

# 18-24 Months Prior to Trip

## From Day Trips to Globetrotting

Progression is the backbone of Girl Scout international travel. Girls build on positive basic trip experiences and learn new skills over time.

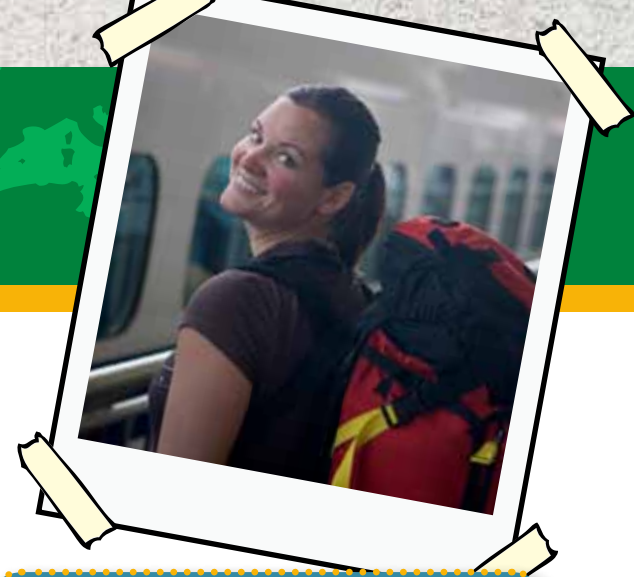
Start with simple local trips such as visits to the park or firehouse. Walk, use cars, or ride public transportation.

Take day trips to a nearby city. Then travel to neighboring states, if doable.

Progress to overnight trips—one to two nights in a nearby state. Stay in a hostel,\* hotel, motel, or on campgrounds.

Venture across the U.S. for multiple days. Use different accommodations and modes of transportation.

Trot the globe in Girl Scout style.



### Coach Girls Through:

- Charting their past travel experiences
- Choosing a travel location
- Determining the purpose of their trip
- Working out general trip details

### Your To-Do's:

- Get familiar with your Girl Scout council's policies and procedures on international travel.

### Trip Tip:

\*Hostels are affordable accommodations with dormitory-style rooms and common spaces in which to meet fellow travelers. See page 11 in the appendix for more information about GSUSA's partnership with Hostelling International USA.

Progress

18-24 Months

12-16 Months

8-12 Months

3-8 Months

6-8 Weeks

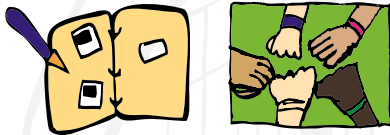
4-6 Weeks

On Your Trip

Back at Home

# Experience Counts

Ask girls to complete the Chart Your Experience activity on page 4 of *The Girl Scout Travel Log*. This activity will help girls gauge their own progression and experiences. Assist girls as they reflect on trips they've taken, awards they've earned, events they've participated in, and experiences they've had in their Girl Scout group and beyond. Encourage girls to think specifically, but also big picture—travel requires practical knowledge and skills as well as patience, adaptability, and the ability to problem solve.



## International Travel Guidelines

- Be registered Girl Scout Cadettes or above.
- Align trip purpose to Girl Scout Leadership Experience.
- Travel as a group.
- Make sure there are at least two adults (see *Volunteer Essentials* adult-girl ratio).
- Obtain your Girl Scout council's approval and adhere to council safety standards.
- Submit all the required forms to your council.



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# Purpose, Place, and Time

According to Girl Scout volunteers who have taken girls on international trips, trip planning takes 22 months on average, but can range from 6 to 36 months depending on money-earning strategies and location. The planning process is girls' time to shine, and with your coaching, they'll surely be stars. When girls take the lead, the trip becomes much more meaningful. Start with the three basics of trip planning: purpose, place, and timeline.

## Purpose

Girls may have the purpose of their trip already in mind. If so, this will guide their choices in location. Or they may decide on the location first then develop the purpose.

## Place

Ask girls to decide how they want to work together to come up with their travel location.

## Timeline



Suggest girls create a group timeline using the "Trip-Planning Timeline" on page 6-7 of Exploration: The Girl Scout Guide to Global Travel. Girls may also want to create a personal timeline for individual tasks.

To help incorporate the "learning by doing" process into the initial planning phase of the trip, build in reflection time at meetings and during activities. As girls plan, make progress, and check off items on their to-do lists, ask them to consider the skills it took to complete those tasks. Then inquire how they can apply those skills to other areas of their lives.



Are girls interested in visiting England, India, Mexico, or Switzerland?

These countries are home to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) four world centers.

At the centers, girls from around the globe learn about each other, the Girl Guide/Girl Scout movement, and the countries they are visiting. Centers offer special programs and the facilities provide inexpensive lodging for members of WAGGGS, of which GSUSA is a member.

See the Appendix for more information on WAGGGS and the four World Centers.

*Even though two and half years sounded like a long time to plan, it was well worth it. The girls could see how they were progressing and how much more they had to do without being overwhelmed.*

—Linda, Illinois

# Partnering with Your Girl Scout Council

## You must notify your local Girl Scout council about planning a trip.

Each council has different travel procedures and resources, so check with your council as soon as you begin planning. It's best to work with your council from this initial planning stage by establishing a timetable and reporting benchmarks of progress as plans develop. Ask your council program or membership department for more information.

To receive council permission, you'll need to be ready with logistical information and paperwork. You'll be asked to provide some of the following:

*We planned all parts of the trip with minimal adult guidance. We learned how complicated an international trip can be but also how to accomplish every step."*

—Brenna, 17

## Discuss It!

Guide girls by asking:

- Where are we going?
- Why are we going?
- When are we going?
- How will we get there?
- How much will it cost?
- How can we get ready?
- Will everyone be able to go?
- What safety factors must we consider?
- What will we do when we get there?
- What will we do when we return home?

As girls answer these questions, they'll be planning their own trip.



- An itinerary (including specific activities)
- Location and accommodations
- Dates and times
- A list of girls traveling
- A list of adults traveling, including gender and their roles
- Description of the girls' skill levels
- A list of consultants or resource people who will be involved
- A list of groups or other organizations that will be involved
- Description of planned safety precautions
- Description of specialized equipment to be used
- The mode of transportation you will be using
- Any required special agreements or contracts (for example, hiring a bus or using designated premises)