



RAILWAY ADVENTURES

RAILWAY ADVENTURES COMMUNICABLE DISEASES POLICY

Railway Adventures has adopted the Safe Travel Protocols released by the Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) and the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) to ensure a high level of hygiene and safety on our tours.

The World Health Organisation downgraded COVID-19 from a global health emergency status on 5 May 2023.

While the state and national health bodies in Australia and most destinations around the world no longer place restrictions on people testing positive for COVID, Railway Adventures continues to take the health and well-being of our travelling guests very seriously.

For this reason, and like many other travel companies, we are moving towards a general policy that covers highly transmissible communicable diseases, including COVID-19, Influenza and Gastro.

General Safety and Personal Responsibility

Some countries we visit have very low vaccination rates against COVID-19, influenza and other diseases and don't take the same approach to public health as we do in Australia. While it is possible to reduce risk to a limited extent, it is not possible to eliminate the risk of sickness. This is one of the few downsides of travel.

We encourage a community approach to reducing the risk - after all, the best tours are when everyone is well and happy. If you have a cold (even if you think it's hay fever) or any flu-like symptoms in the days before a tour is due to depart, we encourage you to do a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) to be absolutely confident you're not putting others at risk and to avoid any embarrassment on tour. If you test positive the day before the tour departs, you will not be able to join the group and will need to contact your travel insurer. You may join the group mid-tour once you test negative.

While on tour, if you are prone to infections (or don't want to get one), we suggest you wear a mask and use hand sanitiser regularly. If you have a cough or runny nose or any other flu-like symptoms, we ask that you wear a mask, use hand sanitiser, and maintain social distance where possible to shield others.

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If you have strong concerns about contracting a disease, or have particular vulnerabilities in terms of your own health, you should reconsider travel, or consult with a medical professional as to the best ways to ensure you stay healthy and safe.

We suggest you prepare ahead for different eventualities. COVID is not the only risk - many of our destination countries have an elevated risk of diarrhoea, gastro, food poisoning or waterborne illnesses. Because it is possible to test for COVID, we recommend bringing a few with you. Our Tour Leaders will always have some on hand if you need one.

No one chooses to get ill, particularly when they are away from home, so if a fellow traveller falls ill, please show care and emotional support - a generous and caring spirit will be the best medicine for the group.

COVID Testing & Vaccinations

In line with current industry standards, Railway Adventures does not require proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test to travel with us. However, we are required to comply with all local COVID regulations of the countries we travel to. This may include the requirement to be vaccinated OR tested before being able to travel to certain countries. Our consultants will advise at the time of booking and again at the time of your final invoice of the requirements for the countries you'll be visiting on your tour.

It is your responsibility to ensure you comply fully with all entry requirements and Railway Adventures takes no responsibility in the event that you are denied boarding by any airline or denied entry by any country or jurisdiction. Please note that all tests and/or vaccinations required will be at your own expense.

Tours will NOT be cancelled as a result of a change in a destination's entry/isolation requirements; standard cancellation terms will apply if you decide to cancel.

If someone shows symptoms of COVID, Flu or any other transmissible disease on the tour

If a guest is displaying obvious flu-like symptoms, the Tour Leader will request that they wear a mask, separate themselves from others and take a RAT. If the result is negative, they will be

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required to stay separate from others and conduct a second test 12 hours later. If the second test is also negative, then they are good to return to the communal table.

If a guest believes a RAT test is inaccurate or faulty, they may source a PCR test at their own expense if it is practical to do so. In the meantime, they should take reasonable and practical steps to reduce the risk of the infection spreading to other group members and suppliers.

However, even though it may not be COVID, we ask that if you have cold and flu-like symptoms or are experiencing a bout of gastro, you protect others by continuing to wear a mask, hand sanitising and socially distancing yourself until the symptoms abate.

If someone tests positive to COVID on tour

If there are no local requirements in place following a positive COVID case, Railway Adventures no longer requires a guest to leave the tour after testing positive. Instead, in line with current industry standards, we have adopted a **'Separate not Isolate'** policy until a negative RAT is achieved.

- The tour leader will ask the guest to take reasonable and practical steps to reduce the risk of the infection spreading to other group members. This will typically include wearing a mask at all times, not being able to join group meals or activities that are in close confines, and sitting at the back of the coach away from others. If the group is using a Mini Van, the Tour Leader will arrange separate transport.
- The tour leader will do their best to enable the guest to enjoy as much of their trip as possible, with minimal disruption to their itinerary. However this is dependent on the circumstances and can't be guaranteed. An example of this would be if the day's activities include significant time indoors in poorly ventilated spaces such as museums.
- The tour leader will let the group know of the situation and ask all group members to take sensible preventative measures for a reasonable length of time, such as wearing masks when in enclosed spaces, increased hand sanitisation, ensuring good ventilation when indoors and encouraging regular monitoring of symptoms and self-testing if appropriate.
- If any of the above arrangements incur additional costs such as alternative accommodation, private transportation, or medical costs, the guest or their travel insurance provider will be expected to cover these. We may pay for any additional costs in terms of activities and guides but any additional expenses that we incur will be at our discretion.

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- The steps to reduce the risk of the spread of infection may be stepped down when any/all customers who have tested positive, receive two negative test results (taken 6 hours or more apart).

Our Tour Leader Protection Protocols

Our Tour Leaders are all vaccinated against COVID but this doesn't mean they may not fall ill. Our Tour Leaders are expected to follow the protection protocols below if they appear to be ill with a transmissible infection or disease.

- If a Tour Leader shows COVID symptoms in the days prior to a tour, they should take a COVID test. The leader will not be able to join the trip if they receive a positive test result. Railway Adventures will provide an alternative tour leader.
- If a Tour Leader tests positive to COVID on tour, Railway Adventures will do everything in its power to have an alternative leader join the group. If this is not possible (e.g. no flights available), the Tour Leader will source a local guide to assist and adopt the same 'separate but not isolate' approach.
- If the Tour Leader is displaying flu-like symptoms but testing negative for COVID, they should adopt the same protocols as guests - wear a mask, sanitise and socially distance themselves.
- If the Tour Leader contracts a gastrointestinal infection, they should inform the group and adopt safety protocols to prevent any transmission
- Tour Leaders will have access to face masks, hand sanitiser, and COVID tests for themselves and the group.