

Holts Tours – Advice for Teachers

Coach Seat Allocation

All our coach seats are numbered, meaning each pupil can be allocated a seat that becomes their space, and therefore their responsibility, throughout the trip.

Teacher/Escort Seating

It is advised that teachers/escorts be positioned both at the front and towards the rear of the coach. This helps with the supervision of pupils throughout the trip.

Coach Toilets

Coach toilets are designed for occasional use and can be easily blocked by misuse. Reminders pupil about respectable use would be appreciated. We are happy to issue the toilet key to your nominated teacher for any pupil requiring the toilet, which helps cut down on unnecessary visits.

Seatbelts and Safety

Coaches and buses are six times safer per mile than cars, and injuries are extremely rare. These numbers are still falling due, in part, to the fitment of seatbelts.

Holts advises teachers to take special care to explain to pupils that seatbelts **MUST** be worn while travelling.

Consider introducing some small penalty for those who don't. Teachers should, of course, lead by example.

Coach Regulations in France

A new regulation was passed in France on 9th July 2003 (Decret 2003-637) and which concerns the wearing of seat belts on coaches.

In a nutshell: The driver is obliged to wear his/her seat belt at all times. There is a fine of 135 Euros for any driver who does not do this (reduced to 95 Euros if paid on the spot, but increased to 375 Euros if not paid within 30 days).

Individual passengers, including children, can also be fined 135 Euros for non-compliance when their seats have belts fitted and they are not wearing them.

It seems probable therefore, that in the case of school parties, it would be the teacher who would be fined.

The rules apply to both French coaches and vehicles from other countries. Drivers/party leaders are obliged to ensure that passengers are aware of their obligation to wear belts.

Drivers

Coach drivers cannot concentrate if they are distracted by poor behaviour, or by unnecessary interruptions. It is forbidden by law to talk needlessly to the driver while a journey is in progress. Please ensure pupils know this.

Music and DVDs

Coach companies have no objection to playing DVDs and music throughout a trip. However, we recommend that teachers advise pupils to enjoy their music through personal headphones/earphones to avoid clashes of taste. Coach companies are licensed to play hired videos aboard coaches.

Food

Some foods are very difficult to remove off coach seats, such as chewing gum and chocolate. If pupils are bringing packed lunches with them, please ask parents to avoid these two snacks.

Drugs

Teenage pupils should be made aware of drugs issues before travelling and that coaches are almost always checked by customs on return to the UK.

Visiting Memorials and Cemeteries

Many of the areas you will be visiting are sites where many hundreds of soldiers lost their lives. Please impress upon all your students the need for reverence, respect and consideration for others at all battlefield sites. Students should not sit or climb on Memorials and avoid shouting, running or eating in cemeteries.

Clothing

It is important that your pupils are dressed appropriately, as the Battlefields can often be very cold and muddy. We suggest they bring warm, sensible clothes, waterproofs, wellingtons or walking boots and a towel (please note, towels are not provided at the hostel accommodation).