PRIVACY POLICY

Hammock Expeditions, LLC | STEM Study Tours | STEM-U

Last Updated: November 2026

OUR COMMITMENT TO PRIVACY

Protecting the privacy and personal information of our travelers, families, educators, group leaders, and partners is important to us. Travel requires the exchange of certain personal information, and we believe you should understand what information we collect, why we need it, how it may be shared, and how we work to protect it.

This Privacy Policy applies to Hammock Expeditions, LLC and the programs and brands it operates, including STEM Study Tours and STEM-U. It applies to information collected through our websites, inquiries, registrations, forms, communications, and travel services.

Information We Collect

The information we collect depends on your relationship with us and the services being provided.

General Contact Information

- Name
- Mailing address
- Email address
- Telephone number
- School, organization, or group affiliation
- Communication preferences
- Information submitted through inquiry or contact forms

Traveler & Participant Information

When someone registers or travels with us, additional information may be required to arrange and safely operate the program. This may include:

- Full legal name
- Date of birth
- Contact information
- Passport or other travel-document information
- Citizenship or nationality when required for travel arrangements
- Emergency contacts
- Rooming information

- Dietary requirements and allergies
- Medical information or health considerations relevant to travel
- Accessibility needs
- Transportation information
- Travel preferences
- Other information reasonably necessary to arrange or safely operate the program

We ask for sensitive traveler information only when it is reasonably necessary for travel planning, participant safety, regulatory requirements, or delivery of the services requested.

Information About Minors

Many of our programs involve students and other travelers under the age of 18.

Information about minors may be provided by a parent or legal guardian, school, group leader, sponsoring organization, or, when appropriate, by the participant.

For programs such as STEM-U, where parents or legal guardians register participants directly, we may collect information necessary to manage registration, travel arrangements, health and safety considerations, emergency contacts, program participation, and communications with families.

We do not knowingly request more personal information about a minor than is reasonably necessary to administer the applicable program or travel services. When additional parental or legal guardian consent is required by applicable law or by the nature of the information being collected, we will request that consent as appropriate.

How We Use Personal Information

- Respond to inquiries and provide requested information
- Prepare proposals, quotes, and travel arrangements
- Process registrations and manage participant accounts
- Coordinate flights, transportation, accommodations, meals, activities, and other travel services
- Communicate with travelers, parents, educators, group leaders, and sponsoring organizations
- Address allergies, dietary needs, accessibility requirements, medical considerations, or other participant needs
- Provide information necessary for emergency response or traveler assistance
- Process and administer payments
- Maintain appropriate business and travel records
- Improve our programs, services, websites, and customer experience
- Send newsletters, program announcements, or marketing communications when appropriate
- Meet legal, regulatory, insurance, accounting, safety, or operational requirements
- Protect the rights, safety, and security of our travelers, employees, organization, and partners

Sharing Information for Travel Services

Educational travel requires us to work with organizations around the world. We may provide necessary traveler information to service providers involved in arranging or operating a program, including, as appropriate:

- Airlines and transportation providers
- Hotels and other accommodations
- Tour directors and destination partners
- Restaurants and meal providers
- Attractions and activity providers
- Insurance or assistance providers
- Medical or emergency-service providers

- Visa, immigration, border, or governmental authorities when required
- Technology, registration, payment, and administrative service providers

We provide only the information reasonably necessary for the particular service or function. For example, a hotel may require a participant's name and rooming information, an airline may require passport information, or a restaurant may need information about a serious food allergy.

We do not consider these operational disclosures to be a sale of personal information.

We Do Not Sell Personal Information

Hammock Expeditions, LLC does not sell traveler, parent, student, educator, or customer personal information for monetary compensation. Personal information provided to us for travel or program participation is used to operate our business and provide the services requested.

Payments

Payments for our travel programs are generally made in one of two ways:

- Schools or sponsoring organizations may remit payments directly to Hammock Expeditions, LLC, typically by check or wire transfer; or
- Individual travelers, parents, or guardians may make payments through our designated third-party payment processing service.

Hammock Expeditions, LLC does not collect, receive, or store credit card numbers or personal banking information submitted through our third-party payment processor. Payment information entered through the payment processing service is handled directly by that provider in accordance with its own security and privacy practices.

For payments made directly by a school or sponsoring organization, we maintain only the business and transaction records reasonably necessary for accounting, reconciliation, and administration of the booking.

Website Information, Cookies & Analytics

Our websites may use cookies and similar technologies necessary for website functionality and may use analytics or related tools to help us understand how visitors use our websites and improve their experience.

Depending on the services used on a particular website, these technologies may collect browser or device type, general geographic information, pages visited, referring website, date and time of visits, and website interactions.

Visitors can manage many cookie preferences through their browser settings. Disabling certain cookies may affect website functionality. Where applicable, additional choices concerning cookies or tracking technologies may be provided through the website.

Email & Marketing Communications

We may use email addresses to provide trip and registration information, program updates, operational communications, responses to inquiries, educational travel information, newsletters, and information about programs or services that may be of interest.

Marketing communications will include an appropriate method for unsubscribing or changing communication preferences. Important transactional or operational messages relating to an active inquiry, registration, or trip may still be sent when necessary to provide the requested services.

Photos, Videos & Program Communications

Photos or videos may be taken during certain programs or travel experiences. Where applicable, the use of identifiable participant images for marketing or promotional purposes will be handled according to the permissions, releases, program terms, or agreements associated with that program.

Operational photographs shared privately with parents, schools, or group participants may be handled differently from images intended for public marketing.

Protecting Personal Information

We use reasonable administrative, technical, and organizational safeguards designed to protect personal information from unauthorized access, loss, misuse, alteration, or disclosure. Access to sensitive traveler information is limited to individuals and service providers who reasonably need the information to perform their responsibilities.

However, no electronic transmission or storage system can be guaranteed to be completely secure. Travelers and families should also take reasonable precautions when transmitting sensitive information electronically.

International Travel & Data Transfers

International travel may require traveler information to be transferred to or accessed by service providers or authorities located outside the traveler's home country. Privacy and data-protection laws vary among countries.

When information must be transferred internationally to arrange or operate travel services, we limit the information provided to what is reasonably necessary for the applicable purpose and use appropriate safeguards where required.

How Long We Keep Information

We retain personal information only for as long as reasonably necessary to provide requested programs and travel services; support travelers before, during, and after travel; maintain appropriate business and financial records; meet insurance, accounting, legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements; resolve disputes or respond to claims; and protect legitimate business and safety interests.

Different categories of information may be retained for different periods. Sensitive traveler information that is no longer reasonably necessary will be deleted, destroyed, anonymized, or otherwise handled in accordance with our applicable retention practices.

Your Privacy Choices

Depending on where you live and the laws that apply, you may have rights concerning your personal information. These may include requesting access to certain information we maintain, correction of inaccurate information, deletion of certain information, information about how information has been used or disclosed, or withdrawal of certain permissions or marketing preferences.

Not all rights apply in every jurisdiction or circumstance. We may need to verify the identity and authority of the person making a request before responding. Parents or legal guardians may contact us regarding personal information associated with their minor child when appropriate.

Information Provided by Schools & Other Organizations

Schools, homeschool groups, Scout groups, churches, educational organizations, and other sponsoring groups may provide participant information to us in connection with travel services. The sponsoring organization is responsible for ensuring that it has appropriate authority to provide information to us.

Once Hammock Expeditions, LLC receives that information, we handle it in accordance with this Privacy Policy and use it as reasonably necessary to provide the requested travel services.

Third-Party Websites & Services

Our websites or communications may contain links to websites or services operated by third parties. We do not control the privacy practices of independent third parties. When you visit or use another organization's website or service, its privacy policy and practices apply.

Changes to This Privacy Policy

We may update this Privacy Policy periodically to reflect changes in our programs, technology, business practices, or legal requirements. The Last Updated date at the top of this document will indicate when the policy was most recently revised. Material changes may also be communicated through our websites or other appropriate channels.

Contact Us

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STEM Study Tours | STEM-U

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