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How an Iconic Not-for-Profit Continues to Serve Its Community in a Pandemic

BOSTON (September 23, 2020) – With thousands of educational travel programs around the world, it has been said that it's possible to learn about *virtually anything* with not-for-profit Road Scholar. Now, with travel halted during the pandemic and Road Scholar's community of older adult learners staying safe at home, there's a new twist on that premise — with the launch of its online learning adventures, it will soon be possible to learn about *anything virtually* with Road Scholar.

“The pandemic is keeping most of us at home,” said Road Scholar President James Moses. “But that hasn't changed our community's excitement to learn about and discover a world of topics and to meet and share ideas with others who are interested and curious about learning.”

Using a videoconferencing tool, Road Scholar's day-long and multi-day online programs reflect a typical Road Scholar learning experience, with expert-led lectures, virtual field trips, discussion and even social time so participants can connect with their peers throughout the United States and beyond. While there are many options for at-home, virtual learning, the social aspect and group bonding are what set Road Scholar's experiences apart.

“In many ways, being online together reminded me of journeys and walks on a regular Road Scholar program: an opportunity for lively group discussions and debates,” said Nettah Yoeli-Rimmer, the Road Scholar instructor on a week-long virtual Paris program.

In the first online offerings participants learned about opera, London theater or the art and history of Paris. All three programs received overwhelmingly positive reviews. “This program was a great antidote to the COVID blues,” one participant noted.

Inspired by the success of its initial programs, Road Scholar will expand its online learning adventures exponentially and offer nearly 200 online learning adventures within the next six months. “We have seen the positive impact these experiences have had in the lives of participants, and we are very excited to create new ways to engage with and enrich the lives of older adults, particularly during these difficult times,” said Road Scholar President James Moses, “and we'll continue to offer these virtual experiences even after travel resumes. It's a way for us to engage with and serve those who are physically unable to manage the rigors of travel. The virtual world offers endless opportunities for learning, friendship and fun — no matter one's age.”

To learn more about Road Scholar's online learning opportunities, visit:
<https://www.roadscholar.org/virtual-campus/>

About Road Scholar

Road Scholar is the nation's largest not-for-profit educational travel organization for adults – a true university of the world. It offers thousands of programs throughout the United States and around the world.

Road Scholar educational adventures are created by Elderhostel, the world leader in educational travel since 1975. Learn more at press.roadscholar.org.