

# Thinking of Going Abroad



Item Code FS260018 Jan/02 Edition no New Format 1

0845 300 1818

You may be considering taking a group of Scouts abroad, but are unsure of exactly what is involved in organising a trip. The following information provides an outline of the areas you will need to consider. It will help you to research your ideas and start your planning.

This is a working document. Spaces are provided for you to note your thoughts, outcomes of research and any actions required. Complete the form at the end of the factsheet to take you on to the next steps for a visit abroad.

## Aims and Objectives

Why are you thinking of going abroad? Before planning your trip you need to be clear of the purpose of your visit. What will the group gain from the experience? Travelling abroad is an exciting dimension of International Scouting and should be regarded as an opportunity to learn about another culture and to extend the horizons of the members of your group. You should therefore have a clear idea of what you hope to achieve through your visit.

So why are you thinking of going abroad? What will your group gain from the experience? What are your aims and objectives?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

.....  
.....  
.....

*Top tip: Most funding applications need you to state the aims and objectives of your trip!*

Your Assistant County/Area Commissioner International (ACC/AAC (I)) is available to support you in the research and preparations for going abroad. Please feel free to contact them at any time.

## Where would you like to go and for what type of International Experience?

There are many types of visit and opportunities available to Scout Groups going abroad. What type of experience fits your objectives? What do you and the young people in your group want to do when you are abroad? Your intended programme will help you to decide on the destination of your visit and other aspects of your planning.

Listed below are some of the many opportunities Scouting has to offer abroad:

- Events and Jamborees: Obtain a copy of the International Opportunities List from the Information Centre or [www.scoutbase.org.uk/international](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/international) or visit the World Scout Website at [www.scout.org](http://www.scout.org)
- Campsites: Obtain a copy of "Where to Stay in Europe" from the Information Centre or [www.scout.org/europe](http://www.scout.org/europe) Find out more about Kandersteg International Scout Centre [www.kisc.ch](http://www.kisc.ch) or [reception@world.scout.org](mailto:reception@world.scout.org)

## The Scout Information Centre

Gilwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103 email [info.centre@scout.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scout.org.uk) [www.scoutbase.org.uk](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk)

- Community Projects: Speak to the International Office, obtain a copy of BP260009 and look at the International Friendship Award FS140300
- Explorer Belt Award: Find out more from your District Explorer Scout Commissioner and County/Area Scout Network Commissioner or contact the Explorer Belt Network through the International Office.
- Exchanges/Linking up with Scouts abroad: Find out about the International Links Scheme FS260002, your local Town Twinning Association or District and County/Area Contacts.
- Packages: A number of Companies organise packages for Scout Groups taking the hassle out of booking transport and accommodation. Full details can be found on FS260007. In particular, the Association has worked closely with Venture Abroad on Scout Packages Abroad. [www.ventureabroad.co.uk](http://www.ventureabroad.co.uk)
- Day Trips: Remember these are still a visit abroad!
- Individuals may be interested in spending the summer months as participants on the International Camp Staff Programme in the USA or the European Scout Voluntary Programme which involves working on Scout Campsites across Europe. Contact the Information Centre or the International Office for more information.

Notes.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

Other sources of information:

- Country Support Packs are available on France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Poland.

- The Poland, Russia and Uganda Networks support visits to those countries and organise nationally co-ordinated events. Contact them through the International Office or [www.scoutbase.org.uk/international](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/international)
- Your ACC/AAC (I) will be able to put you in touch with people from your County/Area who have organised similar trips abroad in the past.
- FS260003 contains details of the main National Tourist Offices and other sources of information.

*Top tip: All factsheets are available from the Information Centre or*

[www.scoutbase.org.uk/trading/resource/index/html](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/trading/resource/index/html)

**Programme – Please remember**

- Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) applies equally when you are abroad. Please check the requirements for every activity in your proposed programme and in particular adventurous activities and the use of professional centres. Where necessary upgrade your authorisation. Your ACC/AAC (Activities) is available for advice and support.
- Home hospitality: FS260021 gives guidelines on organising safe and enjoyable home stays.
- Meeting local Scouts: Please make contact early, be clear about your expectations of the meeting and make the most of the experience.
- Making contact: If you have no contacts through the International Links Scheme, International Jamborees, Twinning or through your District or County/Area, your ACC/AAC (I) will forward a letter to the Country you wish to visit within Europe. For countries further afield a letter can be forwarded by the International Office. (Please note this method does not always result in success)
- Camping regulations: For details of regulations affecting camping in France see FS260020.
- Service projects: The Marrakech Charter gives guidance about how projects are

conducted between Associations or organisations. A service project must be on the basis of a real partnership.

- Please remember there is a difference between a trip abroad and an International experience. What will you be doing to make sure that your group benefits from learning about the culture and people of the country you are visiting?

FS260022 will give you some ideas on preparing young people to abroad. Integrate the ideas into your programme so that everyone can benefit.

*Programme Checklist*.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

**How are you going to get there?**

A range of options are available.

- Rail – contact British Rail International, the national railway in the Country you are visiting or specialist youth rail operators for information.
- Air – this option has become more favourable with the increase in low cost airlines. Some airlines have youth fares. Key Travel has special deals with some airlines for charitable organisations. Contact them on 020 7255 4000 or [www.keytravel.co.uk](http://www.keytravel.co.uk)
- Coach – make sure you look into reputable companies with back up facilities. When enquiring about costs remember you may have to pay for the driver’s accommodation and food during the visit.
- Minibuses – for information on the regulations governing the driving of minibuses abroad see FS260008

You may wish to make your own arrangements or use the services of a travel agent. If you use a travel agent, you should be sure to contact a reputable travel agency (ABTA member); there is

also a trade association for specialists in the school and group travel field (SAGTA). You should shop around and compare quotes. Don’t be afraid to look for special deals and ask about special fares for groups and young people.

*Top tip: Always get a range of quotes —you may be surprised!*

*Travel options and quotes*.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

**Budget and funding**

Any ideas and plans that you may have need to be appropriate to the amount that the young people and parents in your group can afford.

Your budget needs to include:

- Cost of travel
- Activities
- Camp/Accommodation fees
- Food
- Contingency
- Insurance

Don’t forget administration costs, maps and guides and a possible pre visit.

Plan your budget on the worse case scenario. Any fundraising will then be a bonus.

You will eventually need to work out a payment schedule: When do you need the money? How much do you need when?

*Notes*.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

.....  
.....  
.....

A visit abroad is a great opportunity to make your Scout Group known in your local community. It is also an opportunity to obtain financial support, through sponsorship and other means, from members of the community. See BP260006 for more information. Remember to take care in preparing good applications for grants.

*Who can I approach for funding?.....*  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**What happens next?**

Contact your ACC/AAC (I) for a Visits Abroad Folder.

Complete the slip on page 5 of this factsheet. Please give as much information as you can on your plans so that they can support you in your preparations. If you need information and advice on particular issues don't hesitate to let them know.

If you do not know who your ACC/AAC (I) is please contact the International Office at Gilwell Park, Chingford, London E4 7QW  
Telephone:020 8433 7100 Fax:020 8433 7114  
Email: [international@scout.org.uk](mailto:international@scout.org.uk)



Date:

To: Assistant County/Area Commissioner (International).....

Please send me a Visits Abroad Folder. I am interested in visiting (*country & type of experience*)

.....

Proposed dates of visit:.....

The aim and objectives of our visit are (*brief description*) .....

.....

.....

.....

I would like any information and advice you can give me in particular on the following: .....

.....

.....

.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone numbers.....

.....

Email.....

Appointment.....

Scout Group.....

District.....

Please return to your ACC/AAC (I)