



# EDUCATIONAL TOURS, INC.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q HOW DO YOUNG PEOPLE BENEFIT BY TRAVELING?

Travel exposes young people to new places, new people and new ideas. Travel brings history lessons to life, gives civics lessons depth, and exposes eager young minds to challenges and situations that they wouldn't otherwise enjoy. Positive travel experiences create well-rounded young people who appreciate the world and the people around them. Most importantly, teachers state that student travel prompts a transformation through which students grow their ambitions to know, learn and explore.

### Q WHEN DO WE DECIDE WHO WILL BE SHARING ROOMS?

Your rooming list is due to Educational Tours no later than 60 days prior to departure. We suggest the Group Leader and Students create a sign up sheet as early as possible to decide roommates.

### Q WHAT TYPE OF CLOTHES SHOULD I PACK FOR MY TRIP?

Make sure to pack comfortable walking shoes, comfortable clothes for the bus ride (especially if you are riding overnight), layered clothing for warmth and remember your performance uniform/outfit if your group is planning to perform.  
**NOTE:** Check with your Group Leader for school policies on "proper attire" expected by your school.

### Q HOW MUCH LUGGAGE IS ALLOWED?

Whether by bus or by air, each person is allowed one carry-on and one suitcase.

### Q HOW CAN I CONTACT SOMEONE ON THE TRIP IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY?

You can call our emergency number - (800) 654-4560. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through our answering service. You will speak directly to someone who will contact our chain of command to handle any situation while the trip is in progress, including emergency messages from home.

### Q HOW MUCH "EXTRA" SPENDING MONEY SHOULD I BRING?

The amount of "extra" cash will depend on the length of the trip. A good suggestion is to calculate any meals that are not included on the bus ride and at your final destination. Allow enough cash to cover those meals - approx. \$20-\$25 per meal, depending on the destination. Then set an allowance for souvenirs you may purchase.

### Q CAN WE TAKE FOOD AND DRINK ON THE BUS?

Snacks are a good idea for a long bus ride. Fruit, candy, crackers, granola, etc. are good between meals. Beverages are usually allowed on the motorcoach. However, some bus companies have rules against certain types of beverages (such as dairy products).

### Q WILL THE MOTORCOACH HAVE A DVD PLAYER?

Most coaches both a DVD player. Movies are provided by the school/students, but usually need to be approved by the Group Leader beforehand.

### Q IS THERE A RESTROOM ON THE MOTORCOACH?

Most standard size coaches have a restroom. Drivers suggest they are to be used for emergencies only. If over used, the odor can become unpleasant for those sitting in the back of the bus.

### **Q HOW LONG IS THE DRIVER ON DUTY?**

Motorcoach drivers can be on duty for 15 hours, but can only drive 10 of those 15 hours. Once their shift is up, a relief driver will take over. If you are en route, a relief driver will be either “bunked” on the motorcoach, or the group will stop to pick up the relief driver. By law, drivers MUST have 8 hours off for rest between shifts. For safety reasons and legal ramifications, these rules must be followed.

### **Q UPON ARRIVAL AT OUR DESTINATION, WILL SOMEONE MEET US?**

You will be met by an Educational Tours, Inc. Tour Director who will remain with you throughout most of your trip. Their job is to take care of the details such as hotel check in, meal reservations, theater tickets and other activities you have planned. Tour Directors are NOT tour guides – they are problem solvers. They work together with the Group Leader to make sure the trip runs as smooth as possible. A good suggestion is to arrange a meeting with the Tour Director, Group Leader and Chaperones upon arrival.

### **Q HOW DO YOU SAFELY MANAGE STUDENTS AT THE HOTEL?**

Tour Directors arrive a day or more before the group and will prepare the hotel. They will have the pay per view channels turned off if possible. However, if the hotel offers cable movie channels, they will not be able to turn them off. All the phones will be turned off in the student rooms for outside calls. Students will still be able to make room-to-room calls.

### **Q WILL STUDENT ROOMS BE SPREAD OUT ALL OVER THE HOTEL?**

We work with the hotel to make sure they block the rooms as “tight” as possible. Rooms are blocked in such a way as to separate the boys’ rooms from the girls’ rooms with chaperones dispersed in between.

### **Q WHO GUARDS THE STUDENT ROOMS AT NIGHT AFTER LIGHTS OUT?**

Private nighttime security is hired exclusively for

your group. They are posted every night guarding only your rooms. The number of guards will depend on the size of your group. This ensures the Group Leader and Chaperones a restful night so they can stay alert during your trip.

### **Q WHAT IS AN “ETI” CLINIC?**

Educational Tours, Inc. offers clinics which feature performance and skill-building classes for bands, orchestras, jazz groups, choirs, theater groups, and more.

A clinic’s focus is on the fundamentals of music, such as performance and breathing techniques, tone production and warm-ups. We encourage clinicians to motivate students forward in a positive manner, while helping them polish both their ensemble and individual performance skills.

Clinicians are chosen for their talent and excellence as music educators from Universities all over the U.S. Most clinics will last an hour and a half and are held at a Music Studio or University.

### **Q IS TRAVEL PROTECTION AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE?**

Yes, travelers can purchase travel protection to reimburse the cost of the trip (less the cost of the insurance policy) if the traveler has to cancel prior to the departure date for unforeseen medical reasons. Cancel For Any Reason protection is included as well, but only reimburses 75% of the non-refundable trip cost. Ask your Group Leader for more information. Please direct all travel protection questions to Trip Mate at (833) 297-2258 .

### **Q WILL THE BUSES HAVE OUTLETS AND WI-FI?**

Most motorcoach companies have updated most of their fleet to include outlets and Wi-Fi. Although we do reserve coaches with these features for your group, due to motorcoach breakdowns and inclement weather, there is no guarantee that the bus or buses you get will have these features. Prepare to bring a portable charger along just in case. Do keep in mind, even if your bus does have Wi-Fi, the service may be limited due to your location en route or the capacity of users.