



Our goal is to ensure each traveler has an enjoyable, culturally enriching, educational, and fun tour with a minimum of hassles or worries.

Part of making a tour a success is setting realistic expectations. We do our best to describe the hotels we use, the people who go on our tours, what's included/not included, what our tour leaders and guides do, physical demands of a tour, what the itinerary is like, how we do business, and what we do to prepare each traveler.

## **This is what you can expect on a Traveling Professor Tour:**

### **Hotels**

- Clean, comfortable, and quiet accommodations.
- Hotels are highly rated and travelers are encouraged to read reviews on sources such as [www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com).
- Centrally located near attractions, transportation, restaurants, and shopping. They are in neighborhoods where travelers feel comfortable walking around, day or night. In Europe, they are generally family-run hotels offering exceptional hospitality. Hotels in Peru are modern offering all the amenities you would expect at home.
- Each room has a private bathroom.
- For tours in hot weather months, hotels have AC.
- Single, double/twin, and sometimes triple rooms are available.
- All have elevators, however, it may be necessary to walk and/or carry luggage up a flight or two of stairs on occasion.
- Breakfast is included.
- Nearly all rooms have hair dryers. If there is not a hair dryer in a room, one will be provided.
- European hotels are smaller than what we are used to here in North America.
- All rooms are designated as non-smoking.
- All hotels have Internet access.
- Examples of hotels we use:
  - **Paris:** Hotel des Grands Balcons, Hotel Belloy
  - **Italy:** Hotel Nord (Rome), Hotel Casci (Florence), Hotel Guelfo Bianco (Florence), Hotel al Piave (Venice), Hotel Belludi 37 (Padua), Palazzo Jannuzzi (Sorrento)
  - **Peru:** El Mapi (Aguas Calientes), El Tambo (Lima), Terra Andina (Cusco), Reserva Amazónica (Amazon; has limited internet and cell phone access)

### **Who Goes on Our Tours**

- Europe tours consist of about 12 adult travelers. Peru trips may have a few more. Travelers come from all over the United States, Canada, and sometimes beyond.
- Ambitious travelers who want to see and do a lot. This is NOT a bus tour where we take you from location to location on a bus driver's schedule. In Europe public transportation moves us around the city quickly and efficiently at OUR pace and schedule.
- Although each tour is different, most travelers are between the ages of 40 to early 70's. About half are solo travelers, others have a travel partner. Peru tours tend to be a little younger with more single travelers. We don't take anyone under age 25 with us. Our travelers like the social aspect of traveling with a small group of like-minded people and get along with others.
- The Professor prefers to talk/email or meet everyone who goes on our tours to make sure it is right for them.
- If you have a group of eight or more, a private tour can be arranged.

### **Insurance**

- Travelers are strongly advised to have international health and emergency evacuation coverage
- Trip cancellation/interruption insurance is advised but not necessary

### **What's Included**

- Knowledgeable and experienced tour leaders accompanying the group from start to finish.
- Licensed, authorized, expert guides. They are personable and knowledgeable.
- Lodging and all breakfasts. On some tours lunches and dinners are included.
- All local transportation (bus, rail, small van). Transportation for day trips outside of the city as specified on the itinerary.

- VIP admissions as specified on itinerary. In nearly all cases museum admissions are “no wait in line, no appointment needed”. We also provide admission for many attractions not on itinerary.
- Private limo/van pickup from the airport in the city the tour begins (Paris, Ireland, Italy, Peru only)
- Daily itinerary and trip planning/preparation. All travelers are well-prepared.
- We take care of just about everything except personal expenses.
- Personal service from The Traveling Professor before, during, and after the tour.

#### **What’s Not Included**

- Meals not specified on the itinerary.
- International airfare or airfare not specified on itinerary.
- Personal expenses.
- Travel insurance.
- Transportation not specified on the itinerary.

#### **Tour Activity Level**

- Our tours are for ambitious, healthy and physically capable travelers. We like to be on time and ready to go. We want everyone to be happy with an active pace. Healthy and mobile travelers should have no problem keeping up with the pace. Those with health issues limiting mobility will probably not enjoy The Traveling Professor tours.
- There can be as much as 5 miles walking per day, up and down stairs, along cobblestone streets and uneven surfaces.
- Please consult with your medical professional if you have any type of physical condition that may impact on or interfere with tour participation. On Peru tours, travelers may wish to consult with a physician to determine if altitudes (up to 13,000 feet) are appropriate for them. We sometimes climb steep, rocky walkways in Peru.
- Travelers are expected to carry their own bags without assistance. Pack light.
- On Europe tours, after an orientation by the tour leader, travelers should be able to use public transportation on their own if needed.
- Although it varies, on European tours we start at about 9:30 each day and like to program about 4-6 or so hours of guided touring including a break for lunch. In Peru, we usually start earlier and may have longer touring days.

#### **Guides and Tour Leaders**

- Tours leaders are with the group 24/7 staying in the same hotel. They know the ins-and –outs of the city including restaurants, how to get around, shopping, where the pharmacy or laundromat is, even where to get your shirt pressed. Their primary responsibilities:
  - Welcome and greet travelers at the hotel.
  - Provide general and practical information about the city we are visiting.
  - Conduct an orientation at the commencement of each tour.
  - Keep the group on pace, on schedule and lead the daily itinerary.
  - Take care of details such as tickets and tours. Leave the planning and worrying to our tour leaders. They do all the work to ensure the trip goes smoothly.
  - Arrange for group dinners.
  - Handle issues that may arise in scheduling, disruptions in the itinerary, lost passports, etc.
  - Help and advise those wishing to plan their own daily touring activities.
  - Tour leaders are generally available from breakfast to about 9:30 pm. Of course they are available in case of an emergency anytime.
- Tour Guides are licensed professionals with in-depth knowledge of the tour they are conducting. They greatly enhance the travel experience with their expert commentary and local knowledge. All of our professional guides are personable and welcome your questions. We feel our professional tour guides separate our tours from the rest.

#### **Daily Itinerary**

- Before each European tour, questionnaires are distributed to each traveler regarding preferences. A customized itinerary is distributed to travelers about 2-3 weeks before the trip.
- No one likes to wait around for latecomers. We like to begin on time. If you are not there at the scheduled time for an activity, we assume you choose to go on your own for that activity.
- If you choose to do an activity on your own for the day, our tour leader will be happy to help with those plans.
- Sometimes itineraries need to be adjusted for severe weather, unexpected closures, labor actions, safety, or for unanticipated reasons. We do our absolute best to deliver the itinerary we design for you.

### **How We Prepare Each Traveler**

- We advise travelers on weather, how to get to the hotel, packing lists, dangers and warnings, local customs, money matters, and just about everything else that can be reasonably expected on a tour. Each traveler is well-prepared for their journey. We are here to help you before, during, and after the tour.
- Although international airfares are not included, we are happy to advise on air travel. The best site for air travel planning is [www.itasoftware.com](http://www.itasoftware.com)

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## **Deposits, Payments and Refunds**

- Payments and deposits are made to **TRAVELING PROFESSOR LLC**. Mailing address is TRAVELING PROFESSOR, PO BOX 747, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230. Email is info@travelingprofessor.com.
- A deposit secures a place on a tour and guarantees the price of the tour at the time the deposit is made. The amount of deposit is applied towards the cost of the trip. Usually, a deposit of \$200 per person is requested for Europe tours, \$300 for Peru tours.
- Payments are usually requested about 60 days before the commencement of a European tour, 75 days before a Peru tour. Detailed statements are prepared and sent to travelers via email.
- Payments and deposits may be made by check, cash, wire transfer, and PayPal transfer. If paying by credit card, the surcharge by the credit card company (usually about 3.5%) is added.
- Deposits are fully refundable, no questions asked, up to 65 days before the start date of Europe tours, 75 days for Peru tours. Within 65 days of a European tour and 75 days of a Peru tour, deposits and payments are fully refundable if other travelers from the wait list replace your canceled space on the tour. If a wait list replacement traveler cannot be found, the deposit may be applied to any available tour in the current or following year.
- If a cancellation is made within 10 days of a European tour (50 days of a Peru tour), payments will be refunded fully minus any non-refundable expenses (usually airfare in Peru, hotel cancellation penalties, non-refundable train tickets, and other non-refundable expenses) The Traveling Professor has incurred.
- Refunds are prompt, usually within 7 business days of cancellation.
- Any fees charged by banks or PayPal cannot be refunded.

## **When Do We Know if a Trip is a “Go” or if it is Cancelled?**

- Before a trip is confirmed as a “go”, travelers are advised not to purchase non-refundable airfare.
- As soon as 8 people are confirmed with a deposit paid, the trip is a “go” and travelers will be notified by email.
- If we do not have at least 8 travelers confirmed with a deposit 60 days before a Europe trip, 75 days before a Peru trip, the trip will probably be cancelled and all deposits and payments are refunded in full.
- A wait list is established when tours reach capacity.

## **About The Traveling Professor**

- Communication between The Traveling Professor and travelers is primarily done via email and telephone. Professor Solosky also has opportunities to meet with travelers at trade shows, speaking engagements, and through his frequent travel in the United States.
- The Traveling Professor carries tour operator’s insurance.
- Professor Solosky’s philosophy is to provide an outstanding travel experience combined with an unsurpassed level of personal service at an affordable price.

## **Privacy**

- In some cases The Traveling Professor will need copies of passports or drivers licenses or other similar documents to purchase tickets or make reservations on the traveler’s behalf. This information is only shared with appropriate parties directly involved in making those travel arrangements. After a tour is complete, The Traveling Professor destroys any such documents in paper and/or digital format in his possession.
- Traveler email addresses are shared with others travelers only with the e-mail owner’s permission.