

How to form a Group

Joining a Walking Adventure can be a life-changing experience. Getting off the bus to explore our planet from a walker's perspective is a rewarding and fun way to travel and alters our perspective in many ways. Our WAI Team is always looking for good ideas to help you stretch your Adventure dollars and make your travel experience even more meaningful and memorable. The following information outlines how to benefit from being a group member or better yet, becoming a Group Leader and increasing your discount by 50%!

GROUP TRAVEL DISCOUNT

• WHAT IS A GROUP TRAVEL DISCOUNT?

A Group Travel Discount is a reduction in the cost of a Walking Adventure — a credit off the brochure price — awarded to a group of 5 or more who work together to attract a specified number of travelers to register for an Adventure. The purpose of this program is two-fold: 1) to share the unique and rewarding travel philosophy of WAI with new travelers — like-minded folks who haven't yet discovered what they are missing; and 2) to encourage WAI alumni to contact travel buddies from prior tours and plan another unforgettable Adventure together.

• WHAT ARE THE DISCOUNT AMOUNTS?

Groups of 5-95% credit
Groups of 10-14..... 7.5% credit
Groups of 15+ 10% credit

This is the amount that will be credited to the Adventure brochure price. Price is defined as the brochure price listed for the main tour. Optional excursions, airfare, or pre-tours and extensions do not qualify for the group travel program.

• WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO JOIN A GROUP?

All travelers who have not yet registered are eligible to start or join a Group and earn travel credit. Travelers can join a group any time up until the time they officially register with a full \$500 deposit for an Adventure.

• HOW DO I JOIN A GROUP?

You may either start your own Group and become a Group Leader, or you may locate a Group by tapping into the "WAI grapevine" and give your name to the Group Leader. Make sure you join the Group before registering for the trip. And remember the WAI office is not a source of information for travelers looking for Groups. The concept of a Group Travel Discount is based upon travelers recruiting other travelers on their own to increase the participation level on the Adventure of their choice, thereby "earning" the discount.

• CAN I SWITCH FROM ONE GROUP TO THE OTHER TO GAIN A LARGER DISCOUNT?

After a group becomes viable (5 or more members), or a group member is registered for an Adventure, we can't move group members from one group to another, or merge groups. This undermines the efforts of the group leader, who has established a viable group, and other group members, who are working to grow the group. So dance with the one who brought you, don't switch horses mid-stream, and hang with your original WAI group!

• WHAT IS A GROUP LEADER?

The designated Group Leader is responsible to submit a list of names, in writing, for those in the Group, as well as to manage the list by keeping WAI abreast of subsequent changes to the Group. The Group Leader is generally the person who starts the Group, or someone among a group of friends or club members who agrees to accept this role. As compensation for their time and initiative, the Group Leader will receive a bonus of 50% of the standard group

discount (e.g. for a Group of 5-9, the Group Leader would receive a credit of 7.5% rather than 5%). The Group Leader is not responsible for handling any money or paperwork other than the Group list. Often, the success of the Group is a result of the enthusiasm shown by the Group Leader.

- **CAN I USE MY WALKING BUCKS, WALKING JOURNALS, OR ADVENTURE WALK CREDITS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GROUP TRAVEL DISCOUNT?**

Sorry, the Group Travel Discount cannot be used in conjunction with any other credits or discounts, unless exception to this guideline is specifically granted.

- **DOES JOINING A GROUP RESERVE MY SPOT ON THE ADVENTURE?**

Group membership does NOT take the place of your Adventure deposit or reserve your spot on an Adventure; it only qualifies you for the credit. There are two ways to reserve your spot on an Adventure: 1) a \$50 refundable Early Bird deposit (made before the brochure for a trip has been published) will hold your spot until 2 weeks after you receive the brochure; at that point, a Registration is required to hold your spot; 2) a Registration is a \$500 payment (or \$450 if you have already made an Early Bird deposit) made after the brochure has been published; this payment, along with a completed Registration Form, will formally lock in your spot.

- **WHEN IS THE DISCOUNT APPLIED TO MY INVOICE?**

In order to accurately assess the size of the Group, and the resulting amount of the discount, this credit will be applied to your final bill, approximately 90 days prior to departure.

- **GUIDELINES FOR GROUP LEADERS:**

- ⇒ Be sure to send us all Group names and addresses in writing, either by regular mail or email.
- ⇒ Please make sure you have your new Group member's approval before sending us their name; the new Group member must have consented to join the Group.
- ⇒ Make sure your new Group member has not already registered.
- ⇒ Check that your new Group member is not already part of another Group.
- ⇒ Start your Group as soon as you decide to become a Group Leader. Even though five travelers is the minimum group size to qualify for a credit, you do not need to have the minimum number to start a Group. You can even start a Group with yours as the only name, and then add names as you spread the word.
- ⇒ Add people to your Group (with their consent!) even if they are uncertain about going. That way, if they do decide to join the trip, they will already be in a Group.

Planning ahead to maximize your travel budget can save you money and provide you with more chances to experience the Adventure. So if you haven't made your travel plans yet for this coming year, now is a great time to save your spot on the Adventure of a lifetime!

Share the Adventure with us!

Updated 1/8/2016