Yale Alumni ACADEMY

Social Travel Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a social travel program?

Social travel programs are organized by Yale Alumni Academy's professional tour partners. They are open to alumni, family, and friends who enjoy the sense of community and camaraderie that comes from traveling with fellow Yalies. You may register as a single, a double, or as part of a group of friends.

2. What's the difference between social travel programs and faculty-hosted travel programs?

Social travel programs provide community for alumni, family, and friends who enjoy the camaraderie of traveling the world together. Faculty-hosted programs provide opportunities to travel with distinguished Yale scholars while engaging with their expertise firsthand.

3. Can you say more about what the differences are?

Faculty-hosted programs include a Yale faculty leader who travels with the group and offers lectures and discussion throughout the program. Social travel programs do not include a faculty host, but they bring together fellow Yalies to explore interesting destinations with thoughtfully designed itineraries, professional tour directors, and expert local guides.

4. What is included in the social travel program cost?

Your registration fee includes accommodations and ground transportation, a professional tour director, local guides, some meals, and all gratuities. Round-trip airfare from many U.S. gateway cities is often—but not always—included.

5. Will there be a Yale faculty member traveling with the group on a social travel program?

Social travel programs differ from other Yale Alumni Academy travel programs because they do not include a faculty host who travels with the group. However, local guides and destination experts provide intellectually stimulating content throughout the itinerary. Professional tour directors ensure that the program operates smoothly from start to finish.

6. Will there be educational content on a social travel program?

While social travel programs are designed with intellectual engagement in mind, they do not include formal lectures or a traveling faculty host. Instead, expert local guides provide historical, cultural, and contextual insights throughout the itinerary, while immersive experiences and cultural activities help bring each destination into focus.

7. Why are social travel programs often offered at lower price points?

Faculty-hosted programs are often curated in partnership with a Yale faculty member who travels with the group and enriches the experience through lectures, discussion, and direct engagement. In contrast, social travel programs focus on shared exploration with fellow Yalies, family, and friends. Because they are based on established itineraries and do not include a faculty host, they can often be offered at lower price points. They still include quality accommodations and services, and as a bonus, many social travel programs include roundtrip airfare from major U.S. cities.

8. Will Yale Alumni Academy staff travel with us?

Depending upon the group size, Yale Alumni Academy staff may accompany the program in some cases.

9. Can I travel alone on a social travel program?

Yes, a limited number of single registrations are available on all Yale Alumni Academy travel programs. Many participants find that traveling alone is a good way to make new friends.

10. Are most social travel participants alumni?

The majority of participants on Yale Alumni Academy travel programs are alumni, partners, family members, and friends of Yale. Friends of Yalies are always welcome to participate.

11. What makes social travel a Yale experience?

Social travel offers the opportunity to share enriching travel experiences in the company of curious peers who enjoy learning and exploring together. Wherever Yalies gather, the spirit of the campus goes with us!