

Informed Consent to Travel During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and Agreement to Adhere to Academic Travel Abroad's Traveler Health & Safety Protocols

You are considering travel during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that is spread mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets and particles including airborne and aerosol transmission produced by infected people, including those who may be asymptomatic.

COVID-19 vaccinations are being widely administered across the world, and data has shown that they are highly effective at minimizing hospitalizations. However, they are not 100% effective against breakthrough infections, which can be severe in some cases.

Because the level of transmission of COVID-19 in France, Germany, and Belgium is very high according to CDC metrics (more than 100 infections per 100,000 inhabitants over a 28-day period), the United States Department of State has issued a Level 4 Travel Advisory (Do Not Travel) for France, Germany, and Belgium. Read more about France, Germany, and Belgium Travel Advisory on the [State Department's website](#). For medical and health information, we recommend reviewing the [Centers for Disease Control's Travel Recommendations](#). Academic Travel Abroad (ATA) assumes no responsibility for and shall not be liable for unsafe conditions or health hazards including pandemics or other illnesses.

Full Vaccination Status and other Requirements for Participation

This tour will include only individuals who voluntarily choose to participate. Everyone has their own acceptable level of risk, and the decision to travel is a highly personal one. Academic Travel Abroad has put in place preventative measures that adhere to the World Travel and Tourism Council's Safe Travel program to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We are vetting our hotels, restaurants, transportation companies and site visits for enhanced physical distancing and sanitation procedures; training our tour staff on COVID-19 emergency procedures; and monitoring the medical resources of the places we visit. Furthermore, we are **requiring that all travelers be fully vaccinated against COVID-19** and requiring that all local staff be vaccinated. In return, we are asking our travelers to take responsibility for understanding immigration requirements for entry into France, Germany, and Belgium and upon return home; and for protecting their own safety, that of the group, and of the local communities we visit by adhering to state and local guidelines. To reiterate, **it is your responsibility to know and understand the latest travel information regarding COVID-19 and your risk of becoming infected or being placed in quarantine while traveling. Please take your time to read through Academic Travel Abroad's Traveler Health & Safety Protocols below. To protect your fellow travelers, if you fail to comply with the tour requirements, you will be excluded from the group tour.**

Traveler Health & Safety Protocols

A. Pre-Tour Requirements

All group members will be required to be up-to-date with a full vaccination dosage two weeks or more prior to departure. Travelers will be required to show proof of vaccination to the Tour Manager at the first group gathering of the program. Failure to be fully vaccinated or to show proof of vaccination at the beginning of the tour will result in your being excluded from the group tour.

Travelers are responsible for knowing the immigration requirements for entry into France, Germany, and Belgium. Travelers understand that entry or exit requirements may change during the course of their travels. Academic Travel Abroad bears no responsibility for COVID-19-related requirements that travel suppliers or governments may impose such as health affidavit forms, health screenings prior to departure or upon arrival,

or quarantines. Academic Travel Abroad is not responsible for covering the costs of testing requirements or costs associated with quarantines or lockdowns.

B. On-Tour Requirements:

Physical Distancing & Face Masks

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), limiting face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of COVID-19. When in crowded enclosed settings, wearing a face covering will be required on tour. Our group will follow all local regulations, and any traveler who refuses to comply will be asked to leave the trip. There will be no refunds for the unused portion of their trip.

Infection Protocols

During the tour, anyone with a temperature of 100.4 degrees (F) or higher will be required to separate from the group until a negative COVID-19 test is produced. Tour staff will assist travelers in obtaining the necessary testing, but the cost of testing will be at the traveler's expense. Any additional costs associated with medical treatment for COVID-19 during the trip will be the traveler's sole responsibility. Travelers should have access to adequate financial resources should hospitalization occur.

Any traveler who tests positive for COVID-19 during the tour must leave the group and isolate themselves for the full amount of time recommended by local health officials. In the event of an infection among the group, the entire group may also be required to quarantine. Travelers must agree to follow the recommendations of local health professionals regarding quarantining as a result of contracting or being exposed to COVID-19. The tour will not continue until the group has been given clearance by a local health professional to proceed.

Every effort will be made to recoup monies for any unused portion of a quarantined traveler's trip, but refunds cannot be guaranteed and are unlikely. Any additional hotel and meal costs associated with quarantine will be the traveler's responsibility. For this reason, **WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE ALL TRAVELERS TO PURCHASE A TRIP INSURANCE POLICY THAT INCLUDES QUARANTINE AS PART OF ITS TRIP INTERRUPTION COVERAGE AS WELL AS ROBUST MEDICAL COVERAGE FOR SICKNESS WHILE TRAVELING.** Please be aware that some trip insurance policies exclude coverage during epidemics or pandemics, especially when travel warnings are in place.

Flexible Cancellation Policy

If you prefer not to travel at this time, you may receive a full refund of any payment made up until 60 days prior to departure of this trip. Alternatively, you may transfer your full payment, at no penalty, to another First Division Museum that departs by December 31, 2023. If you do choose to travel, you are doing so with full knowledge of current travel requirements and take full responsibility for your actions.

AS A CONDITION OF ACCEPTANCE OF ANY APPLICATION, EACH APPLICANT MUST AGREE TO THE STATEMENT SET FORTH BELOW:

The undersigned has read carefully the **Informed Consent to Travel During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and Agreement to Adhere to Academic Travel Abroad's Traveler Health & Safety Protocols** set forth above, the schedule of activities for this trip, as well as the terms and conditions of application and participation as set forth (in the trip brochure(s)/ on the trip web page), and recognizes and accepts the special risks associated with travel during the coronavirus outbreak, the trip and conditions, including vaccination requirements and quarantine policies. The undersigned further understands that the Department of State has issued a Level 4 Travel Advisory (Do Not Travel) for France, Germany, and Belgium and accepts the special risks associated with traveling to France, Germany, and Belgium during the coronavirus outbreak. The undersigned further acknowledges, consents to, accepts and assumes the risks stated herein and behalf of himself/herself, his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns,

hereby waives, releases and discharges First Division Museum and Academic travel abroad, its directors, shareholders, employees, and agents, (collectively, Releasees) from liability, claims, demands, injuries, damages, consequential or indirect damages, actions or causes of action for personal injury, death, property damage or loss suffered by any person in connection with this trip, even if caused by the active and passive negligence or omission of trip staff, suppliers, or other related persons or entities, and further indemnifies holds harmless and promises not to sue the Releasees from any and all liabilities or claims made as a result of participation in this activity, whether caused by the negligence of a Releasee or otherwise. In addition, by registering for this trip, the applicant certifies that he or she is mentally and physically capable of full participation in this trip, and has no symptoms of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), and will notify Academic Travel Abroad if COVID-19-related symptoms develop prior to the trip's departure.

Academic Travel Abroad, Inc. is incorporated in the District of Columbia. All matters related to or arising out of this Agreement shall be governed by District of Columbia law and any legal dispute shall be determined by a state or federal court located in the District of Columbia to which the Parties expressly consent to venue and personal jurisdiction.

If any term of this Agreement is to any extent invalid, illegal, or incapable of being enforced, such term shall be excluded to the extent of such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability; all other terms hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

By registering for a First Division Museum program, the participant agrees to the **Informed Consent to Travel During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and Agreement to Adhere to Academic Travel Abroad's Traveler Health & Safety Protocols** and that the participant acknowledges that he/she has carefully read this paragraph and fully understands that this is a waiver and release of liability.

Date

Signature