

**Walking Adventures International
COVID-19 Policies & Procedures
August 2020 Van Tours**

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 van.
 - c. Fever of below 100.4°F is the target. The tour member must be below that CDC recommended target to board the van.
2. Group size
 - a. Group size for van tours operated in Fall 2020 will be a maximum of 7 travelers plus the WAI driver/guide. We plan to use 15 passenger vans eliminating the need for any traveler to sit directly next to any other traveler.
 - b. Seat will be assigned during the Welcome Orientation. 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. Van hygiene procedures
 - a. Travelers will be occupying the same spot for the duration of the trip. Travelers will be responsible for the cleaning and hygiene of their immediate area of the van. Supplies will be available or the traveler can bring their own from home.
 - b. The WAI driver/guide will clean and disinfect the main entry door and door handles each morning and periodically throughout the day.
 - c. Hand sanitizers will be available on the van at all times.
 - d. Face coverings are required apparel while in the van. Many states require masks in enclosed spaces and the CDC strongly recommends this practice.
4. Distancing policies
 - a. Van: Distancing on the van has been covered in the Group size paragraph. No traveler need sit next to another traveler. There should be an empty space next to all travelers.
 - b. Trail: Distancing of 6 feet between walkers not from the same household is the policy for the tour. Alternatively, walkers may wear face coverings if they prefer to walk closer to each other.
 - 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. The WAI van will be used as a shuttle to restaurants as necessary.
 - d. Hotel: Distances of 6-feet between unrelated parties should be maintained when in a common area.

5. Face coverings policy
 - a. Van: As listed in the Van hygiene procedures paragraph, face coverings will be required on the van as of the time of this publication (August 2020) according to state requirements and CDC recommendations.
 - b. Trail: Face coverings are not required outdoors or on the trail provided we keep a buffer of 6 feet between walkers.
 - c. Hotel: Face coverings are required when in common spaces.
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 van 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. The WAI guide will ask you for your temperature and log it on a clipboard each morning before boarding the van.
 - 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. Symptoms may necessitate that the traveler remain quarantined in the hotel and not

participate in any scheduled activities in public spaces until their status can be determined.

- e. If evacuation is not immediately possible, the affected tour member will be quarantined in the back of the van (luggage will be in the 2nd to last seat in this case), 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. Until the status of the traveler is determined, WAI guide may elect to alter or cancel planned activities in public spaces to avoid the possibility of community transmission.
- 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 suspension of all further planned services and/or 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. 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!