

Black Joy Global Travel Group Trip Safety Protocols

At Black Joy Global Travel, your safety, peace of mind, and joy are our top priorities. These Group Trip Safety Protocols outline how we prepare, protect, and support you before, during, and after every journey. Our founder's military background, crisis-management skills, and calm-under-pressure leadership are built into every step of this process.

1. Pre-Trip Planning & Risk Assessment

- Research every destination with a specific focus on Black traveler safety, local attitudes toward Black people, and current conditions.
- Review official travel advisories, local news, and on-the-ground reports before confirming a destination.
- Partner only with vetted local guides, hotels, and transportation providers with strong safety records and reviews.
- Design itineraries that prioritize safe neighborhoods, reputable venues, and trusted vendors.

2. Traveler Readiness & Documentation

- Provide a pre-trip checklist covering passports, visas (if required), vaccinations, travel insurance, and emergency contact information.
- Require all travelers to submit a completed traveler information form, including medical considerations and emergency contacts.
- Encourage travelers to register with STEP (Smart Traveler Enrollment Program) or their home country's equivalent, when applicable.

3. Health, Wellness & Accessibility

- Share destination-specific information about climate, altitude, food, water, and health considerations.
- Encourage travelers to consult a healthcare provider before departure and bring necessary medications in original labeled containers.
- When possible, select accommodations and activities that can accommodate a range of mobility and accessibility needs.

4. Communication Protocols

- Create a dedicated group chat (e.g., WhatsApp) for real-time updates, daily schedules, and check-ins.
- Provide all travelers with the lead guide's phone number and at least one backup contact.
- Establish daily meeting times and locations so everyone always knows where and when to regroup.
- Share local emergency numbers (police, ambulance, embassy/consulate) in a pre-trip document.

5. On-the-Ground Group Safety

- Maintain reasonable group sizes so everyone can be accounted for quickly and easily.
- Use a clear headcount system whenever the group moves between locations or boards transportation.
- Avoid known high-risk areas, late-night wandering in unfamiliar neighborhoods, or unvetted venues.
- Reinforce a “no one left behind” culture—no guest is allowed to walk off alone without informing the trip leader.

6. Lodging & Transportation Standards

- Choose accommodations in safe, reputable areas with strong reviews for cleanliness, security, and service.
- Prioritize hotels and villas with 24/7 front desk or security staff whenever possible.
- Work only with licensed transportation providers and vetted drivers.
- Avoid overcrowded or unregulated vehicles and ensure seatbelts are used whenever available.

7. Emergency Response Plan

- Identify local hospitals, clinics, and urgent care facilities near all lodging locations and major activities.
- Maintain a printed and digital copy of all traveler emergency contacts and key medical information.
- In case of medical emergency, assist with coordinating local care, contacting family, and navigating language barriers.
- In case of security or civil unrest, immediately move the group to a safe location and adjust the itinerary as needed.

8. Money, Scams & Personal Belongings

- Educate travelers on common tourist scams and how to avoid them (ATMs, street vendors, unsolicited help, etc.).
- Encourage the use of money belts, crossbody bags, and hotel safes for passports and valuables.
- Advise travelers to carry only what they need for the day and keep backup payment methods in a safe place.

9. Cultural Respect & Local Laws

- Brief travelers on local customs, dress expectations, and laws that may differ from those at home.

- Encourage respectful engagement with locals and responsible use of cameras and social media.
- Remind travelers that they are guests in the host country and represent both themselves and the group.

10. Alcohol, Substances & Conduct

- Encourage responsible alcohol use and remind travelers that intoxication can increase risk and impair judgment.
- Prohibit illegal drug use on all Black Joy Global Travel trips—local penalties can be severe.
- Reserve the right to intervene if a traveler's behavior endangers themselves, others, or the overall group experience.

11. Solo Time & Free Exploration

- Clearly define when free time is allowed and provide safe neighborhood recommendations and boundaries.
- Encourage travelers to use the buddy system when exploring during free time, especially at night.
- Ask travelers to share their general plans and expected return times before heading out on their own.

12. Financial Protections & Cancellations

- Strongly encourage or require travel insurance that covers trip interruption, medical emergencies, and evacuation.
- Provide clear written terms for deposits, payment plans, cancellations, and refunds before booking.
- Communicate any known destination risks that could affect itineraries (weather seasons, political events, etc.).

13. Leadership & Accountability

- Ensure every group trip has a clearly identified lead guide (often Alphonso) and a designated second-in-command.
- Leverage organized, military-inspired planning and calm crisis management to keep travelers informed and supported.
- Invite honest feedback during and after the trip to strengthen future safety measures.

14. Code of Community & Black Joy

- Foster a culture of care, where every traveler looks out for one another as extended family.
- Create space for processing emotions that may come up when traveling as a Black person in new environments.

- Center Black joy, rest, and dignity in all activities, so travelers feel not just safe—but truly seen and celebrated. These protocols are living guidelines.

As Black Joy Global Travel grows, we will continue refining our safety practices to reflect real experiences, traveler feedback, and the evolving realities of global travel—always with your safety and joy at the center.