

COVID Prevention on USA Tours

Everyone's safety (and their concerns about safety) are paramount. While we cannot completely eliminate the risk, we are taking every reasonable precaution to mitigate risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 among the group and the folks we encounter along the way. Please note:

- **Pre-tour:** Out of respect and concern for the safety of other travelers, our staff and the general public we ask that you follow best practices to minimize your risk at least 14 days prior to the tour (in short: avoiding close contact with anyone outside your bubble, especially anything unmasked and indoors). We also will ask ~48 hours prior to the tour if you have any COVID symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has COVID. If you have, we will cancel you off the trip and do our best to recover as much cost as we can from our vendors. As refunds may not always be possible we highly recommend you take out insurance that would cover you if you have to cancel due to you (or a family member or traveling companion) contracting COVID.
- **Testing:** We do not require a pre-trip COVID test for participation as it can lead to a false sense of security (to be meaningful enough to relax restrictions on tour it still must be accompanied by very limited behavior prior to the trip). Our approach is to assume folks could have it and be asymptomatic to ensure everyone adheres to distancing and masking procedures on tour.
- **Hygiene:** Everyone must have their own mask and should bring individual containers of hand sanitizer for their personal use (we will have some in the van). If anyone is feeling unwell and showing symptoms of COVID during the tour they must notify the guide and remain isolated while a diagnosis is made. Black Sheep Adventures is not responsible for the cost related to medical treatment or isolation.
- **Transfers:** We require face covering while shuttling and are limiting the group size to have no more than two people per bench. We will roll down the front two windows on the van to get fresh air as much as reasonable. The guide will regularly sanitize the common touch points (handles, seat belt buckles, etc).
- **Hiking:** Everyone needs to have a face covering with them while hiking for use when we are stopped should you need to be in close proximity to other people or use restrooms. If the trail usage dictates, we will require masks while hiking.
- **Biking:** Everyone needs to have a face covering with them while riding for use when we are stopped should you need to be around other people or need to go indoors (at stores/bathrooms).
- **Dining:** At all restaurant meals we are planning to dine together outside on patios generally at tables no larger than 6 people. Should dining outside not be an option we will allow guests to dine independently so they can make the individual decision whether or not to dine indoors or get takeout to enjoy in their rooms. For our picnic lunches, the guide will serve the food from the table rather than having everyone serve themselves.
- **Hotels:** We are not pairing roommates as long as COVID transmission risk remains so we are subsidizing the single supplement to make the trip accessible to those who would have normally shared a room. If you have a friend that you wish to share a room with we will still allow this.