights including Raphael's *School of Athens*, *Laocoön and His Sons*, and the *Apollo Belvedere*; see the Sistine Chapel and Michelangelo's *Creation of Adam* and *Last Judgment* frescoes

DAY 7 | POMPEII

Depart to Pompeii; a full day of touring and exploring the ancient city, buried with little warning in A.D. 79 by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius—arguably the world's most important archeological site

DAY 8 | ROME

A.M. Visit the Colosseum, the largest ancient amphitheatre ever built, the ruins of the Roman Forum, and Palatine Hill, “the first nucleus of the Roman Empire”
P.M. Visit the Capitoline Museums, Rome's oldest public museum, and its collection of ancient statuary, including an equestrian bronze of Marcus Aurelius dating to A.D. 176; stop on the walk back at the Pantheon, a former Roman temple in continuous use throughout its history, and thus one of the best preserved of all ancient Roman buildings, as well as the landmark Trevi Fountain

DAY 9 | ROME

A.M. Visit the Etruscan Museum, set in a Renaissance villa built for Pope Julius III. It holds one of the world's finest collections of Etruscan art, including the celebrated Sarcophagus of the Spouses, as well as temple decorations, bronzes, and jewelry that bring this ancient civilization to life

P.M. Lunch and transfer to Florence, with a brief Florence walking tour

(Continued)



DAY 10 | FLORENCE

- A.M. Visit the Uffizi Gallery, one of the largest and best known of its kind, with highlights including Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus*, *Annunciation* by Leonardo da Vinci and Andrea del Verrocchio, and Titian's *Venus of Urbino*
- P.M. Tour the Galleria dell'Accademia, which houses Michelangelo's *David*, completed around 1504
- Free time wandering Florence's charming streets, with their Renaissance art, lively piazzas, and world-famous shops and cafés

DAY 11 | FLORENCE

- A.M. Visit the Bargello Museum, a former barracks and prison and now art museum with a collection that includes Michelangelo's *Bacchus*, Donatello's *Bronze David* and *St. George and the Dragon*, Giambologna's *Flying Mercury and Oceanus*, and Cellini's *Perseus*
- P.M. Visit the Duomo, one of the largest cathedrals in the world, begun in 1296 in the Gothic style and structurally completed by 1436; the cathedral complex, in Piazza del Duomo, includes the octagonal Baptistery and Giotto's Campanile tower

DAY 12 | VENICE

- A.M. Transfer to Venice
- P.M. Walking tour of Venice, including St. Mark's Square and the Rialto Bridge, the oldest of the four bridges spanning the Grand Canal

DAY 13 | VENICE

- A.M. Tour the Venetian Gothic Doge's Palace, including the Scala dei Giganti, Great Council Chamber, Chamber of Torment, Golden Staircase, prisons, and Bridge of Sighs
- P.M. Afternoon free time in a city frequently ranked among the world's most beautiful

DAY 14 | DEPARTURE TO USA

- A.M. Depart from Venice for United States



TRAVEL TO

- London
Oxford
Normandy
Versailles
Paris

London, England

JUNE 25-JULY 7, 2026

Sir Winston Churchill and World War II

The Second World War was history's most terrible, and its outcome hinged on the efforts of "citizen soldiers" from many nations who bravely sacrificed to defeat a murderous tyranny. Visit some of the sites where the valor and leadership of great men decided the fate of millions and inspired future generations to emulate their commitment to noble ideals. Study the greatest seaborne invasion of all time, Operation Overlord, the Allied invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944, as well as the life of Sir Winston Churchill, a man who inspired the world as few before. Follow the trail of momentous events and understand what made this time a generation's "finest hour."

LEAD TEACHER



Thomas Conner, Ph.D.
*Professor Emeritus
of History*



SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL AND WORLD WAR II

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

DAY 1 | HILLSDALE COLLEGE
Arrive at Detroit Metro Airport; transfer to Hillsdale College campus via Hillsdale shuttle; check into residence halls; orientation activities

DAY 2 | HILLSDALE COLLEGE
Lectures and coursework

DAY 3 | DEPARTURE DAY TO LONDON
A.M. Lectures and coursework
P.M. Depart for Detroit Metro for group flight to London

DAY 4 | LONDON
Arrive in London; visit Chartwell, the home of Winston Churchill for more than forty years, including a tour of his private quarters; settle into hotel

DAY 5 | OXFORD
A.M. Depart for Blenheim Palace, where Churchill was born and seat of the Dukes of Marlborough
P.M. Depart for an afternoon walking tour of Oxford University, where there is evidence of teaching as early as 1096, making it the oldest university in the English-speaking world and the world's second-oldest university in continuous operation

DAY 6 | LONDON
A.M. Visit the Cabinet War Rooms, which sheltered Churchill and his staff during the Blitz; the books and charts in the Map Room remain exactly as they were when the lights were switched off in 1945; see also the Churchill Museum, with a collection of objects that includes a flag used to drape Churchill's coffin at his State funeral
P.M. Visit the Imperial War Museum, founded during the First World War, which explores conflict from that period to the present day; depart on the Brittany Ferry to cross the English Channel

DAY 7 | NORMANDY
Arrive in St. Malo and visit the 11th century abbey at Mont St. Michel; depart for Caen, where William the Conqueror is buried

DAY 8 | NORMANDY
A.M. Visit and lecture at the Caen Memorial Museum
P.M. Depart for Pegasus Bridge, where the first combat engagement of D-Day took place; drive along the British landing beaches to Arromanches, site of the artificial "mulberry" harbor and Longues-sur-Mer battery

DAY 9 | NORMANDY
Depart for Utah Beach and Ste. Mère Église, the first town to be liberated by Americans on D-Day, and where American paratrooper John Steele landed on top of the medieval church tower during the invasion; visit the German cemetery

DAY 10 | NORMANDY
A.M. See the Bayeux Tapestry, an embroidered cloth nearly 230 feet long and 20 inches tall that depicts the events leading up to the Norman Conquest of England in 1066, thought to date to the 11th century; depart for Pointe du Hoc, where one of the most daring American assaults took place against the Germans
P.M. Walk and drive along Omaha Beach, site of D-Day's bloodiest fighting; visit the American cemetery, where the bronze *Spirit of American Youth Rising from the Waves* stands at the center of the memorial, and where two sons of President Theodore Roosevelt are buried

DAY 11 | VERSAILLES
A.M. Transfer to Paris; visit the Palace of Versailles, one of the greatest achievements in French 17th century art, and the official residence of the Kings of France from 1682 until 1790. World War I ended at the Palace with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.
P.M. Seine river cruise and evening visit to the Eiffel Tower

DAY 12 | PARIS
See Notre-Dame de Paris, the medieval Catholic cathedral and symbol of Paris; visit the Louvre, the world's most-visited museum, and home of the *Mona Lisa*, *Venus de Milo*, and more; visit the Dôme des Invalides, which provided shelter for Allied pilots during the Second World War and houses the tomb of Napoleon; enjoy lunch near the Arc de Triomphe on the Champs-Élysées, the world's "most beautiful avenue"; dinner near Sacré-Cœur Basilica

DAY 13 | DEPARTURE TO USA
A.M. Depart from Paris to Detroit



TRAVEL TO

Warwick
Oxford
Stratford-Upon-Avon
Bath
Windsor
Canterbury
London

JULY 2-16, 2026

In Love and War: The Land and Literature of England

The themes of love and war occupy much of the world's greatest literature. English authors like Chaucer, Shakespeare, Austen, Eliot, Churchill, and others all present visions of people in the grip of love or the clash of war, people who nevertheless find therein surprising meaning amidst chaotic human experience. Sometimes these visions are comic, sometimes tragic. Sometimes they involve individuals in quiet contemplation, sometimes they involve entire populations engaged in struggle. In all cases, however, these great thinkers and writers present people confronting ultimate things—ultimate desires, commitments, threats, demands. This broad yet intensive survey of English literature will take up great authors as they think about human beings confronting the extreme experiences of their own lives.

LEAD TEACHER



David Whalen, Ph.D.
Professor of English

IN LOVE AND WAR: THE LAND AND LITERATURE OF ENGLAND
TENTATIVE ITINERARY

DAY 1 | HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Arrive at Detroit Metro Airport; transfer to Hillsdale College campus via Hillsdale shuttle; check into residence halls; orientation activities

DAY 2 | HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Lectures and coursework

DAY 3 | HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Lectures and coursework

DAY 4 | HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Lectures and coursework

DAY 5 | DEPARTURE DAY TO LONDON

A.M. Lectures and coursework
P.M. Depart for airport for group flight to London

DAY 6 | WARWICK

Arrive in London; transfer to Runnymede on a private bus; transfer to Warwick; settle into hotel

DAY 7 | WARWICK

A.M. Lectures and coursework
P.M. Visit Warwick Castle, a medieval castle developed from a wooden fort, originally built by William the Conqueror in 1068; witness the falconry and trebuchet in action; tour the Collegiate Church of St. Mary, optional Evensong service

DAY 8 | OXFORD

A.M. Depart for Oxford; visit Magdalen College, where C.S. Lewis taught for nearly 30 years and where a literary group of students known as the Inklings often met; visit the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, Britain's first public museum, with collections that include drawings by Michelangelo, Raphael, and Leonardo da Vinci, paintings by Pablo Picasso, Peter Paul Rubens, Paul Cézanne, Titian, John Singer Sargent, and J.M.W. Turner, and the Messiah Stradivarius
P.M. Drive to Stratford-upon-Avon for an evening performance at the Royal Shakespeare Company; transfer back to Warwick

DAY 9 | STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

A.M. Short transfer to Stratford; visit Shakespeare's birthplace, Guildhall, which almost certainly was a schoolbuilding for Shakespeare, and his grave at Holy Trinity Church
P.M. Short drive to Anne Hathaway's Cottage, the childhood home of Shakespeare's wife; return to Warwick

DAY 10 | OXFORD

A.M. Lectures and coursework
P.M. Visit the Kilns, the Oxford home where C.S. Lewis wrote all of his Narnia books and other classics; short drive to the English Baroque Blenheim Palace, birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill

(Continued)



DAY 11 | BATH

- A.M. Visit Tintern Abbey, built in 1131—the inspiration for poems by Wordsworth and Tennyson, as well as paintings by Turner; travel to Bath
- P.M. Visit the Roman baths and museum

DAY 12 | WINDSOR

- A.M. Visit Windsor Castle, a royal residence that embodies almost a millennium of architectural history, the longest occupied palace in Europe
- P.M. Return to London for a short walk to the British Museum, the first public national museum in the world, with a permanent collection of eight million works, the largest and most comprehensive documenting the story of human culture from its beginnings to the present; collection highlights include the Rosetta Stone, the Parthenon sculptures, and bust of Ramesses the Great; sightseeing and souvenir shopping in London

DAY 13 | CANTERBURY

- A.M. Travel to Canterbury: a center of Christian worship since St. Augustine arrived in 597 and immortalized by Geoffrey Chaucer in *The Canterbury Tales*; tour the 11th century Canterbury Cathedral
- P.M. Tour the Globe Theatre, an Elizabethan playhouse for which William Shakespeare wrote his plays, originally built in 1599, but later destroyed by fire in 1613, rebuilt in 1614, and then demolished in 1644; the modern Globe is a close academic approximation of the original

DAY 14 | LONDON

- A.M. Lectures and coursework
- P.M. Walking tour of London, including the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace, Downing Street, White Hall, and Trafalgar Square.

DAY 15 | DEPARTURE DAY TO USA

- A.M. Depart from London for United States

**TRAVEL TO**

Gettysburg, PA
Philadelphia, PA
Washington, D.C.

JULY 14-25, 2026

The Roots and History of American Liberty

In a letter to James Madison in March of 1788, George Washington observed, “Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth.” With historic cities like Gettysburg and Washington, D.C. as the backdrop, study the American founding, as well as its effect on the course of American liberty for 250 years.

LEAD TEACHER

Paul Moreno, Ph.D.
Professor of History



THE ROOTS AND HISTORY OF AMERICAN LIBERTY

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

DAY 1 | HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Arrive at Detroit Metro Airport; transfer to Hillsdale College campus via Hillsdale shuttle; check into residence halls; orientation activities

DAY 2 | HILLSDALE COLLEGE

A.M. Campus Lectures: Classical and Medieval Roots of American Liberty, The Anglo-American Colonies

P.M. Campus Lectures: The American Revolution, The American Constitution, The New Regime: Federalists and Republicans

DAY 3 | HILLSDALE COLLEGE

A.M. Campus Lectures: Jacksonian Democracy, Slavery

P.M. Campus Lectures: The Civil War, Reconstruction, The Urban-Industrial Revolution

DAY 4 | TRAVEL TO GETTYSBURG

A.M. Depart from Hillsdale by bus to Gettysburg

P.M. Arrive in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, site of the Civil War battle considered to be the war's turning point; evening tour through the historical district

DAY 5 | GETTYSBURG

Begin at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum, including viewing the film "A New Birth of Freedom" and the Cyclorama of Pickett's Charge, then set out on the first part of a guided battlefield tour

DAY 6 | GETTYSBURG

A.M. Continue exploring the battlefield with a walking tour, retracing key sites from the three-day battle that marked the turning point of the Civil War

P.M. Travel to the nation's capital, Washington, D.C.

DAY 7 | WASHINGTON, D.C.

A.M. Morning visit to Baltimore's Fort McHenry, where a valiant defense during the Battle of Baltimore in 1814 inspired Francis Scott Key to write the words that became our national anthem

P.M. Kirby Center Lectures: Progressivism, The New Deal

DAY 8 | WASHINGTON, D.C.

A.M. Tour the U.S. Capitol building and Library of Congress

P.M. Kirby Center Lectures: World Wars and The Cold War, Civil Rights; evening walking and bus tour of the National Mall, including the Washington Monument, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, FDR Memorial, WWII Memorial, and Vietnam Veterans Memorial

DAY 9 | WASHINGTON, D.C.

A.M. Kirby Center Lectures: The Great Society, The Cultural Revolution

P.M. Visit the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, which remembers the 184 people who died in the building and on American Airlines Flight 77 during the September 11 attacks; drive to Arlington National Cemetery and enjoy a one-hour performance at the War Memorial (Two Jima). The Sunset Parade features "The Commandant's Own," the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, and precision drill by the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon; picnic dinner at the parade concert

DAY 10 | WASHINGTON, D.C.

All-day excursion to Monticello. Situated on a mountaintop outside Charlottesville, Virginia, Monticello, a 5,000-acre plantation, was the home of Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, third president of the United States, and founder of the University of Virginia

DAY 11 | WASHINGTON, D.C.

A.M. Visit the National Archives to view the Declaration of Independence, expressing our founding ideals; the United States Constitution, which defines the framework of our government; and the Bill of Rights, the Constitution's first ten amendments; visit the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, whose collection includes highlights like George Washington's uniform, the lap desk on which Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, the Star-Spangled Banner, Abraham Lincoln's top hat, and even Judy Garland's ruby slippers from the *Wizard of Oz* and R2-D2 and C-3PO from *Return of the Jedi*

P.M. Journey to Mount Vernon on the banks of the Potomac River, the home of the first president of the United States, George Washington; see the gravesite of the President and First Lady

DAY 12 | WASHINGTON, D.C.

A.M. Transfer to Reagan National Airport for individual flights home



PROGRAM COSTS, AID, AND PAYMENT DETAILS

\$4,995
INTERNATIONAL

\$2,995
DOMESTIC

Participants must submit a \$395 deposit at the time of admission to secure a spot in the program. Additional payment can be consolidated or sent in two equal payments according to a payment schedule provided.

Program costs include housing and all meals on the Hillsdale campus, land travel via private buses, housing in quality hotels, breakfast and dinner each day while off campus, all entry fees to site visits, tuition fees for three undergraduate Hillsdale College credits (academic participation is required of all students), transfers to and from the airport (where necessary), and international flight from the airport for abroad programs.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Thanks to generous donor support, scholarships to cover a portion of program costs are available to outstanding rising high school juniors and seniors. Consideration is granted based upon strength of application; no additional paperwork is required. Early application is encouraged.

PAYMENTS AND INSURANCE:

Accepted payment methods will be communicated via your student portal online at the time of admission. To obtain additional, optional cancellation insurance, please consult your local insurance company, or a third-party travel insurance company.

REFUND POLICY:

Prior to February 1, 2026	\$295 is non-refundable
Prior to May 1, 2026	\$895 is non-refundable
After May 1, 2026	No refunds available

APPLY ONLINE | hillsdale.edu/hs-programs



APPLICATION CHECKLIST

For acceptance into the program, the following supplementary items must accompany a completed application:

TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

One academic recommendation from a recent high school teacher and one personal recommendation from someone other than a relative is required.

RÉSUMÉ

Please list in order of importance to you any extracurricular activities in which you have participated, such as: athletics, fine arts, volunteerism, clubs, honor societies, work, etc. Please also include special offices or positions held, and any awards or honors you have received in these activities. Include dates.

ESSAY QUESTION

In 250–500 words, explain why you would like to participate in this program.

OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT(S)

Transcripts should be sent from your school or primary educator. Specific instructions are available in the application online.

TEST SCORES OR A GRADED WRITING SAMPLE

A copy of your ACT, CLT, SAT, PLAN, CLT10, or PSAT score is required. If you have not taken one of these tests, please include a recent graded writing assignment of between two and five pages.

REQUIRED VIDEO SHORT ANSWER

The required video short answer question is a real-time, recorded response within the application. A camera is needed on the device you will be using to apply.





ELIGIBILITY

Hillsdale College welcomes applications for participation from rising high school juniors and seniors, minimum age 15 by program start.

DEADLINE

Applications are encouraged by February 15. Completed applications will be considered until programs reach capacity. Admission into the program will generally be determined three to four weeks after all application materials are received, beginning in January.

AFTER APPLYING

Once we review your application materials, an email will be sent notifying you a decision has been released to your online portal, where you'll find additional information and forms to complete. It is important you apply in advance for your passport if you are hoping to study in an abroad course. It can sometimes take ten weeks to receive a passport after you have submitted an application. If you already have a passport, please check the expiration date to make sure it is still valid.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

If you plan to arrive to Hillsdale by air, a Hillsdale College shuttle will pick you up from the airport.

Students concluding abroad trips have two options:

1. Pick-up by parents or legal guardians at the airport, or
2. Hillsdale personnel will assist with movement to connecting flights to hometown airports.

Students concluding the D.C. trip have two options:

1. Pick-up by parents or legal guardians at D.C. hotel, or
2. Shuttle to Reagan International Airport for flight to hometown airports, assisted by Hillsdale personnel.

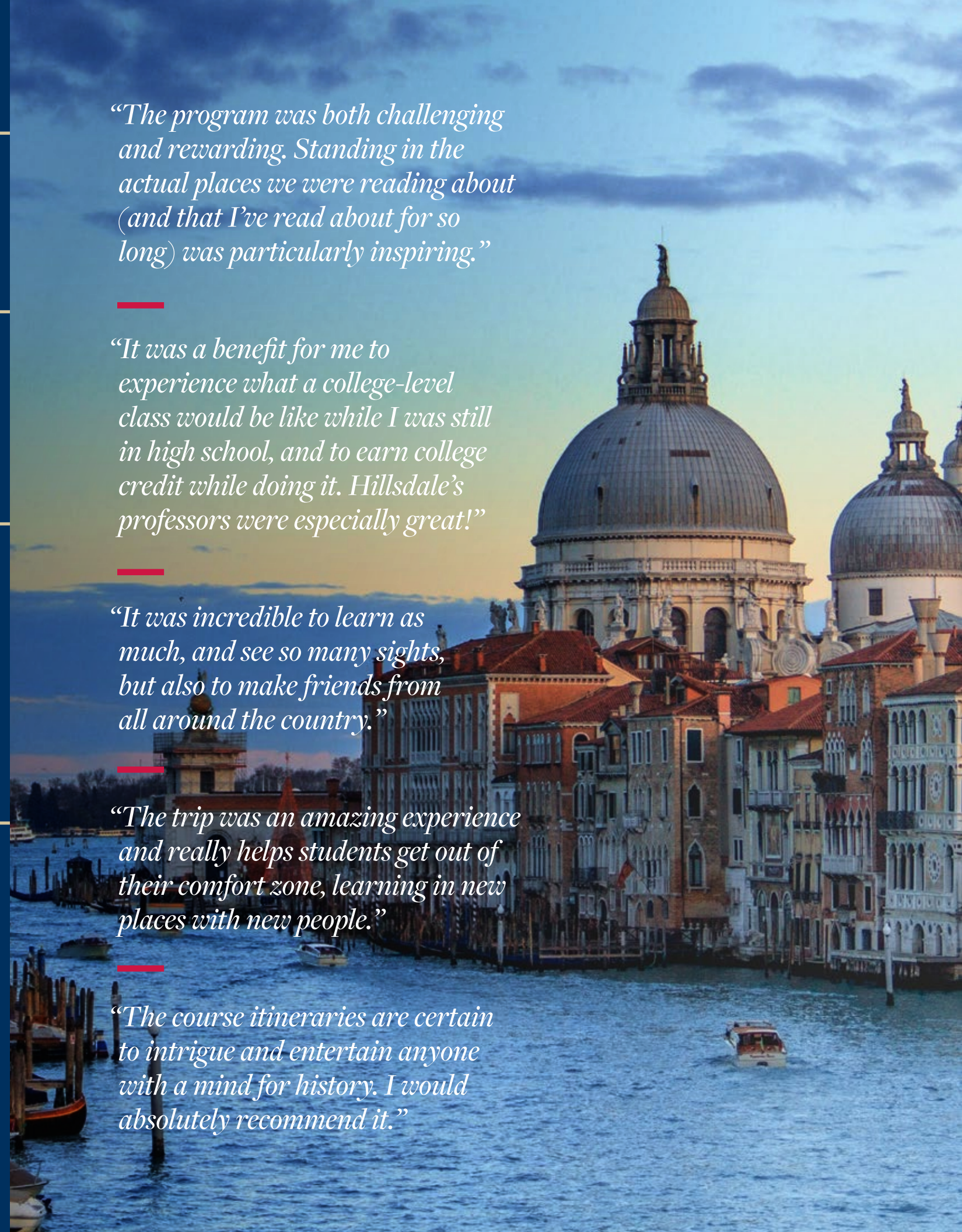
“The program was both challenging and rewarding. Standing in the actual places we were reading about (and that I’ve read about for so long) was particularly inspiring.”

“It was a benefit for me to experience what a college-level class would be like while I was still in high school, and to earn college credit while doing it. Hillsdale’s professors were especially great!”

“It was incredible to learn as much, and see so many sights, but also to make friends from all around the country.”

“The trip was an amazing experience and really helps students get out of their comfort zone, learning in new places with new people.”

“The course itineraries are certain to intrigue and entertain anyone with a mind for history. I would absolutely recommend it.”



Hillsdale College Admissions

summerprograms@hillsdale.edu

(517) 607-2327

hillsdale.edu/hs-programs

Founded in 1844, and located on a picturesque 400-acre campus in southern Michigan, Hillsdale College is a private, nonsectarian Christian liberal arts college with a national reputation for operational independence from government subsidy. A dedicated teaching faculty serves a student body of 1,600 undergraduates who study a rigorous, structured core curriculum rooted in the enduring truths of the West. A vibrant student life is guided by an Honor Code asking all students to commit to honor, honesty, duty, and respect. Graduates leave the College shaped by an experience purposed to “develop the minds and improve the hearts,” and successfully equipped not only for employment or graduate study, but for lives pursuing the good, true, and beautiful.

Visit Campus: hillsdale.edu/visit



HILLSDALE COLLEGE

PURSuing TRUTH · DEFENDING LIBERTY SINCE 1844

33 EAST COLLEGE STREET
HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN 49242

HILLSDALE.EDU | (517) 437-7341