



Grade 10 – 12 Music Tours – What to Expect

Getting ready for a Music Tour? Here's what you and your parents will want to know:

It is a privilege to go on a music tour. Accordingly every student is expected to follow all directions as outlined by the Music Directors and Chaperones to firstly ensure everyone's safety and secondly to positively represent the Semiahmoo Music Program, school and Canada as professional musicians and respectful and positive global citizens. If everyone does their part, the music tour will be highly successful filled with enriching experiences and a lot of fun!

The following high-level information is what you and your parents can typically expect during a grade 10-12 music tour (*recognizing e.g. Banff does not require air travel and passports*). Your Chaperones will also reach out to you by email / phone-call approximately 1-2 weeks prior to departure with any further details that are specific to the actual destination.

- ✓ The Music Directors will typically provide every student with a number that corresponds with the bus and number on the bus - - this number (example *Green-13*) must be memorized by the student as it will be used during roll-call repeatedly throughout the days to make sure every student is accounted
- ✓ The students must read and understand the itinerary and protocols that the Music Directors provide each student with, and the itinerary must be kept with the student digitally on his/her phone or as a hard copy at all times during the trip
- ✓ Students are assigned rooms with their preferred room-mates in groups of 4 – 6 students per room
- ✓ Approximately 3-4 rooms are assigned to an adult chaperone
- ✓ The role of a Chaperone is to: assist the Music Directors in ensuring his/her assigned students understand their responsibilities and are at their assigned locations, are first responder to any questions not answered in the itinerary, and are to help as each circumstance requires to shepherd approximately 140 students and numerous instruments on a daily basis to/from each activity
- ✓ If you have any special medical concerns that your Chaperone should know, please do mention it to him/her prior to the trip and again, as required, during the trip
- ✓ Passports will be collected about 2 weeks prior to the trip with all the appropriate documents (if non-Canadian, your PR Cards, Visas, etc) with the students full name taped on the back

What to Pack:

- ✓ Your luggage should contain:
 - Your full uniform, black shoes, socks or tights (some tours we omit the jacket to reduce bulk)
 - All articles of uniforms should be labeled on the inside (Masking Tape is best) with the student's name to help avoid confusion in your room on whose uniform belongs to whom
 - Appropriate clothes for the destination (with some diversity in clothing and shoes in case it is very hot, unexpectedly raining or chilly) plus a light jacket, hoodie or sweater as it gets chilly on airplanes. Key is to be able to dress in layers
 - We will do a lot of walking, so bring comfy shoes (NO flip-flops)
 - Toiletries (in a plastic bag with containers maximum 100 ml); Sunscreen & sunglasses
 - Music in cardboard folder supplied by school (labeled with your name, band and instrument)
 - Backpack for carrying change of clothes, water bottles, etc. (sometimes we change at the venue into our uniforms or back into street-clothes)
 - Spending money for food: Recommended \$40 US funds/day + pocket-money for souvenirs
 - A copy of the itinerary (you must keep it with you at all times and refer to it first whenever you have a question on where you have to be before you turn to a Director / Chaperone)
 - All instruments, luggage, and back-packs must have tags with the following information:
 - Student first and last name
 - School Name: Semiahmoo Secondary
 - School address: 1785 148 Street Surrey, BC Canada V4A 4M6
- ✓ If you are bringing a cell phone and will use it, you are advised to purchase a roaming plan to avoid a big bill upon your return

- ✓ Spare batteries can typically be brought in a carry-on, but check the specific airline's protocol as it changes regularly
- ✓ **Do NOT:** Bring any meat, fruits or vegetables across the border -- it will be confiscated (please note: noodles packaged in Asia are often confiscated as well)

Day of Departure - - Heading on Tour!

- ✓ Please be dressed as if you are going for a job interview for the travel days (boys will be in shirts and ties, girls in dresses or nicer skirts/pants/shirts; and bring a jacket/sweater for the airplane)
- ✓ Be at the school by the assigned time (often approximately 4:30am)
- ✓ Students with instruments larger than an alto-saxophone will likely be using a carry-on bag rather than a checked-bag, please ask a friend with a checked bag to pack your toiletry bag
- ✓ When you arrive at the school, look for your assigned Chaperone in the lobby standing by a music stand with his/her name on it. Your Chaperone will check you in. Then you can put your luggage in the section marked as your bus and colour
- ✓ After you've checked-in, head to the Large Band room and wait for roll-call and further instructions
- ✓ Help load the buses if you've been assigned to do so
- ✓ Physically play your instrument(s) at the airport's baggage claim to assess for any damage before we leave the airport

Typical Daily Routine during the Tour:

- ✓ You will get a morning wake-up call from the hotel to let you know it's time to get out of bed
- ✓ And soon thereafter your Chaperone will call and visit you in your room to make sure you are okay, know what to do and answer any questions not already covered in the itinerary
- ✓ Then you eat breakfast and follow the itinerary & any special instructions per your Chaperone
- ✓ Each day will include performances, activities and sight-seeing with precise times and locations; it is very important you are never late -- we can't leave without you (*if you arrive on time, you are late!*)
- ✓ Every evening your Chaperone will again visit with you in your hotel room to run through any new instructions you might need to know for the following day (so don't fall asleep until after the visit)
- ✓ It is recommended you shower before bed so you have less to worry about in the morning
- ✓ Please make sure you eat breakfast, lunch and dinner and get snacks if you're still hungry. Drink water regularly. You will be busy and usually it will be warm and you will need to keep up your energy and stay hydrated
- ✓ Students must go to sleep after your Chaperone visits with you in the evening...again, you need your energy. Trust us - - students on past tours who did not get enough sleep, water and food found it hard to keep up - - some have even succumbed to exhaustion / illness
- ✓ Throughout the trip, all students are requested to look for opportunities to help (don't wait to be told); and to be proactively thinking about the next step of what needs to be done (be self-aware); Grade 11s and 12s are expected to help mentor the Grade 10s on tour protocol

Day of Departure - - Returning home!

- ✓ Shower and pack everything the night before (except what you are wearing on your last day)
- ✓ Again, dress as if going for an interview (unless you have a performance first, then bring your airplane clothes in your back-pack)
- ✓ Put all garbage in the garbage cans and used towels in the bath-tub
- ✓ Check all drawers, closets, under the beds and electrical outlets for forgotten items & chargers (it's been known to happen!)
- ✓ Leave on a table or dresser approximately \$3-\$5 tip per student for the hotel cleaning crew
 - Some tours we also tip the bus driver & tour guides so try and keep a few small bills at hand
- ✓ Bring your instruments and luggage to the assigned location (*on time*)
- ✓ Eat breakfast and board the bus
- ✓ Usually we arrive back to the school quite late (example 11pm); students will call parents when the bus is approximately 30 minutes from the school
- ✓ Parents PLEASE pick up your student on time (and please do NOT park in the drive-way in front of the school - - this is where the buses will be parking); note: Music Directors cannot go home until all students are picked up (DO NOT BE LATE)

If you have any further questions, ask your Chaperone when they contact you. Enjoy!