

Smithsonian Associates Study Tours

Updated as of Oct. 4, 2021

Since our beginnings over 50 years ago, Smithsonian Associates has focused on providing *worry-free*, enriching, and enjoyable educational travel experiences. The well-being of our guests and staff members has always been our highest priority. The COVID-19 pandemic has posed new challenges but our commitment to these priorities remains unchanged.

We know the decision to join a group program is a personal one; each of us must determine our own comfort level. To help you make your decision, we have outlined below the health and safety measures we are taking across all facets of our in-person programs.

We have worked with the Smithsonian COVID-19 Task force to develop these measures, in accordance with CDC and Smithsonian guidelines as well as travel industry guidance. As the situation is fluid, we will be updating this document as we obtain any new information or guidance.

By registering for an in-person program, participants acknowledge they understand the risk factors involved in traveling during the pandemic and the preventative measures that are expected to be followed to mitigate exposure to COVID-19.

PRIOR TO YOUR STUDY TOUR

Preparing for your Study Tour

To help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience, all Smithsonian Associates participants will be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (with the final dose received at least 14 days prior to travel) and present proof of vaccination. These requirements apply for all Smithsonian Associates walking and bus tours unless otherwise specified.

All attendees will be required to show their vaccination card or a photo of their vaccination card along with a photo ID upon check-in at all programs. As a safeguard, we recommend you take a photo of your card in the event the card is misplaced or lost.

Smithsonian Associates Participants

In order to provide a safe experience for our guests, we also need your help. [By joining a tour, you agree to make the following commitments to health and safety:](#)

- *You will present proof of COVID-19 vaccination (with the final dose received at least 14 days prior to travel) if you are 12 years of age and above.*
- *You will take reasonable measures to reduce the risk of exposure and follow all CDC guidelines, prior to, and throughout your tour.*
- *You will wear a face mask on the bus, at indoor sites, and outside when not socially distanced (updated 9/15/21).*
- *You will conduct a self-health assessment prior to joining the group, and stay home if you are sick.*

Failure to comply with the safety and commitments during the tour may result in your being excluded from the tour.

Refund policy

During this time, we aim to be as flexible as possible. If you present any symptoms of COVID prior to the tour, are deemed a close contact with anyone testing positive for COVID-19, or have tested positive yourself, please let us know and we will transfer your payment to a future program. If you have tested positive in the month prior to the tour, please follow all guidelines set forth by your local health department as well as CDC guidelines.

FOR BUS TOURS

Upon Arrival

Our tour reps will have hand sanitizer available and a disposable mask for each participant. It is recommended that you bring a personal supply as well. The use of face masks on tour will be dictated by current CDC guidelines and local regulations.

NOTE: A KN95 mask is strongly recommended when traveling by bus or airplane. Please feel free to bring your own along, but in addition, we will have one KN95 mask for each individual on tour.

Ground Transportation

All transportation vehicles will be cleaned, and all surfaces sanitized prior to use, and each morning on multi-day tours. Masks are required at all time on board the motorcoach. Eating and drinking on the bus is prohibited; appropriate stops will be made for the comfort of the group. Tour motorcoach drivers are required to adhere to the same health and safety protocols as outlined for guests.

Meals

In the instance of group meals, Smithsonian Associates is carefully working with each establishment to ensure that mealtime is both a safe and enjoyable experience for our members. While specific measures may vary by location, we will use only establishments that have implemented and agree to maintain a high level of sanitation and cleanliness. Guests can also expect that some restaurants and sites may conduct contactless temperature checks or other protocols prior to entry.

Group Activities and Independent Time

Smithsonian Associates is dedicated to providing our participants with high quality group tour experiences. During this unique time, the structure and style of some of our activities may be altered to ensure your safety and well-being. These can include the timing and location of group activities, meals and free time. Each tour will have a detailed itinerary that outlines activities and timing.

While on your tour, you may have time for independent exploration and meals on your own. In the interest of ensuring the health and safety of all group members, both during and outside of scheduled tour activities, guests are required to follow these Smithsonian Associates Health & Safety

Protocols as well as local and CDC Guidelines intended to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

AFTER YOUR TOUR PROGRAM

Participants will be asked to inform Smithsonian Associates immediately if they develop COVID-19 symptoms within 14 days following the program. Participants agree to be contacted by Smithsonian for COVID-19 contact tracing efforts if necessary.