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The trip was worth every penny! We were constantly busy and there was plenty to see! Our tour director was amazing, and so were all of the specific tour guides we had along the way. Our students learned a tremendous amount of history and they enjoyed every minute.

> **Ryan K., Adult Traveler** A Capital Connection, June 2015

> > For 50 years, we've worked to break down barriers of language, culture and geography. Together with educators across the globe, we're dedicated to providing educational experiences that teach critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration and global competence.

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# ADULT TRAVELERS ON STUDENT TOURS



**Educational Tours** 

## IT'S ABOUT THEM — AND YOU

We're so happy you're joining students on this life-changing adventure abroad. As you know, our tours are designed with students in mind — from the affordable prices to the active itineraries that maximize educational value. Whether you're a seasoned traveler or this is your first time out of the country, we want to ensure that you have an amazing time, too. That's why we've put together the following information to help you understand what to expect on tour.

#### FOR STARTERS

#### Your Group Leader

The teacher organizing your tour—the Group Leader—is responsible for the group's behavior while abroad. They will be the Tour Director's main point of contact and will work closely with their chaperones to supervise students.

#### Group travel

Unless you are traveling as a private group, you'll be traveling with other students and adults from the U.S. and Canada. When traveling as a group, it's important to be flexible and to keep a positive attitude on tour. Your positivity can be contagious especially for the students. And since you're traveling as a group and not on your own, it's important to be punctual. If one person is late it can make the whole group miss a scheduled activity.

#### Tour and departure date flexibility

One of the ways we get the most affordable group rates for our travelers is asking Group Leaders to be flexible with their tour choice and departure date so we can combine groups with similar preferences. Please check with your Group Leader for your tour itinerary options and the date ranges. Your tour and travel date will be confirmed around 70 days before departure. If you're doing any travel before or after the tour, make sure you wait for the tour and date to be confirmed before making any arrangements

#### TRANSPORTATION

#### Flights

At times, larger groups may need to split up on to different flights due to the number of seats available. In this case, your Group Leader will consult with us to decide who will fly on which itinerary. We can't guarantee that groups will be seated together, as the airline will determine seating assignments upon flight check-in. Due to the special rates that we secure for flights, airlines will not allow you to accrue frequent flyer miles or upgrade seats for your itinerary. To make any specialized meal requests, please contact the airline directly (no later than 72 hours before departure)

#### Ground transportation

On most tours, groups typically travel by motorcoach between destinations and on included sightseeing tours and excursions. Some itineraries, however, include internal flights or travel by train, cruise ship or ferry. To travel to local activities or during free time, groups generally find it easy to use public transportation. Your Tour Director will help you learn the maps and routes.

#### DON'T FORGET

#### Packing

You will be asked to load your luggage on and off buses and into hotels (porterage is not available), so we encourage you to pack light—ideally one suitcase. Luggage restrictions vary by airlines, so please plan accordingly as you are responsible for any luggage fees charged by the airlines. We recommend you carry any valuables and medication, along with an extra change of clothes, in your carry-on bag.

#### Tipping

It's customary to tip your Tour Director and coach driver as a token of appreciation at the end of the tour. We suggest that each traveler tip the Tour Director \$6 per day on tour and \$3 per day for the bus driver. Giving a small tip of \$1 to \$2 per person to the professional local guide is also typical. Your Group Leader may collect this money before you depart on tour.

#### THE TOUR

#### Itinerary

Our student tours are an introduction to travel and are intended to give young people the confidence to see the world. We design our itineraries to get the most out of each destination, so our Tour Directors and local guides focus on showing students iconic sites with the best educational value. Some itineraries have scheduled free time, but it's usually limited.

#### Pace

You will typically be on the go all day, leaving your hotel after an early breakfast and often returning after dinner. Your day will often be fast-paced and may include 5 or more miles of walking, so be sure to bring comfortable shoes. There may not be a lot of time to shop, and some lunches may be quick so students can see as much as possible.

#### Hotels and rooming

You will stay in safe, clean and comfortable hotels with private bathrooms. Hotels may be located outside the city center and usually have smaller rooms than you are used to in North America. They also may not include amenities like air conditioning, elevators or WiFi (which may be available for a fee). As an adult, you'll be assigned to a room with two single beds. If you do not designate a roommate, you will be assigned to room with another adult of the same gender—either from your group or one of the other groups with which you're traveling. Couples can request a room with one large bed for no additional fee, and individuals may request a room with one single bed for an additional fee. If you have not yet spoken to your Group Leader about rooming requests, please do so as soon as possible.

#### Rooming on night trains and ferries (if applicable)

Sleeping compartments on trains are very small and there are no single or double rooms. Adults and students will room in couchettes of up to six beds that fold down from the wall. Couchettes may not be exclusive to EF travelers and may be co-ed. Shared bathrooms are located outside the compartments in the train corridors. Ferry accommodations will vary depending on the tour. Generally, adults and students will room in cabins of up to four beds. Single rooms are not available on overnight trains or tours to South Africa. Your Group Leader will always work closely with the Tour Director to make rooming as comfortable as possible.

#### Meals

You should expect portion size to be smaller than what you're used to at home. Breakfast typically includes cereal, bread or rolls, jam, juice, coffee and tea. Lunch is your chance to make local culinary discoveries of your own. Your Tour Director will be happy to make recommendations. Everyone will have the same meal at dinner, which will be a mix of local specialties and familiar dishes that appeal to younger travelers' preferred tastes. Dinners are included with your tour, but you will be expected to pay for soft drinks and other beverages. Table water is always provided free of charge; bottled water is provided in those countries where deemed necessary by locals. If you notify your Group Leader that you are vegetarian, you will receive vegetarian meals for the entire tour. Please notify your Group Leader if you have other dietary restrictions and we will do our best to accomodate them.