

Overseas Travel Packages



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Over 11,000 Scouts travel abroad from the United Kingdom each year to take part in camps, international events, exchanges, tours and expeditions. Some of these Scouts travel with commercial travel companies, or as part of a package organised by a Scout County, District or Group. This can be particularly valuable to groups venturing abroad for the first time, as the organisers of the package undertake most of the detailed planning and arrangements, including perhaps optional activities, excursions or other programme content.

Scout Leaders will, however, be looking for packages that provide opportunities for a real international experience, with a chance to explore the country being visited, and to meet some of its people. There is little point in travelling abroad to hold the same summer camp programme that could have been held nearer to home. The trip should offer members opportunities to progress in the Balanced Programme: during the preparation, the visit itself, and afterwards.

Your Assistant County/Area Commissioner (International) ACC/AAC(I) will be able to supply you with information on any opportunities organised by the County or Area and sometimes even nationally. This paper is intended to provide details of some commercial operators offering overseas travel packages, either specifically for Scout groups, or for general youth/school group travel. It is not exhaustive, and inclusion in this paper does not mean that the organisation is 'recommended' or 'approved' by The Scout Association.

Many of these organisations advertise in SCOUTING Magazine, to which you may wish to refer for current information. It is worth contacting local travel agents for information on local travel options. Internet searches are also useful but it is important to ensure that the website is both reputable and genuine. .

Your choice of package will depend on a number of factors such as the country and area you wish to visit, your budget, the type of programme that you wish to run, and the sort of accommodation that you want. You might ask your AAC/ACC(I) for details of groups which have travelled abroad recently and could pass on their experiences and recommendations. Some organisations provide opportunities for leaders to go on a reconnaissance visit, which can be very useful and is often considered a justifiable part of the budget. In keeping with POR, the party leader needs to be satisfied that the operator conducts adventurous activities in a safe, competent and qualified manner, and in accordance with the Activity Rules of The Scout Association.

It is important to check the booking conditions and terms of the operator. These will cover cancellations, payment schedules and other important information. You may also wish to check whether the organisation is a member of the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) or other appropriate Associations, such as STF (School Travel Forum) or carries an ATOL (Air Transport Operators Licence) qualification. The advantage of booking with ABTA agents is that your money is protected if the agent collapses.

The Scout Association

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General information on planning a visit abroad is available on FS260018 Thinking of Going Abroad. The TA (Travel Abroad) form, Insurance Information and a Checklist for groups going abroad are included in the Visits Abroad folder, available from your ACC/AAC(I). He or she will be able to give you advice and support as your plans progress.

Package Visits Abroad

JEKA Holidays Ltd*

Activity holidays throughout Europe for young people.

Tel: 0845 0944099

info@jeka.co.uk

www.jeka-groupholidays.co.uk

Venture Abroad*

Youth group coach packages to Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland, Disneyland Paris and to Centres throughout Europe and in Canada and New Zealand.

Tel: 01332 342050

www.ventureabroad.co.uk

JEKA and Venture Abroad have Partnership Agreements with the Scout Association

Discover Adventure Ltd

Specialises in fundraising trekking and cycling challenges

Tel: 01722 718444

info@discoveradventure.com

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Acorn Adventure

Tel: 0121 504 2042

info@acornadventure.co.uk

www.acorn-venture.com

Activity and skiing holidays and educational trips.

PGL Travel Ltd

A range of adventure courses for schools, youth groups and individual children in locations throughout UK, France and Spain.

Tel: 0844371 0101

www.pgl.co.uk

The Specialist Travel Consultancy Ltd

Providers of free, independent, expert advice for schools, Scout groups and individuals planning expeditions, adventure travel, cultural tours and project work.

Tel: 01392 660056

Web: www.thestc.co.uk

The Group Travel Company

Specialists in organising group travel to world-wide destinations.

Tel: 0845 671 0093

info@thegtc.co.uk

www.thegtc.co.uk

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STA Travel

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www.statravel.co.uk

Trailfinders

26 Travel Centres in UK and Ireland.

Worldwide Travel 020 73681200

www.trailfinders.com

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www.eurostar.com

Rail Europe

General Reservations 08448 484064

Brochure requests 08448 484055

www.raileurope.co.uk

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HostelWorld

www.hostelworld.com