This page offers a summary of the approval process, terminology used and key things to remember. Documents referred to here can be downloaded from https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/programme-guidance/international-scouts-and-events/going-abroad-with-scouting/ or obtained from your County Programme Team.

* Read [POR Rule 9.3 Visits Abroad](http://www.scouts.org.uk/por) – this rule must be followed when planning your visit abroad.
* TSA Definition of a Visit Abroad:
* ‘Any visit outside the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man on a recognised and approved Scouting activity or travelling in the name of the Scouts. This applies to youth and adult members, and non-members.’ (Clarification for Members in Northern Ireland and British Scouting Overseas can be found in POR rule 9.3)
* Visits Abroad Recommender refers to the County Programme Team Member who has undergone the relevant accreditation to support the Visit Abroad process and recommend Visits Abroad for approval or rejection.
* Gain outline approval for your Visit Abroad by submitting the VA Form to your Visits Abroad Approver as you begin planning. Outline approval allows your County Programme Team to support you in the planning of your trip as early as possible and help link you up with as much help as you need.
* Form a planning team for the visit and assign roles.
* Develop a budget early on to set realistic expectation on costs for participants.
* Consider applying for the [International Fund](https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-things-locally/grants-and-funds-for-your-local-group/grants-from-ukhq/international-fund-for-non-ukc-events/) to support costs for participants on low incomes.
* Involve young people in the planning of the visit where appropriate and possible, especially in the planning of programme and development of risk assessments.
* Make sure your group has all the permits and extensions required for your trip (eg. [nights away](https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/nights-away-and-camping/nights-away-permit-scheme/) and [activity](https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/programme-guidance/information-for-volunteers/activity-permit-scheme/)).
* Make sure your Visits Abroad Recommender notifies the National Scout Organisation of your Host Country about your visit, this is useful in case you need any support before you go or during your visit.
* All members of the group will require a passport. Group passports are not recommended.
* Investigate the travel advice for the country you are visiting and find out whether you need a visa by looking at [the Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-development-office) website.
* Ensure your whole group has travel insurance which covers all planned activities for the trip. [Unity](https://www.unityinsuranceservices.co.uk/scout-insurance/travel) can advise on this.
* Consider how you will communicate with parents, some pre-visit meetings often help answer questions alleviate concerns.
* Use the [In Touch Process](https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/intouch/) to plan how you will communicate on the trip, assign an emergency contact and develop an [incident management plan](https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/international-scouts-and-events/going-abroad-with-scouting/planning-for-incidents-and-treatments-abroad/).
* Spend time with your emergency contact to ensure they understand the visit and have all the necessary information (eg. copies of passports, incident management plan, risk assessment for the visit, copies of consent forms, final itinerary, travel details, health forms, insurance summary, emergency contact list for all participants)
* International Letter of Introduction cards confirm you are a member of World Scouting, you can obtain these from your County Programme Team.
* Sharing your experience when you return allows other groups and sections to learn from your trip and gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to plan their own international adventures e.g. present your adventure to younger sections through games and activities.

**Visit Abroad Process**

**DATA PROTECTION:** This form is used to collect information about you and your team for the purpose of approving visit abroad, this is to be used by your County Programme Team. This data is also shared through a secure online form with UK Headquarters for the purposes of offering emergency support and for statistical purposes. As part of this form we collect personal data about you and your team, this detail is required so that we can check that everyone meets the membership and vetting requirements for the event and that appropriate permit holders are in place. We the information provided with the host National Scout Organisation in order for them to provide assistance if required. We take your personal data privacy seriously. The personal data you provide to us is securely stored (based on local arrangements) and we will keep the data we capture from this form for 6 months after the event for any queries that arise then it will be securely destroyed. Other data will be retained as a historical record.

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| **Visits Abroad Form – Part A**  **Part A** of this form should be filled out and submitted to your Visits Abroad Recommender as soon **as you begin planning** your trip to gain outline approval to continue planning, even if your exact plans are subject to change.  **Part A** should be accompanied by a statement outlining the aims, objectives and proposed programme.  **Keep this form as one document.** This form will be added to and amended throughout your planning with **Part A and B updated** andsubmitted for final approval at least 6 weeks before departure. Ensure you have read the [**Going abroad with Scouting**](https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/programme-guidance/international-scouts-and-events/going-abroad-with-scouting/) **guidance** before completing this form and re-visit throughout your planning. | Scouts_Logo_Stack_Purple |

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| **Visit details:** | | | | | |  | **Party details:** | | | |
| Country: | |  | | | |  | Group / Unit / Network: |  | | |
| From: |  | | | To: |  |  | Scout District: |  | | |
|  |  | | |  |  |  | County/Area/ Region: |  | | |
| Country: | |  | | | |  | **Party leader:** | | | |
| From: |  | | | To: |  |  | Name: |  | | |
| Country: | |  | | | |  | Membership no. and role: |  | | |
| From: |  | | | To: |  |  | Email: |  | | |
|  |  | | |  |  |  | Phone: |  | | |
| **Purpose of the trip:** | | | | | |  | **Group size:** | | | |
| Community Development | | | | Explorer Belt Expedition | |  | Beavers: |  | Cubs: |  |
| Recreational Visit | | | | National/Regional Jamboree | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partnership Visit | | | | Exchange Visit | |  | Scouts: |  | Explorers: |  |
| Other: | | |  | | |  | Network: |  | Leaders: |  |
| Details: (which Jamboree/partnership/activities etc.) | | | | | |  | Scout Active Support: |  | Others: |  |
|  | | | | | |  | Total: |  | | |

**Party leader declaration:**

As **leader** of this party, I undertake to:

* Organise this visit in accordance with the Association’s rules.
* Arrange adequate travel insurance for the visit at an appropriate time, a copy of which will be supplied before departure.
* Complete adequate risk assessments for the trip and activities (including safeguarding considerations), copies of which have been provided.
* Make sure there is an InTouch system in place including an at home emergency contact.
* Make sure that my Group Lead Volunteer is aware of the visit

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| Signed: (Party leader) \* |  | * Date: |  | * Member no: |  |
| Recommended for outline approval: (Visits Abroad Recommender) \* |  | Date: |  | Member no: |  |

**Outline Approval*:***

Before approving the outline of this trip please ensure that you are satisfied that the leader is aware of their responsibilities and is capable of organising and leading a group of Scouts overseas.

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| Signed: (Visits Abroad Approver)\* |  | Date: |  | Member no: |  |

Where a signature cannot be inserted please note the name, date and membership number of the person signing/recommending approval/approving.

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| **Visits Abroad Form – Part B**  **Part A and B** of this form should be updated, completed and submitted to your Visits Abroad Recommender at least 6 weeks before your trip begins. | Scouts_Logo_Stack_Purple |

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| **Nights Away permit holder: (if required)** | |  | | **In Touch – At Home Emergency Contact:** | |
| Phone number: | |  | | Name: |  |
| Restrictions: | |  | | Member no: |  |
| Category: | Indoor | Campsite | | Address: |  |
|  | Greenfield | Lightweight expedition: | | Postcode: |  |
| **Activity permits and extensions if required:** | | | | Mobile phone: |  |
| Permit type: |  | Expiry date: |  | Home phone: |  |
| Permit holder and restrictions: | |  | | Email: |  |

**Party leader declaration**

This complete form needs to be signed by the relevant Visits Abroad Approver upon the recommendation of the Visits Abroad Recommender.

As **leader** of this party, I have:

* Organised this visit in accordance with the Association’s rules.
* Arranged adequate travel insurance for the visit at an appropriate time, a copy of which has been provided.
* Completed adequate risk assessments for the trip and activities (including safeguarding considerations), copies of which have been provided.
* Put in place an InTouch system including an at home emergency contact.
* Given a full itinerary, participant list and relevant programme details to the emergency contact, copies of which have been provided.

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| Signed: (Party leader) \* |  | Date: |  | Member no: |  |
| Recommended for final approval: (Visits Abroad Recommender) \* |  | Date: |  | Member no: |  |

**Final Approval*:***

Before approving this trip please ensure that you are satisfied that the leader is aware of their responsibilities, has followed TSA rules and procedures and is overall capable of leading a group of Scouts overseas.

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| Signed: (Visits Abroad Approver)\* |  | Date: |  | Member no: |  |

\*Where a signature cannot be inserted please note the name, date and membership number of the person signing/recommending approval/approving.

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| **Checklist for Visit Abroad Recommenders** | |
| Copy of Travel Insurance attached | [VA notification](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/876e18aa0e384435bf4069088aa4d426) to HQ 6 weeks prior to start of trip |
| Complete list of participants attached | Host Association informed |
| Copy of proposed programme and itinerary attached (including details of any permits required) | Informed leader of telephone number of Host Association |
| Adequate risk assessments and incident management plan for the visit are attached | International Letter of Introduction issued |