

International & Domestic Travel Informational Webinar
Questions & Answers
January 15, 2026

How does the Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel program compare to similar travel companies?

There are other travel programs that are similar to Grand Circle Travel (GCT) & Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT), but the biggest difference is the focus on education and cultural immersion on these trips. Not only are you going to travel to famous landmarks, but you will also have the opportunity to engage in local interactions on these trips. GCT & OAT trip leaders and program directors are also with you throughout your trip. Group sizes for these trips also tend to be smaller than other travel companies, with a maximum of 16 travelers for OAT land tours and 42 travelers for the GCT small ship adventures.

What is the average age of travelers on GCT & OAT trips?

These group tour vacations are designed specifically for American travelers over 50 years old, with the majority of OAT participants being in their mid-60s while most GCT participants are in their 70s and above.

What is the minimum age to travel with GCT & OAT?

You must be at least 13 years old to travel on a GCT or OAT trip.

What options are available for travelers that have mobility concerns?

When it comes to international travel, it is important to consider that many other countries do not have the same ADA regulations as the U.S.; many of these trips also include a rigorous schedule.

What single travel options are available for travelers?

GCT & OAT offer free single occupancy options for land tours and low-cost single supplement options on small ship and river cruises that are generally less expensive than other travel companies. However, there are a limited number of single slots available for departures. GCT & OAT will do their best to accommodate travelers, but it is always recommended that you contact GCT or OAT to ask about a single occupancy option.

Can non-NYSUT members join a trip when traveling with NYSUT members?

Yes, the GCT & OAT program along with the \$150 discount per person is available to NYSUT members and their family/friends.

What happens if I already booked a trip and didn't mention that I'm a NYSUT member to receive the \$150 discount?

Not a problem. You can call GCT or OAT and mention NYSUT group booking code **25614**; the code usually gets applied to your trip within 24 hours.

Can travelers combine multiple discounts on GCT & OAT trips?

Yes, GCT & OAT offer additional savings opportunities on a regular basis. You would just need to mention any code listed for that specific promotion along with your NYSUT group booking code **25614** to combine these savings.

Are group travel options available if a specific group of NYSUT members would like to take a trip?

Yes, GCT & OAT will work with a group of travelers if that group would like to take a trip together. The company would then close that trip to the general public so that it is only available to your group. If at least 13 eligible purchasers sign up for a specific trip, all eligible purchasers who take that trip are eligible to receive an additional discount of \$350 per person.

What are the cancellation policies with GCT & OAT?

GCT & OAT offer a risk-free policy that allows you to cancel your reservation within 10 days of booking to receive a full refund. After the 10-day risk-free period, standard cancellation fees would apply.

What type of travel protection is available when traveling?

It is very important to have some type of travel protection on any trip that you take. Many travel insurance policies offer an option to put in a claim and get some of your money back. GCT & OAT offer an option through TripMate that is available to travelers and is extremely comprehensive, including medical, medical evacuation, dental, baggage delay, and more. It generally costs about 10% of your total trip cost. It is important to do your research and figure out the best plan for you. You can cancel a GCT or OAT trip for any reason but there are covered and non-covered reasons. If you cancel a trip for a covered reason, you could submit a claim to be reimbursed cash for the cost of that trip. If you cancel a trip for a non-covered reason, you could submit a claim to be reimbursed in the form of a credit for a future trip through GCT or OAT.

Will a trip leader be on a trip with you in case of any questions or concerns?

Yes, all GCT & OAT trips include a program director or trip experience leader from the region that you are visiting that can speak English.

Is airfare included on GCT or OAT trips?

Travelers can book their flights independently or book them in conjunction with GCT or OAT trips to help save on airfare. GCT & OAT also offer a transfer service at a nominal cost if you are booking your own flight and arriving on the standard days of the tour.

What happens if there is a medical emergency on a trip?

The program director or trip experience leader will assist you with getting medical assistance, but it is also important to have travel insurance that can help protect you in the case of an emergency.

What is the tipping policy on trips?

All your accommodation will be included with each trip along with most of your meals. The majority of the tipping is built into the cost of the tour but travelers are encouraged to tip their program director or trip experience leader directly. It is also suggested that you add a tip for the small ship crew that will be added up and then divided among the crew. If you do have a hotel stay, it is also suggested that you leave a tip for the cleaning staff. Everything else is built into the cost of the trip.

Are Vegan or vegetarian meals an option for travelers?

Yes, GCT & OAT can accommodate a wide variety of dietary needs.

What is the GCT & OAT Ambassador Program?

GCT & OAT offer a rewards program if you refer a friend to the company who then books a trip. This program generally offers a \$100 savings for both you and the person you recommended that books a trip.

What happens if a trip doesn't reach capacity?

GCT & OAT do their best to never cancel a departure. If such a situation does occur, they will contact you and offer options for a different departure or something comparable. It is incredibly rare to run into this. Note: GCT owns the majority of its small ship and river cruises.

Are brochures and other publications available?

Yes, GCT & OAT offer a variety of materials for travelers, including their "Big Book." Your best option is to visit the GCT or OAT websites to view these materials and/or request that they are sent to you.

Is there any downtime on trips?

Yes, but this will vary based on the trip. GCT land tours and river cruises tend to have more leisure time built into them since you tend to stay in the same location for several days. OAT land tours are more rigorous but still include some leisure time built into the trip. Travelers also have the option to skip a tour that may be included on a trip.

Is air conditioning normally included on trips?

This varies depending on your destination. Most places within Europe tend to not have air conditioning. However, all GCT small ships do have air conditioning. GCT & OAT do their best to find three- or four-star hotels throughout Europe but these do not always have air conditioning. Buses do include air conditioning.

What about any vaccination or inoculation requirements for trips?

This really depends on the destination that you are going to as some countries require proof of some type of inoculation before traveling to the country. There are some

inoculations that are recommended that you do not have to get.

Are trip extensions mandatory?

GCT & OAT do have some departures where they may make a pre- or post-trip extension mandatory. This is generally done to offer this option for travelers who want to have an extension before or after their trip.

Are passports, visas or other documentation required on trips?

Travelers will definitely need a passport for international travel. Many of the visa applications are done online but GCT or OAT will let you know if you need a visa for a trip. You will want to make sure that your passport has at least six months of validity before your trip occurs.