

Walking Adventures International  
COVID-19 Policies & Procedures  
June 2020

1. Tour start
  - a. Before the tour, tour members should avoid contact with anyone who has been ill with flu-like symptoms in the past 14 days and monitor their temperature on a daily basis starting a week before departure, allowing time for necessary health adjustments.
  - b. Travelers should take their own temperature each morning and report it to the WAI guide before boarding the bus.
  - c. Fever of below 100.4°F is the target. The tour member must be below that CDC recommended target to board the bus.
  
2. Group size
  - a. Group size for tours operated in Fall 2020 will be determined by a combination of state, CDC, WAI, and bus company guidelines.
  - b. WAI intends to rent the largest bus possible (in many cases the standard size is 56 passengers). As a rule of thumb, the WAI policy is to keep the bus no more than 50% full. However, this may vary on a tour-by-tour basis due to guidance or restrictions of local governments.
  - c. A seating chart will be used to achieve the greatest distancing possible. Seat assignments will be made during the Welcome Orientation with input from tour members.
  - d. Couples will be asked to remain seatmates for the duration of the tour. Roommates will be asked to remain seatmates as well. This should allow one empty row between parties.
  - e. Single travelers will occupy one section of the coach and be asked to alternate window and aisle seats in each successive row to maximize distancing.
  - f. The normal WAI seat rotation plan is eliminated for the time being to reduce spending time in space previously occupied by another. No seat rotation will be implemented for trips under 10 days. During longer trips, a modified rotation will take place once during the tour.
  
3. Bus hygiene procedures
  - a. Motorcoach companies, hotels, restaurants, and other businesses involved in tourism are intensely aware of the increased emphasis on hygiene for the foreseeable future. Because our time on the bus makes up the largest amount of time we will spend together in relatively close quarters, we focus here only on bus hygiene. Additional information will be shared on a tour-by-tour basis as we approach departure.
  - b. Different bus companies are following a variety of strategies, all of which are thorough.
  - c. Examples:
    - i. Our bus company for *Route 66* uses an overnight fogger called a Curis Decontamination System to disinfect the bus in between tour groups; it reputedly kills over 99% of germs. The driver also has a deep cleaning regimen to follow each evening to clean and disinfect all commonly-touched surfaces. Commonly-touched surfaces include, but are not limited to:
      1. Passenger tray tables
      2. Passenger grab handles

3. Tops of all seats
  4. Entrance handrails
  5. Arm Rests
  6. All restroom surfaces, doors, and handles
  7. Passenger lights and air controls
  8. Window ledges
- ii. Our bus company for *Unforgettable Utah* utilizes an ultraviolet lighting system throughout the bus and the driver disinfects high-touch areas and performs enhanced deep cleaning every night.
- d. WAI guides will ensure these procedures are followed and may assist, throughout the day, in interim cleanings of high-touch areas.
  - e. Hand sanitizers will be available on our coaches at all times.
  - f. Face coverings are required apparel while on the bus. We understand there is conflicting data circulating about the efficacy of face coverings and hope that clarity on this and other matters surfaces before we travel. For now, our policy is to err on the side of concern for fellow travelers by implementing this policy, which, in some cases, and in some jurisdictions, is mandated by local authorities or by our bus company.
4. Distancing policies
    - a. Bus: Distancing on the bus has been covered in the Group size paragraph. Seating will be arranged to maximize distancing. In addition, loading and unloading procedures may be implemented to minimize bottlenecks as we load the motorcoach.
    - b. Trail: Distancing on the trail will be encouraged but not mandated.
    - c. Meals: It is unlikely that we will have any group meals. Breakfasts typically will be “grab and go” breakfast bags provided by the hotel. In cases where a group meal is listed in the tour brochure, travelers will receive a credit for that meal off the final billing for the tour and will then be free to manage this meal on their own. The WAI bus will be used as a shuttle to restaurants as necessary.
    - d. Hotel: Distances of 6-feet between unrelated parties should be attempted when in a common area for more than 15 minutes at a time.
5. Face coverings policy
    - a. Bus: As listed in the Bus hygiene procedures paragraph, face coverings will be required on the bus as of the time of this publication (June 2020). Bus companies are following CDC recommendations, which currently recommend the use of face coverings.
    - b. Trail: Face coverings are not required outdoors or on the trail.
    - c. Hotel: Face coverings are encouraged when in common spaces for more than 15 minutes.
6. Other precautions
    - a. Handwashing:
      - i. We have all become expert hand-washers, and this new skill should be especially well-utilized during the tour. At a minimum, hand washing should occur:
        1. After blowing one’s nose, coughing, or sneezing
        2. After using the toilet
        3. Before eating or preparing food
        4. After contact with a person who is ill
        5. After each stop where a railing or benches may have been touched

- ii. Though we will attempt to have hand sanitizers available on the coach at all times, travelers should pack a generous supply of their own hand sanitizers.
  - b. Tour members are requested to:
    - i. Practice non-contact greetings (fist or elbow bumps in places of handshakes or hugs)
    - ii. Avoid touching your face
    - iii. Cough or sneeze into the fold of your elbow or into a dense cloth or handkerchief
    - iv. Practice mental well-being behaviors such as exercise, healthy eating, prioritizing sleep, prayer or meditation; surrounding yourself with positivity, practicing gratitude. Studies are showing that mental hygiene is at least as important as physical hygiene.
- 7. COVID-19 Testing policies
  - a. Tour members are requested to bring their own thermometer and test themselves each morning. A WAI guide will ask you for your temperature and log it on a clipboard each morning before boarding the bus.
  - b. Other symptoms to watch for include:
    - i. Cough that you cannot attribute to another health condition
    - ii. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing that you cannot attribute to another health condition
    - iii. Sore throat that you cannot attribute to another health condition
    - iv. Muscle aches that you cannot attribute to another health condition or that are not caused by physical exertion
    - v. Loss of taste or smell
  - c. If a traveler has any of these conditions, they should let a WAI guide know. WAI guides will consult with local authorities in determining whether to seek a COVID-19 test.
  - d. A tour member with a temperature or with one of these conditions should wear a face covering and keep at least 6 feet away from other travelers until their status can be determined or the symptoms subside. If their condition worsens before testing can be done, all efforts will be made to evacuate the traveler for expedited medical care.
  - e. If evacuation is not immediately possible, the affected tour member will be quarantined in the back of the bus, be required to wear a face covering at all times, stay at least 6 feet away from other travelers, cough into a handkerchief or the crease of their elbow, and keep well hydrated.
  - f. Roommates or spouses of the affected traveler need to adopt the same behavior and procedures as the traveler.
  - g. If a tour member tests positive for coronavirus, the tour will follow all directives from the local authorities. This may include a quarantine of the tour member or the group, and we will work with local authorities to ensure your needs are met.

WAI has operated tours for over 30 years, and we are well practiced in adapting nimbly to evolving circumstances. Although small, our team, both in the field and in the office, is world-class. Every tour relies on 24/7 support from our home office. Local WAI partners are reliable, responsive and effective. Our ongoing commitment is to respond consistently to all unforeseen events with professionalism, compassion, and competence. Thank you for being part of the Adventure!