

## Booking Your Self-Guided Trip

**Getting Started:** After we discuss your timeframe and abilities, we draft an itinerary for your approval. Once the dates and itinerary are confirmed, we ask for a **non-refundable deposit of \$400 per person, a completed registration form, and a signed release per participant.** Together we will carefully double-check your dates and itinerary to make sure it is correct.

We accept MasterCard, AMEX and VISA or personal check. You can download the registration form from our website or this link: [www.distantjourneys.com/how-to-register/registration-form](http://www.distantjourneys.com/how-to-register/registration-form)

⊙ We **MUST** receive completed and signed forms from **each person** age 18 and older **as soon as you register for a trip.** We cannot consider your trip confirmed until we have received your completed forms.

**Deposit:** When we receive your **\$400 deposit** per person, we **begin** making reservations immediately and prepare and mail a **Pre-Trip Packet**, which includes confirmation of receipt of deposits, your itinerary, travel information, packing list and other information that will help you plan your trip.

Normally, we can confirm all overnight accommodations as needed; however, there are times when hotels or refuges are already fully booked. If this is the case, we may need to make substitutions or alter the itinerary. We will make appropriate changes then reconfirm with you before we proceed. Though very unlikely, it might be we just cannot get the needed reservations. If this happens, we will refund your deposits in full.

Once we start confirming reservations for your trip, and we move very quickly, and for subsequent **changes to the dates or itinerary** there will be an extra charge of up to \$400 per person; and we cannot guarantee we will be able to make your desired changes due to availability in the hotels or refuges. *Any changes within 60 days (or 90 for special trips) may result in a cancellation fee.*

Once you **begin** your trip, **we cannot make any changes, substitutions, give any refunds or credits for unused or changed parts of your trip.** Should you make any changes to your itinerary, any extra costs incurred, including changes to taxis and/or hotel overnights etc., **are at your expense and are your responsibility.**

We recommend you book your self-guided trip early; however, we can also handle late bookings and will do our best to confirm your itinerary in a matter of days. Last-minute bookings or late registrations may result in **additional costs** to cover expedited arrangements and **express mailings.**

**Mailing Documents:** For US addresses, we mail trip packets USPS first class or priority at no charge. **For international addresses including Canada** we use Fed Ex and UPS. **Note:** There is an **extra charge for international mailings.** The extra charge will depend on the destination.

## Final Payment and Special Terms and Conditions

**Final Payment:** After we receive your final payment and all the completed forms per person in your group, we mail the **Final Packet** of information including trail notes, vouchers, travel details, highlighted maps and other important particulars regarding your trip.

⊙ *While most of our hikers make their final payment near the payment date, some like to receive their final information as soon as possible.*

⊙ *If you choose to make your final payment earlier than required, we are happy to mail your **Final Packet**; however, please note that once we place your **Final Packet** of information in the mail, any cancellations or changes will result in a **50% cancellation fee.** **These are exceptions to our Terms and Conditions.***

**Terms and Conditions:** 60 days prior to your trip start we ask for final payment – land cost less deposit. For some self-guided trips, we ask for final payment 90 days in advance of your trip start. If this is the case, it will be clearly noted in your specific itinerary and invoice.

- *If your final payment is due **60 days** prior to the start of your trip:*
  - *Cancellation more than 60 days - \$400 deposit per person is not refundable*
  - *Cancellation 60 – 30 days prior to your trip start – 50% cancellation fee*
  - *Cancellation less than 30 days prior to your trip start – no refunds*
    - *Any changes to your itinerary may result in a cancellation fee.*
  
- *If your final payment is due **90 days** prior to the start of your trip, note these **special** terms:*
  - *Cancellation more than 90 days - \$400 deposit per person is not refundable*
  - *Cancellation 90 – 30 days prior to your trip start – 50% cancellation fee*
  - *Cancellation less than 30 days prior to your trip start – no refunds*
    - *Any changes to your itinerary may result in a cancellation fee.*

## Travel Insurance

**We strongly urge all participants to purchase travel insurance** to help protect you and your investment in the trip, and help recover any *non-refundable payments* in the event you find it necessary to cancel either prior to or during the trip.

Travel insurance typically covers the unexpected (i.e. trip cancellation or interruption due to personal/family injury, illness, or emergency) and can also cover travel delays, lost baggage, medical evacuations, etc.

Many of our hikers have been very pleased with the following companies:

- **Travel Guard:** [www.travelguard.com](http://www.travelguard.com)
- **CSA Travel Protection**, now partnering with Generali Global Assistance: [www.csatravelpro.com](http://www.csatravelpro.com) or [www.generalitravelinsurance.com](http://www.generalitravelinsurance.com)

We have worked with **CSA Travel Protection** over the years and have an agency code with them which is 71774669. We receive a small commission, but it is completely up to you which agency you choose to work with. You can link to CSA at [www.csatravelpro.com/71774669](http://www.csatravelpro.com/71774669) - be sure to refresh your browser so our agency code updates.

**Important Note:** For additional fees, some companies offer policies that cover **pre-existing conditions**, as well as cancellations **for any reason**. However, these coverages, depending on the company, can require purchase of the policy anywhere from **within 24 hours** to 15 days of having **made your deposit**.

For example, for policies that cover canceling for any reason, **CSA** requires purchasing a policy *within 24* hours of making an initial deposit. **Travel Guard** allows a 15-day window within which to purchase your policy. There are similar, though not necessarily as stringent, restrictions for purchasing policies which cover pre-existing conditions.

**Comparing Plans:** We suggest you shop around for the company and policy that best suits your needs. There are sites that will help you compare plans. **Insure My Trip:** [www.insuremytrip.com](http://www.insuremytrip.com) allows you to choose the coverages you would like your policy to include, and then generates a list of providers from which to compare and choose. Whichever company and policy you choose, it is important to read the policy and coverages carefully to have a clear understanding of the extent and parameters of coverage.