

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 credit by 50%!

GROUP TRAVEL CREDITS

• WHAT IS A GROUP TRAVEL CREDIT?

A Group Travel Credit is a reduction in the cost of travel – a credit amounting to a percentage off the trip price – awarded to a group of 5 or more who work together to attract a certain number of travelers to register for a tour. 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 traveling buddies from prior tours and plan another unforgettable Adventure together.

• WHAT ARE THE CREDIT AMOUNTS?

Groups of 5-9 5% credit
Groups of 10-14 7.5% credit
Groups of 15+ 10% credit

Tour price is defined as the brochure price listed for the main tour. Optional excursions, airfare, or pre-tours and extensions are not included in the credit program.

• WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO JOIN A GROUP?

All travelers who have not yet registered or submitted an Early Bird deposit are eligible to join a Group. WAI alumni and first-time travelers are equally eligible to join a Group and earn the credit. All travelers are eligible up until the time they place a deposit of any kind toward a tour.

EXCEPTIONS:

- ⇒ Travelers who have Early Birded on Survey tours (these are trips that have not yet been confirmed on the schedule) are still able to join groups up until a pre-determined date. For instance, travelers who have already Early Birded on any 2010 Adventures have until **June 30, 2009** to join a group.
- ⇒ Any traveler (even if already registered for a trip) may opt to become a Group Leader and start a Group. All additions to their Group after **June 30, 2009** must then be travelers who have not paid any deposits on the tour.

• HOW DO I JOIN A GROUP?

You may either start your own Group and become a Group Leader or you may locate a Group through the "WAI grapevine" and give your name to the Group Leader. Make sure that you join the Group before registering (or pre-registering) for the tour. And remember that the WAI office is not a source of information for travelers looking for Groups. The concept of a Group Travel Credit is based upon travelers recruiting other travelers on their own to increase the participation level on the tour of their choice, thereby "earning" the credit.

• 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 credit (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 OR WALKING JOURNALS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GROUP TRAVEL CREDIT?**

Sorry, the Group Travel Credit cannot be used in conjunction with "Walking Bucks" or the "Walking Journal" program, unless exception to this rule is specifically stated.

• **DOES JOINING A GROUP RESERVE MY SPOT ON THE TOUR?**

Group membership does NOT take the place of your tour deposit or reserve your spot on a tour; it only qualifies you for the credit. There are two ways to reserve your spot on a tour: 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 CREDIT APPLIED TO MY INVOICE?**

In order to accurately assess the size of the Group, and the resulting amount of the credit, the 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 or paid an Early Bird deposit (again, note the exception to this policy in regard to Survey tours—see "Who is Eligible to Join a Group?").
- ⇒ Double-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 smallest 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.
- ⇒ Remember, Group Leaders are eligible to start a Group after registering for a tour.
- ⇒ 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 even provide you with more chances to experience the Adventure. Several of our 2010 tours are nearly full already, 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!

Experience the Adventure in 2009 and beyond!