



Study trip (generic information)

Updated 1st September 2024

Travel

Coach

It is our belief that you should **travel in comfort and safety**. On all our European sports 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. 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 with up to 79 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 allowed 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. 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.

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. The airlines have reduced capacity (and increased prices) since the pandemic, so there is often 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.

Equipment

Please ensure that you take the **appropriate 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 with a trailer, or by paying for extra luggage on a flight or by separate kit van if necessary) depending on space, logistics and requirements.



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. 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. 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.

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 - 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. Whenever possible we include these costs within your package, but this is not always allowed. Please check on your Proposal 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. 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.

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. However, 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 on tour.



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

Waterproof jacket or coat

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)

Essentials

Passport

GHIC (the replacement for the old EHIC)

Phone

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)