



Activity trip (generic information)

Updated 1st September 2025

Activity packages

It is important that you choose the right trip to suit your budget, goals and ambition. Our hugely experienced team of school trip experts are here to help you, so please do get in touch for a chat. Whichever destination and package you choose, you will need to ensure that it is the right fit for your students. This means choosing an **activity programme** which will suit the age, fitness and dynamic of your group.

Water sports, land-based or a combination of both? The beach and sea or lakes and mountains? Kayaking on flat water or white-water rafting? Can all your students swim? Will they thrive from the experience and the environment? Do you want a full package of activities or want to mix up the itinerary with a theme park day, sightseeing or cultural visits in destination?

All the adventurous activities we offer and defined as such, are **provided by external third-party suppliers**. All have been **independently assessed and approved** prior to first use and every three years thereafter, for your ultimate peace of mind. We can help with your Risk Assessment documentation, so please do ask us for any guidance. Please refer to our document **“Before You Go – A Planning and Safety Guide”** for important notes on Supervisory staff and Experience; Pre-Trip-meetings; Codes of Conduct and Permissions. You should ensure that you have **signed parental permissions** for your students to participate in any activities during your trip (whether included in your package or not). These would typically include confirmation that a pupil is a competent swimmer and is in the physical condition required and appropriate for any activity to be undertaken.

Travel

Coach

On all our European tours, you will enjoy **door to door travel** by **executive coach**, contracted on your behalf with a reputable supplier that has supplied us with an audit checklist in advance. You should **travel in comfort and safety**. The term ‘executive coach’ is used by the coach industry to refer to one that is typically fitted with reclining seats, DVD, stereo, air circulation system and microphone. Some vehicles will also be fitted with USB points. A toilet will be available on all executive coaches that we send on overseas trips and sometimes also in the UK. All British coaches will be fitted with seatbelts as standard. Most executive coaches have **49-53 seats**, although we do also contract executive **double-decker coaches (73-89 seats)** on occasion for larger groups. Midi-coaches (20-39 seats) are not typically fitted with toilets. British tour drivers are DBS checked, and you should find your tour driver to be friendly, experienced and reliable. Where coach travel is provided by suppliers in overseas countries, we contract **reputable companies in destination** to handle all the journeys as stipulated. However, while they comply with local regulations, please bear in mind that standards and requirements may be different to those here in the UK. **Luggage capacity** is limited, regardless of the number of seats and you must pack accordingly. No hard-rimmed suitcases are allowed, and only soft-sided sports bags will be permitted and packed accordingly in the hold. A small carry-on item (handbag or back-pack) can be taken on with you for the journey, as long as it can be safely and comfortably stored on board.

Ferry

We use the **ferry services** from Dover to Calais (or Dunkerque) for most of our tour groups travelling to Europe (P&O, Irish Ferries and DFDS). 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 (for off-peak travel only). 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. Other ferry routes including services from Harwich-Hoek of Holland and Newcastle to Amsterdam may also be available on request. These are overnight crossings where cabins are compulsory and reserved at an additional cost.

Flights

For **flight-inclusive packages**, we will always take into consideration your preferred departure airport and travel times, however these cannot always be guaranteed. Many bookings are accepted in advance of airline schedules being released and the airlines often make amendments closer to departure too. Please also bear in mind that any booking will also be subject to the terms and restrictions of the airline that has been selected. Amendments (including name changes) after a booking has been received may well incur substantial fees (imposed by the airline) and you will need to adhere to these conditions. Most airlines have reduced capacity (and increased prices) in recent years and there is typically less flexibility than before. Please carefully check the baggage restrictions of the airline. Supplements (fees) will apply to excess luggage and weight should you exceed your allowance.



Accommodation

The accommodations that we feature have been **hand-picked** for our groups. These are subject to an **audit checklist** and reviewed by our staff (or representatives) to ensure their suitability. The bedrooms in the hotels that we contract will be en-suite (unless stated otherwise). This means that they have a shower and toilet in the room. Many hostels still have shared washroom facilities along the corridor. Self-catering cottages/bungalows/mobile homes/villas in holiday parks (like Center Parcs) will have a shared bathroom/toilet in the unit but are not en-suite. Some **Activity Centres** also offer accommodation in large tents (beds provided) with the use of a shared bathroom/toilet block nearby.

As local **accommodation classifications vary** in different countries, please read the descriptions carefully or ask us for further details before deciding whether a particular venue is right for you and your group. For safety considerations (including the use of gas appliances, swimming pools and balconies) please refer to our "Guidelines for Group Leaders" and our "Before You Go – A Planning and Safety Guide" for guidance.

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 at host sports team clubhouse or cafeteria (or at a tournament venue) for example instead.

Damage Deposits (and Security 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 - over and above any **security deposit** that may have already been paid to us.

Tourist tax & City tax

Some countries/cities/resorts charge a city tax (or tourist tax), which by law, is collected by the accommodation to pass on to the Authorities. This needs to be paid directly on arrival at the accommodation. In some destinations this is only payable by adults, in others there is a minimum age (13 and over for example) which varies from one resort to another. Whenever possible we include these costs within your package, but this is not always allowed. Please check on your Proposal for details and ask us first if you are at all unsure.

Equipment

Please ensure that you take the **appropriate kit** and equipment with you and that you have checked what equipment and facilities will be available for you in destination. Please ask us well in advance if you need any help or advice. Remember that any additional kit will need to be transported (whether on the coach or by paying for extra luggage on a flight) and should space allow.

For groups that are **camping or staying in Activity Centre dorms**, please do check the inclusions for your accommodation, as this may also mean taking with you (packing) **your own bedding including a sleeping bag, pillow and towel**.

Excursions & Tickets

We will work with you to build an itinerary which meets your goals and expectations. This may include the scheduling or booking of additional activities should you wish and should time on tour allow. Excursions to **theme parks, waterparks, stadium visits**, museums and places of educational and cultural interest might be planned. These can often be pre-reserved on your behalf and paid for in advance. Further local activities such as **ten pin bowling or crazy golf** (for example), will be available in some resorts.

Representation

You will always be able to talk to an English-speaking representative or **24/7 Duty Officer** whilst away. You might benefit from a full time British rep with you (supplied by us) during your trip or the assistance of local Activity Centre staff instead. In other destinations you may have the support of a local representative to provide meet and greet assistance or local agency support. Please check your package for details.



Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is included in your package, unless you choose to opt out at the Booking stage. Please check all the policy details carefully to ensure that it meets your needs and make copies of the policy available to everyone covered as applicable. The policy will cover you for the various activities that are featured in your programme. It is a condition of booking that everyone travel with adequate travel insurance. See our Booking Terms and Conditions for details. You can view the policy documents and Booking Terms and Conditions on our website by visiting: <https://absolutetravel.co.uk/info-zone/travel-insurance>

Foreign Travel Advice

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's travel advice aims to provide objective information and advice, to help you make better-informed decisions about your international travel plans. See our "Before You Go – A Planning and Safety Guide" for support and for the latest advice, please see: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice> at any time.

Activity trip '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.

Clothing & equipment for your activities

Sportswear (and/or training kit)

Equipment that may also be required (balls, specialist accessories or other)

Footwear (appropriate to the sports and activities you will be undertaking, which may be indoor and outdoor, on water or land)

Other Clothing

Leisurewear appropriate to the climate of the trip and destination

Underwear (including normal socks)

Trousers/Jeans/Jogging bottoms/shirts

Jacket/waterproof & Hoodie or sweatshirt

Swimming trunks/costume

Comfortable and appropriate footwear (and an old pair of comfortable trainers that can get wet or dirty for the activities)

Sliders/Slippers/indoor shoes

Personal items

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

Towel(s) – worth taking even if you have a towel at your accommodation (for after sports matches, training, swimming)

Water bottle (drink water regularly to prevent dehydration)

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)

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Bedding

Sleeping bag, pillow and towel(s) – please check your proposal inclusions to see what (if anything) you need to take.