

GENERAL TRAVEL INFORMATION FOR ALL TOURS

ENTERING OTHER COUNTRIES

TourMagination will provide details about relevant entrance requirements to the best of our knowledge. You may do your own supplemental research using the [Sherpa Travel Restrictions tool](#), or by reading details on your destination's government website.

PASSPORTS & VISAS

Travellers must carry proof of citizenship. A valid signed passport with an **expiration date at least six months beyond the tour return date** is required. Make sure your passport is in good physical condition with no stains or other damage, or your airline may deny you boarding.

Photocopy your passport's identification page and keep it separate from the original when you travel, either as a hard copy or digitally on your mobile device. For added security, **we request that you forward a scanned copy or a photo of your passport's identification page to our office.** These steps may speed the replacement process if you lose your passport. We also recommend that your passport, cash, and other documents not be kept together while travelling in case of loss where you would then lose everything.

TourMagination will inform you if tourist visas are required for a destination on your tour. If visas are required TourMagination will provide instructions to assist you in securing your visa(s). **It is the responsibility of each tour participant to obtain the necessary travel documents according to the instructions provided.**

FLIGHTS - CHANGES AND CANCELLATIONS

Be aware that flights are ALWAYS subject to schedule changes/aircraft changes as well as cancellations that are beyond their control. While the airline will do what is within their power to protect you, passengers should be proactive and protect themselves by purchasing travel insurance for these unexpected or unforeseen events.

For flights cancelled beyond 24 hours pre-departure:

- If your ticket was purchased through our partners at Bonaventure Travel, please call **204-594-7608** for assistance as this number is monitored.
- If you are already checked in for your flight and are under airport control, you must go directly to the airline's desk at the airport for assistance.

LUGGAGE AND CARRY-ON

TourMagination recommends one checked piece of luggage and one carry-on bag per person. Size and weight restrictions vary by airline, so remember to consult your airline's website.

For most airlines, the checked-in bag must not exceed 50 pounds (22.7 kg) and must measure 62 inches (157 cm) or less by adding the height, width, and length. For many airlines, the carry-on bag must not exceed 17 pounds (7.7 kg) and must measure 45 inches (114 cm) or less by adding the height, width, and length. Please



consult baggage allowance requirements on your airline's website. Checked bags will almost always have an additional fee (unless the fee is included in your ticket) so please be prepared for this, including on in-country flights within tours.

TourMagination encourages the minimalist approach to packing which will make you more comfortable and more mobile. We recommend a 24" suitcase as the maximum size. **You are responsible for your own luggage so please ensure that you can handle it by yourself.** Porterage service may not be available at every location.

It is important to have the following with you onboard your flights: passport, cash, wallet/purse, medicines, medical devices, essential overnight items in case your baggage is delayed or lost, and if applicable, electronic equipment such as laptop computer and camera. Anything containing a lithium battery must be kept in your carry-on.

SECURITY

It is important to be at the airport for your international flight at least **3 hours prior to your departure time** as security procedures can be time-consuming.

Because of security restrictions please be sure you do not have sharp objects in your carry-on luggage, such as scissors, pocket knives, nail clippers, needles, etc. Regular quantities of liquids, gels, or aerosols are also not allowed in your carry-on luggage, such as shampoo, toothpaste, hair gel, etc. These items should be packed in your checked luggage.

Liquids, gels, and aerosols can be brought with you through security screening provided that the substances are packaged in containers with a capacity of 100ml/100grams/3.4oz or less each.

Additionally, these containers must fit comfortably in one clear, closed, and re-sealable plastic bag with a capacity of no more than one litre/one quart. One bag per passenger will be permitted.

If you have had a knee or hip replacement, which will be detected by the metal detector, it is advisable to carry a card or note from your doctor to speed the security process.

Anyone who carries an EpiPen for an allergy reaction should notify our office. For your flight, be sure to carry your EpiPen in your hand luggage in its original carrier tube. Have a copy of the pharmacy label that includes the name of the person the pen was prescribed for and the name of the prescribing physician.

CUSTOMS

Canadians can claim up to \$800 per person anytime you have been absent from Canada for at least 48 hours. Duty must be paid on all items in excess of this amount. An unlimited number of gifts valued up to \$60 each may be mailed to Canada duty-free. To qualify, each gift must not be worth more than \$60 and cannot be a tobacco product, an alcoholic beverage or advertising matter. If the gift is worth more than \$60, the recipient will have to pay regular duty and taxes on the excess amount. Label the package "Unsolicited Gift— Value under \$60".



Depending on the country/countries visited, **Americans** may bring back \$200, \$800 or \$1600 per person worth of foreign goods duty-free if you have been out of the country for at least 48 hours, and have not already used any part of the exemption in the past 30 days. You may mail packages valued at up to \$200 to yourself and up to \$100 to others, duty-free, with a limit of one parcel received per addressee per day. On the outside, identify the package as being for personal use or an unsolicited gift, specifying the contents and their retail value. Mailed items do not count as part of your exemption.

To expedite the trip through customs, keep receipts handy and have all purchases in one bag.

Canada and the US also have restrictions on the types of items that can be imported into the country. Be careful when making purchases overseas that you will be allowed to take these items home with you. For details regarding these restrictions, please visit the following websites:

Canada:

<https://travel.gc.ca/returning/customs/what-you-can-bring-home-to-canada>

US:

<https://www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/know-before-you-go/prohibited-and-restricted-items>

HEALTH AND PRESCRIPTION

Make sure your routine immunizations are up to date before travel.

TourMagination strongly recommends you contact your health provider or nearest

travel clinic to receive their latest immunization recommendations for your location of travel. They will have information on the latest requirements and suggestions for any given geographic area.

If your tour goes to higher altitudes, you should speak to your health provider on your risks involving altitude sickness. Those with high blood pressure or a heart condition should be particularly cautious. Your health provider can prescribe medication to assist with altitudes.

It is advisable to take along enough prescription medicine for the whole tour and to carry a prescription that lists both the generic and trade names of your drug(s). This is beneficial in case your medication is lost or stolen and avoids any misunderstanding if your medicines contain habit-forming drugs or narcotics. These safeguards could save you considerable trouble.

Bring a supply of commonly used medications. The most common health problems associated with travelling are diarrhea and upset stomach. Your pharmacist will be able to provide you with suggestions. It is important to carry your own medical kit with you.

OTHER ITEMS TO TAKE

Suggestions for a warm climate / time of year:

- Breathable clothing
- Sunglasses & hat
- Sunscreen with a SPF of 30 or more
- Layers for cooler evenings / air-conditioned indoor spaces



Suggestions for a cool climate / time of year:

- Warm clothes
- Waterproof coat / jacket
- Hat & gloves
- Umbrella

Other suggestions:

- Good walking shoes, suitable for the climate and terrain you will be in
- Reusable water bottle
- Camera with extra batteries
- Pen and journal
- Travel sewing kit
- Stain remover
- Washcloth

PHOTOGRAPHY

Standard courtesy always applies when taking photos. Please ask permission before photographing people and ask parents if you want to take a photo of children. Most people like having their picture taken. In some countries, taking pictures of military personnel, police, their equipment, and installations is prohibited. For reasons of physical safety, some people may prefer not to have their pictures taken. This is particularly true in politically sensitive situations.

PROTECTING YOURSELF

Guard against pickpockets. Never carry your wallet in your back pocket. An under-the-clothes money belt or pouch is advised for your cash. In crowded busy marketplaces, purse or wallet snatching is a distinct possibility. Keeping things safe in bags or pockets that are zipped or buttoned so no stranger can easily reach in is less hassle than replacing them.

Also, use common sense methods to guard against being targeted. Avoid pulling out and counting large amounts of cash in public places. Walk with others and in well-lit areas. Take your cues from your tour guide and leaders.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT IN A HOST COUNTRY

- Minimize garbage
- Be mindful not to waste food or water
- Be careful with resources such as toilet paper, paper towels, and other consumables
- Stay on paths in natural areas, and do not remove rocks, sticks, flowers or other natural items from their settings
- Respect wild animals. Keep your distance. Do not feed them

If you are concerned about the environmental impact of your flight for the tour, consider a donation to Mennonite Central Committee projects that help farmers adapt to climate change and feed their families:

US travellers may donate [here](#).

Canadian travellers may donate [here](#).

READING AND LISTENING

If you wish to make the most of your tour experience, you may consider preparing yourself by reading books and articles, watching videos, etc., about the places and the people you will visit. A list of suggested titles is provided by TourMagination for most tours to start you off.



Your leaders will provide you with valuable and interesting information as you travel. Please give them your full attention.

REQUESTS BY LOCALS

On your tour, you may be asked for help from a local. Some suggestions:

- Respond courteously without making any commitment in the moment. Say something like, “Let me check with my guide about that.”
- Consult someone who knows the local situation well, like your tour leader or local guide, about any requests you receive or gifts you feel moved to give.
- Let your presence and friendship be the gift to the people you meet rather than gifts of cash, personal belongings, or small items and candy for children.
- When we visit charitable projects, TourMagination will provide an opportunity to give a donation through trusted organizations that are aware of the local situation.

GUIDELINES TO CONSIDER AS YOU GO ON A GROUP TOUR

- Arrive with a genuine desire to learn about a culture. Listen and observe with open-hearted curiosity as you respectfully ask questions, taste novel foods, participate in new activities, and experience new ways of living.
- Be aware that people from other cultures may have different concepts of time and different thought patterns.

- Be mindful of how your words, tone, dress, and body language may impact others. Be careful not to cause or take offense.
- New experiences may challenge what you believe about yourself and the world. Reflect on your experiences to deepen your understanding. Respect the opinions of other tour members as they process their experiences too.

While travelling, things may not go as planned – service might be slow, lines could be long, or the culture and customs may seem very foreign. If you can accept these inconveniences with a sense of humour, graciousness, and a spirit of adventure, you are the kind of traveller who will be welcomed and appreciated, and who will have an enriching, never-to-be-forgotten experience.

A FINAL WORD

TourMagination wants to encourage positive connections within our tour groups and with the communities we are visiting. We know that there may be discussions on our tours that touch on political views. We ask that TourMagination travellers be respectful of the diversity of politics that make up our clients, and respectful of the politics within the country we are visiting.

Our desire is that discussions that touch on politics are viewed as opportunities for learning and understanding rather than promoting political viewpoints or speaking to the detriment of others.

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