

SUGGESTIONS FOR SPECIFIC DESTINATIONS

1. SOME “SWISS SUGGESTIONS”

- Buy your train tickets in advance to save valuable time when you are due to catch the train.
- Be on **TIME**– European trains are always on schedule.
- Arrange ahead of time with Our Chalet to have your luggage transported to the Chalet upon your arrival. The walk up to Our Chalet is a tradition you don't want to miss!
- Carry a water bottle. Most travellers do this in Europe as soft drinks are very expensive.

2. ENGLAND ANYONE?

- If you are planning to visit England and would like to attend the Changing of the Guard ceremony behind the gates at Buckingham Palace, be sure to write to the following address with your request and the dates you would like to attend:

The Girl Guides Association
17–19 Buckingham Palace Road
London, England, SW1W OPT

You will receive a form to fill in with three choices of dates. Once your request has been approved you will receive a pass letter to show to the policemen at the gates of Buckingham Palace and they will let you in. Cameras are not allowed within the Palace gates, so they must stay safely out of sight in your travel bags.

- Britain has a wealth of beautiful Guiding centres where you can stay. Most of them provide meals and accommodation. Some also offer self-catering apartments or flats.
- Pax Lodge can be utilized as a base for sightseeing. If not registering for one of their program sessions, you will have to plan your own itinerary while in Britain or use the services of a commercial tour agency. Check out their website for any upcoming event that might appeal to your group. <http://paxlodge.org/>
- Staying at these places means you will have to plan your transportation needs, i.e., driving a mini van yourself or hiring a coach and driver. Most places are close to public transportation and trains. **CHECK FIRST.**

3. GROUP TRAVEL TO OTHER PROVINCES OR THE U.S.A.

- Although we have mainly concentrated on independent trips to countries other than Canada and the U.S.A., many of the suggestions apply to any trip, anywhere. Some groups would rather make their first independent trip here within Canada or maybe to the United States. The only difference is there may not be as much extra information needed when travelling in Canada (refer to *Safe Guide 2008 – Activity Level Red*); U.S.A. (refer to *Safe Guide 2008 – International Travel Planner*). Also, travelling in Canada and the United States may make everyone on the trip feel a little more comfortable as they may be more familiar with their surroundings.
- For information on where to stay, write to the Tourist Board or Convention & Visitors Association for whichever Province or State you wish to visit. We also have some addresses included in our “Address List” for various “Guide Houses” throughout Canada. See appendix
- Be sure to check and see what travel documents you may require. It is still recommended that you have a passport for each person travelling, even to cross to the United States. **Note: passports will be required for all travel to the U.S.A. as of June 2009.** If you have girls in your Units that travel on passports other than Canadian ones, you will want to pay special attention to the regulations.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SPECIFIC DESTINATIONS (CONT'D.)

4. INVITATIONS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

- Occasionally invitations from other countries are received by the Girl Guides of Canada's International Commissioner. These invitations, if not accepted Nationally, are circulated throughout the country. Check the National and Ontario Girl Guide websites for more information about these events.

5. SOME SUGGESTIONS VALID FOR ANY COUNTRY

- **Always** carry sanitary supplies in your hand luggage. The flight may do funny things to your cycle.
- If you **must** take a hair dryer or curling iron, make sure you get a plug adapter and/or converter for that country. Check that your appliances will convert. If possible everyone should share the converter.
- **Pay toilets** - Yes, they are out there! Have change on hand. Please do not cheat by holding the door open for fellow travellers; it is really frowned upon as this money pays an attendant to keep the bathrooms clean and tidy for **US**. Plus remember you are representing Girl Guides of Canada. In some countries, once the toilet has been used, the walls are automatically washed down, so the next 'visitor' will get wet if they try to enter without paying for their turn.
- **Always check** to see what can be taken on the airplane and what must be placed in the luggage. Here is the website for Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada which has information about travelling. http://www.voyage.gc.ca/consular_home-en.asp