



Study trip additional information

Travel

Coach

Your travel arrangements are an important part of your tour, and it is our belief that you should **travel in comfort and safety**. An executive coach is typically provided for door-to-door travel throughout the tour. Your coach will be fitted with seatbelts and typically with reclining seats, DVD, stereo, air circulation system and microphone. A toilet will be available on coaches that we send on overseas trips and sometimes in the UK. Various coach sizes and capacities are available. Tour drivers are an important part of the tour, so you should find your drivers to be friendly, experienced and reliable. Where coach travel is provided by suppliers in overseas countries, we contract reputable local companies to handle all the necessary journeys as stipulated, but while they comply with local regulations, please bear in mind that these may be different to those here in the UK.

Ferry

We use **the ferry services** from Dover to Calais for most of our tour groups travelling to Europe. With refurbished and improved vessels, you can eat and drink on board in comfort as you sail across to the Continent. We also use the fast and popular **Eurotunnel service** from Folkestone to Calais. A supplement is sometimes required for groups wishing to use this service and as coach space is limited, availability can seldom be guaranteed until closer to departure.

Flights

For **flight-inclusive packages**, we will always take into consideration your preferred departure airport and travel times, however we cannot always guarantee these as many bookings are accepted in advance of airline schedules and route confirmations being released. Please also bear in mind that there may be very little flexibility in booking seats with a number of these airlines. As such, any requests for passenger name changes after a booking has been received may well be subject to substantial amendment fees as imposed by the airlines and such conditions are outside of our control. The airlines have reduced capacity – and increased prices – since the pandemic, so we have less flexibility than before. Please beware of baggage restrictions pertaining to the airline you are travelling with as supplements and fees will apply to excess luggage and weight should you exceed your allowance.

Accommodation

We offer a varied selection of accommodations, all of which have been visited by our staff, agents or representatives and checked for their suitability for our groups. Most bedrooms are en-suite (this means that they have a shower and usually a toilet in the room) although some units, cottages and hostels may have shared washroom or toilet facilities along the floor and not actually in the bedrooms. As local **accommodation classifications vary** in different countries, please read the descriptions carefully or ask us for further details before deciding whether a particular destination or accommodation is right for you and your group.

Meal plans

Different meal plans are available, so please check your Tour proposal for details of the meals that have been included in your package. These may be referred to as **room only/self-catering** (no meals included); **bed and breakfast** (only breakfast included); **half board** (breakfast and dinner included) or **full board** (breakfast, packed lunch and dinner included). Meals will usually be provided at your accommodation, but sometimes might be at a local restaurant or host sports team clubhouse for example instead.

Damage Deposits

Some accommodation providers require a **damage deposit** to be paid in advance or directly to them on arrival, refundable after the stay subject to an inspection of your rooms.

Tourist tax & City tax

Some countries/cities/resorts charge a city tax or tourist tax, which by law, are collected by the accommodation to pass on to the Authorities. This needs to be paid directly on arrival at the accommodation. Whenever possible we include these costs within your package, but this is not always allowed. Please check on your Inclusions for details and check with us first if you are at all unsure.



Subject Specific Considerations

We will work with you to build a programme of educational elements and additional activities during your tour to meet with your specific curriculum requirements and expectations. Packages are often totally bespoke and tailor-made. These may include museums and places of educational and cultural interest, tailored workshops, excursions and visits etc. These can form part of your package and be pre-reserved on your behalf and paid for in advance.

Tickets to shows, the theatre, sports matches, music or other performances can often be purchased in advance too, should scheduling allow and on request. Please refer to your Proposal for details of the specific inclusions in your package as well as the listing of optional extras for consideration and other important information. Our specialist team is always here to discuss your requirements and happy to help.

Please visit: www.absolutetravel.co.uk/school-trip-tours/educational-study for further details.

Activities & Excursions

We will work with you to build a programme of educational elements and additional activities during your tour to meet with your specific curriculum requirements and expectations. Packages are often totally bespoke and tailor-made. These may include museums and places of educational and cultural interest, excursions to theme parks, swimming pools, stadium visits etc. These can form part of your package and be pre-reserved on your behalf and paid for in advance. Further local activities such as ten pin bowling, karaoke and discos will also be available in some resorts. Tickets to sports matches, music or other performances can often be purchased in advance too, should scheduling allow.

Representation

You will always be able to talk to an English-speaking representative. Depending on the nature of your tour, this could mean a local representative to meet with you on arrival to assist with check in; English-speaking assistance during your tour or local agency support. A full-time tour representative dedicated to your group is not included in your tour package unless specifically shown as an inclusion. Our **24-hour emergency Duty Manager service** is available to all our groups.

Study trips 'what to pack' checklist:

Here's a sample checklist below although you may wish to amend or use your own of course. Consider carefully before deciding whether to bring valuable items such as jewellery or gadgets which might get damaged, lost or stolen during the trip.

General Clothing

Leisurewear

Underwear (including normal socks)

Trousers/Jeans/Jogging bottoms/shirts

Hoodie or sweatshirt

Swimming trunks/costume

Comfortable footwear (especially if you are planning plenty of walking in cities/sightseeing for example)

Sliders/Slippers/indoor shoes

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Any clothing specific to the nature of the trip, climate and destination (waterproofs, hats, gloves etc.)

Personal items

Wash kit & tissues & travel-sick pills (if required)

Towel(s)

Water bottle (drink water regularly to prevent dehydration)

See page 3 for more.....



Essentials

Passport
GHIC (the replacement for the old EHIC)
Travel insurance documentation
Medication & Wet wipes and hand sanitiser
Small backpack / personal kit bag
European plug adaptor / USB adaptors / cables / chargers
Sunscreen (depending on destination) & sunglasses

Extras

Phone (and gadget or device if you wish – making sure these are suitably insured)
Camera (consider a disposable camera)
Reading book / Language phrase book / Paper or notebook and pen/pencil and tour folder/itinerary etc.
Travel pillow (for coach or flight)