



How to Be A Tourist, But Not Look Like A Tourist



Easy steps to “Blend In”

Discover all the tips and tricks to help you
have the best Youth Tour possible!

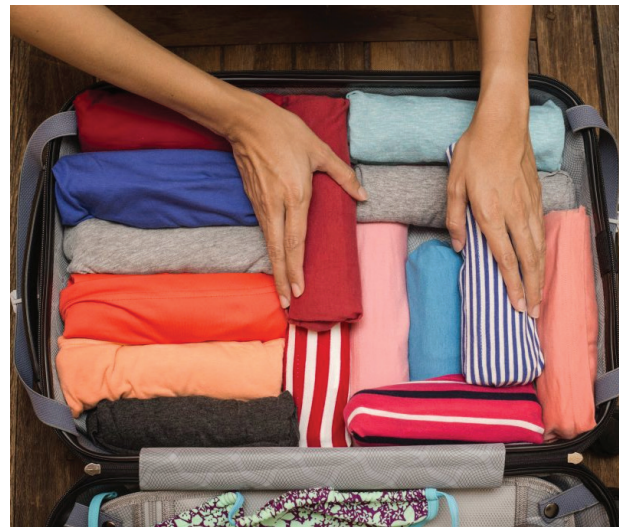
Read them, use them
and if you have any questions,
do not hesitate to ask!

Have a **WONDERFUL** Youth Tour!!

BEFORE WE LEAVE

How To Pack/ Travel Light

- * You are responsible for any luggage you bring, including carrying it with you (and you may have to walk long distances with it). Space may be limited, so pack accordingly.
- * Roll your clothes to save space.
- * Hotels will have towels, shampoo, soap, and hairdryers; no need to bring those unless necessary.
- * Leave high heels at home. Bring at least one pair of “sensible” shoes.



OUT & ABOUT IN D.C.

How to Cross the Street like a Champ:

- * Use crosswalks/walking signals - a MUST while in D.C.
- * Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Do not stare at your phone while crossing streets.
- * Traffic can be heavy where we tour in DC. Rarely are we able to get our entire group across the street in the time of one walk signal. Local traffic will not stop once the light turns green. Be patient.



Sidewalks:

- * Clear a path for fast walkers — do not block the entire width of the sidewalk while you are touring. Do your best to stay to the right.
- * Do not stop in the middle of the sidewalk.
- * Do not stare at your phone while walking.

Situational Awareness:

- * Keep your eyes open and pay attention to your surroundings, both for your safety and for any unexpected opportunities (like the Presidential motorcade).

Don't Talk to Strangers:

- * Despite how friendly people may be back home, you'll find that D.C. locals are running on tight schedules and do not typically have time for random conversations with tourists. However, be prepared to answer questions from other tourists about the Youth Tour program when people see your awesome tour shirts.

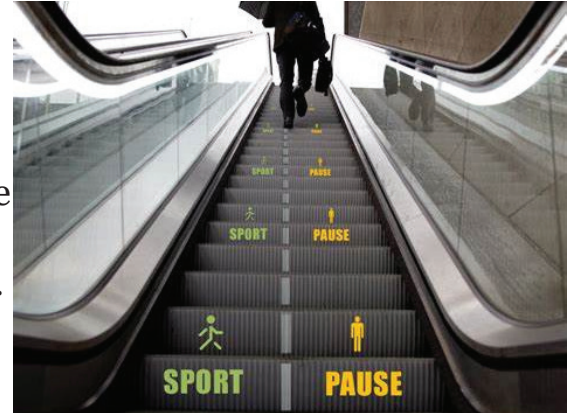
Don't Give Money to Panhandlers:

- * You will see a lot of homeless while we tour our nation's Capitol. For your safety, you are not permitted to strike up conversations or give anything, such as money or food, to those outside our group throughout the duration of Youth Tour. If you are approached, find a chaperone or a security officer for assistance.

IN THE HOTEL & OTHER VENUES

Escalators:

- * The tops and bottoms of the escalator are “No Stop Zones!” Keep moving and do not congregate there to avoid causing bottlenecks for those behind you.
- * Follow roadway driving rules: The right side of the escalator is for slower traffic and those who want to stand still; the left is for quicker/passing traffic.
- * Never sit on an escalator’s steps or handrails.
- * Locals will nudge you or ask you to move over if you are standing in the passing lane; if you are asked to move, be polite and step to the right.



Elevators:

- * Overfilling the elevators will lead to getting stuck with a lot of smelly teenagers who have been outside all day in hot D.C. weather.
- * Don’t press all the buttons - it is not fun for anyone.
- * Let the “normal” people on the elevator and let them stand near the doors so they can exit first.
- * For the most part, our travel groups are too large for everyone to cram into tiny elevators; be prepared to take the stairs and earn your daily steps.
- * When you can take the elevator, stand back and wait for others to get off before you try to get on.
- * No pushing or pulling of other Youth Tour students on or off the elevator.

Noise Level:

- * Please be mindful of non-Youth Tour people being on our hotel floors.
- * No slamming of hotel room doors.
- * No shouting down the hall.
- * No running in the halls.

**PLEASE
BE CONSIDERATE
AND
KEEP THE
NOISE LEVEL DOWN**

Pin Trading:

- * Do not clog walkways/escalators with pin trading.

TOURING ETIQUETTE 101

Phones:

- * Look up from your phone (or put it away) while touring.
- * Do not use the phone's "speaker" function.
- * Call your family at least once while on Youth Tour. 😍
- * Use headphones to listen to music — no one else wants to hear your tunes.

Moving as a Group:

- * Be considerate of others around you. If you need to stop to take a photo, answer a text, take a phone call, or trade pins, move off to the side of the path.
- * Do not hog the entire sidewalk or hallway. Leave a path for others to get by.
- * You may hear your chaperone call "Make a hole!" or "Move Over." This will be called when Youth Tour students need to clear a path. It means you need to get out of the way or move to the side immediately.



Monuments & Memorials:

- * Respect the monuments.
- * If you have gum, keep it in your mouth.
- * Put your phone on silent. Speak quietly.
- * Do not damage or sit on the monuments, plants or other property around the monuments.
- * No running, screaming, jumping or climbing at the monuments or memorials.
- * Keep your photos respectful. If you have questions, ask.

Money:

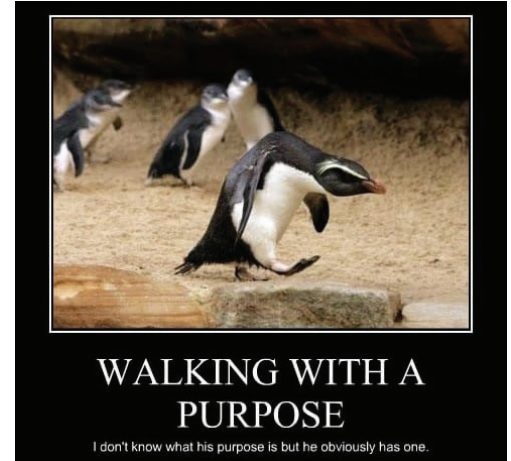
- * Keep your money in your pocket/bag/name badge holder.
- * Don't give money to panhandlers.
- * Pay attention to your surroundings.
- * Do not leave money out in your hotel room.

Security:

- * We will be going through security in many places throughout Youth Tour. To make sure we get our entire group through quickly and efficiently, be aware that you will be asked to take off belts, empty your pockets, and remove excessive jewelry. We ask that you leave all valuables at home.

Be Prepared to Cover a Distance:

- * While on Youth Tour, be prepared to cover many miles each day. Typically, we are walking outside in hot, humid weather. There's always a chance of rain. It's a good idea to have a good pair of tennis shoes/sneakers that are already broken in. It is not a good idea to break in a new pair of shoes on Youth Tour. It would be unfortunate if you couldn't enjoy Youth Tour because you have blisters on your feet.



Dress to Represent:

- * Don't wear cut-off jeans or ripped T-shirts when touring our nation's Capitol. Show respect for D.C. and properly represent your home state.

Travel Light (part 2):

- * When we are out touring, bring only your essentials for the day. Your essentials may include snack and souvenir money, medications/inhaler, personal items, phone, and your chaperones' phone numbers.
- * Many places we will visit do not allow bags or will have a line for bag checks.

If You Get Lost:

- * If you get lost or separated from the group, call your chaperones and stay in a safe, populated place. Most of the places we will tour will have security guards, and they will help you reconnect with your group.

TRAVEL LIFE-LESSONS

Be Polite:

- * Courtesy goes a long way. People in D.C. are used to unruly student groups, so we have worked very diligently to set our Youth Tour delegates (that's you) apart as student leaders. The rules we set and enforce have created a positive reputation. **You are expected to uphold that reputation.**
- * Be sure to thank your driver. Driving a bus in D.C. is a difficult job.
- * Remember your manners — politeness costs you nothing and gains you everything!

Be On Time:

- * Know the meeting times and locations for all events. Your chaperones will make those announcements, so pay attention.
- * Remember the adage, "If you're early, you're on time. If you're on time, you're late." Don't be *that* person who makes the entire group late.
- * This also goes for waking up in the morning. Your chaperones will **not** wake you up in the morning. You are expected to get yourself up each morning and be ready to go by the appointed time each day. Look out for your roommate and make sure you are both on time.



Your Stuff:

- * Leave all valuables at home.
- * Don't set down important items like your wallet, bag, phone, etc., and expect them to be there when you return. This is a city, not your hometown.
- * You are responsible for your own items at all times. Do not expect your chaperones to carry/watch your items for you.

We hope your Youth Tour journey is full of memories, new friendships and learning all about cooperatives!

Enjoy every minute of the trip!