

GENERAL TOUR CONDITIONS

OVERVIEW: Walking Adventures International plans and guides walking adventures that combine international travel with recreational walking. Our programs blend walking with historic, cultural, and scenic highlights of the areas through which we travel.

RESERVATIONS: For most tours, reservations may be secured by paying a deposit of \$500. At the time of registration, travelers receive an invoice showing the due date for the remaining balance (90 days prior to departure for most tours). A reminder statement will be sent about 3 weeks prior to the due date. Walking Adventures Int'l accepts payment in the form of cash (personal check) or credit card (VISA, MasterCard, or Discover).

AIRFARE: The tour price generally excludes air travel. The starting point for the tour is generally our arrival airport or first hotel. Group air travel is usually not advantageous given the need to meet at a common gateway and restrictions to groups. Meeting at a common gateway precludes the most effective routing and restrictions can include use of air miles and seat reservations. When air travel is necessary within the itinerary, cost of air travel is usually included, though pricing packages sometimes make combining these internal flights with international legs of air travel more advisable. Group air travel is therefore considered on a case by case basis and management and purchase of air travel is explained and advised in the brochure, the brochure adventure memo that accompanies the brochure, and in the subsequent Adventure Advice memo.

In cases where group air travel is offered, travelers should realize that airlines occasionally, though rarely, raise their rates between the date the brochure is published and the date of travel. In addition, airport tax and fuel surcharges can also increase during this period. In the unlikely event this happens, WAI may need to add a surcharge to the airfare package or tour price.

LAND TRANSPORTATION: WAI endeavors to find the best motorcoaches available. We generally employ a seat-rotation system we have found to be effective and popular with our travelers. Therefore, seats cannot be reserved on the coach.

HOTELS: Accommodations range for the most part from tourist-class to superior tourist-class or better throughout. In all cases, facilities are en suite. Travelers may request a roommate and are put in contact with other travelers also seeking roommates. Alternatively, travelers may request their own single room for an additional fee. This supplement assures the traveler of a room to themselves. It does not necessarily cover the expense of a full-sized double room and does not guarantee them two seats on the motorcoach. **In much of the world, single rooms are smaller than double rooms but still more costly, on a per person basis, than sharing a double room.

LUGGAGE HANDLING: Though WAI guides are sensitive to those needing help with luggage, portage is generally not included on our tours. Transporting luggage to the traveler's hotel room is ultimately the responsibility of the traveler. As experienced travelers will tell you, this is just one incentive to travel light. Luggage is limited to one large or two small suitcases per person plus carry-on type luggage. This is necessary to meet the limitations of luggage space beneath the coach.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Walking Adventures International strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance. Many years of helping travelers deal with unexpected circumstances that require cancellation of their travel plans have made us believers in the benefits of this form of insurance. See the Registration Form for insurance provider options to consider.

WALKS: Whenever possible, WAI endeavors to use walk routes sanctioned by the International Federation of Popular Sports (IVV or volkssport). Some walks, however, may be in the process of being sanctioned at the time the tour brochure was printed, or are in countries in which volkssport has not yet been organized. IVV sanctioning cannot be guaranteed.

Walks vary in length (3 to 7 miles maximum per day) and difficulty. Most walks are planned by WAI staff or hosted by local clubs. WAI uses a walk difficulty rating system which contains a numeric indicator for trail incline and an alpha indicator for trail terrain. Most foreign clubs do not typically use a "difficulty" rating system. Participation in walks is always optional. Because we normally offer a full schedule, travelers are encouraged to pace themselves and should not feel obligated to participate in all walks.

TOUR ITINERARY DEVIATIONS: Travelers sometimes ask if they can join or leave the tour somewhere en route. It is difficult to serve these travelers without shortchanging those signed up for the full, advertised itinerary. We regret that we cannot accommodate mid-tour itinerary deviation requests.

TOUR PACE / PHYSICAL CONDITIONING: As would be expected with a walking tour, our itinerary is aggressive and designed to offer the traveler as much exposure to the areas we visit as possible. In order to maximize enjoyment of these sometimes rigorous and always rewarding Adventures, it is important that travelers be in good physical condition.

TRAVELERS WITH DISABILITIES: Travelers with disabilities are welcome provided that they have a traveling companion who can assist them if the traveler's disability prevents them from being fully independent.

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare; passport or VISA fees; passenger facility taxes levied by domestic or foreign airports (airport taxes); meals not listed in the itinerary; beverages for any included lunches or dinners; tips for housekeeping; trip cancellation or other travel insurance; phone calls; valet/laundry services and other services of a personal nature; and portage of luggage.

PRICES: Prices quoted in this brochure are per person with two travelers sharing a room. Though it happens infrequently, surcharges are sometimes necessary to cover unexpected additional charges levied by airlines or tour operators (e.g. fuel surcharges). In the unlikely event we encounter strikes, natural disasters, government shutdowns, social disturbances, etc., modifications to our itinerary may be necessary for the safety and convenience of our travelers. We will do our utmost to preserve or improve the original objectives of the itinerary, but regret that we cannot issue refunds to travelers when such modifications become necessary. In rare cases, a surcharge may be necessary to cover additional expenses incurred for extra services and/or accommodations. **International travel arrangements are subject to foreign currency fluctuations. Consequently, though rarely necessary, prices quoted may be subject to an adjustment due to any change in foreign currency rates.

CANCELLATIONS: Our standard cancellation policy outlined below holds true for most tours. In cases where contracts with travel vendors impose earlier cancellation penalties, we will notify travelers of these adjusted cancellation penalties in the brochure adventure memo that accompanies the tour brochure, and in initial tour literature that is mailed to newly registered travelers. Otherwise, cancellations received *in writing* 120 days or more before departure will receive a full refund less a \$250 administration fee. Cancellations received *in writing* 119 to 90 days before departure will receive a full refund less the initial \$500 deposit. Cancellations received *in writing* 89 to 60 days before departure will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be made on cancellations received less than 60 days before departure. No refunds will be made on any unused or cancelled services once the tour has commenced.

TRAVELER'S PERSPECTIVE: As with most things, the benefit you receive from this experience will depend to a large degree on the frame of mind you have at the outset. If you've not traveled outside the U.S. before, here are a few things of which to be aware:

- ♦ WAI is a provider of international travel experiences planned by a small but dedicated team from a single office in Washington State. Our geographic reach is broad, and we revisit destinations infrequently—usually not more than once every two years. We provide a low-volume, boutique-service style of travel. Travelers who match well with our travel programs value authenticity and spontaneity over precision and a flawless execution of the itinerary. We work hard to "get it right", but the nature of our travel model assumes that an unscripted, customized travel experience is more meaningful than a more sanitized and predictable program.
- ♦ To varying degrees, hotels, food, and local customs are different in other countries. This can be uncomfortable...and exciting!
- ♦ Though we continue to look for ways to slow the pace of our "Adventures," we still believe in providing a full day's opportunities for our travelers. On some days, we spend a significant amount of time on the bus.
- ♦ Group travel, by its nature, involves giving up a certain degree of individual convenience. Though we strive for added flexibility for the individual, much of the time we all need to be "headed in the same direction."

FURTHER QUESTIONS? 1.800.779.0353