

25 Interactive Web Sites for Virtual Field Trips



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Virtual field trips provide students with opportunities they may not get to experience otherwise.

Where else can you "take a trip" to see Sistine Chapel, the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, or the African grasslands -- all in one day?

These tools may also challenge students to think critically about the places they visit. For example, a virtual trip to Pompeii requires students to consider the quality of life in an ancient city. A trip to Chichen Itza will allow them to appreciate and question the Mayas design decisions. Simply, virtual field trips can spark your students' interest and motivate their learning in a specific content area.

The following websites are worth considering for virtual field trips. Some are built as all-inclusive virtual trips with text and audio; others provide only imagery which can be adapted to fit the needs of a lesson.

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[3D Solar System Web](#) - This site provides a narrated (robotic-sounding) tour of the solar system beginning at the sun and navigating to other planets throughout. Don't let the narration stop you from trying out this site.

[Africam](#) - Offers live African safari webcams, 24/7. You'll have to watch an advertisement, but once you have, you'll get a high-quality video with sound.

[AirPano](#) - Beautiful 360-degree views of many of the world's great structures and natural places.

[Ancient Observatories: Chichen Itza](#) - Explore Chichen Itza, home to the ancient Maya, with your students. Enjoy maps, images, and activities.

[Arctic Adventure](#) - Follow dogsledders across the frozen Arctic tundra as part of GoNorth!'s exciting virtual learning expeditions. Adventurers, take heed, it's cold and dangerous but remarkably beautiful.

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[European Virtual Museum](#) - The site provides access to the “Virtual Museum of the European Roots,” where several European museums are viewable thematically to understand European prehistoric culture and heritage.

[Explore Mars Now](#) - A 3-D walk-through model of a Mars base for the first humans to land on Mars. Over 100 images representing a Mars habitat, a greenhouse, and more in this simulation about what a Mars landing and new colony would entail.

[Google Art Project](#) - Explore 17 different museums from all around the world. Whether you're interested in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Palace of Versailles in France or the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, you'll find it here.

[Google Maps Gallery](#) - Provides an overview of the most amazing locations you can visit using Street View on Google Maps. You'll find a huge variety of locations on offer, everything from the snows of Antarctica to Times Square in New York City.

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[Internet4Classrooms Virtual Field Trips](#) - A small portal to many traditional virtual field trips.

[ItalyGuides](#) - A collection of more than 200 virtual panoramas of Italy most famous art city monuments. These can be explored 360° and each of them comes with text written by history of art professionals. Free audio guides are available for download.

[The Louvre](#) - Visit the museum's exhibition rooms and galleries, contemplate the façades of the Louvre.

[Neave Planetarium](#) - An online planetarium that allows users to explore stars and planets across a roving map. A very cool instrument to encourage students to learn more about outer space.

[Panoramic Earth](#) - A “growing picture guide to the world” with thousands of 360° panoramas from many locations. Each panorama is linked to Google Maps and comes with local and travel information.

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[San Diego Zoo's website](#) - Offers a variety of live cameras pointed at the animals in its enclosures. Pick your favorite camera and watch the pandas, elephants, polar bears, apes or condors.

[The Secret Annex Online: Anne Frank's Hiding Place](#) - A 3-D tour of the Dutch home where Anne Frank and her family hid from the Germans for more than two years.

[The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History](#) - This comprehensive virtual tour allows the visitor to take a virtual, self-guided, room-by-room walking tour of the whole museum.

[Smithsonian Wild](#) - More than 200,000 candid photos of animals in the wild. The site features many years of research by the Smithsonian Institution and its collaborators around the world.

[Teach Digital's Virtual Field Trips Discussion Page](#) - A good site to see where virtual field trips are headed in the 21st century with the use of videoconferencing collaborations.

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[Utah Education Network's Virtual Field Trips](#) - Browse traditional virtual field trips organized by subject area.

[Vatican Museums](#) - See the Sistine Chapel, Raphael's Rooms, and more at this growing virtual site.

[The Virtual Field Trips at Tramlane](#) - A small collection of traditional virtual field trips. Most are for science, but a few other subjects are represented here, too.

[We Choose the Moon](#) - An interactive site that recreates the Apollo 11 mission to the moon in real time using real recordings from the historic launch.

[The White House](#) - Take a tour of the White House. This site might make a good resource for a Presidents Day activity.

[Worldwide Telescope](#) - Turn your computer into a virtual telescope. Bring together imagery from the best ground and space-based telescopes in the world. Experience narrated guided tours from astronomers and educators.

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I also post ed-tech resources to my blog every so often. You will find this handout linked there as well:

<http://www.mistermitchell.com/>

Thank you.