

# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ROYAL & DUCAL CASTLES AN INSPIRING EXPEDITION BY GEOFFREY KENT

## REVIEW YOUR PASSPORT

Your passport needs to be valid through November 9, 2023 and should have a minimum of two (2) blank visa page for entry and exit stamps.

U.S. passport holders who frequently travel internationally may be able to obtain a second passport, which is valid for four years. This would allow you to travel with one passport, while the second may be submitted to obtain any required visas for your next trip abroad.

If you require assistance obtaining a new U.S. passport, second passport or passport renewal, contact our partner, Pinnacle TDS. You may call them at 888 838 4867, visit them online at [pinnacletds.com/AandK](https://pinnacletds.com/AandK) or email [AandK@pinnacletds.com](mailto:AandK@pinnacletds.com) for specific instructions.

## VISA INFORMATION

**Holders of U.S. and Canadian passports are not required to obtain a tourist visa for entry into the United Kingdom.**

If you are not a citizen of the United States or Canada, please consult the nearest diplomatic or consular office of the United Kingdom for information necessary on entry requirements pertaining to this journey.

## COVID-19 COUNTRY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS & TRAVEL ADVISORIES

A&K requires proof of COVID-19 vaccination for travel on this journey. Please carry your original COVID-19 vaccination certificate with you during travel and send a copy to [usaprivatetravel@abercrombiekent.com](mailto:usaprivatetravel@abercrombiekent.com).

The United Kingdom currently has no COVID-19 vaccination or testing requirements for entry for U.S. and Canadian residents. Visit the U.S. Department of State at [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov) or the Government of Canada at [travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories](https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories) for up-to-date information.

## REGISTER YOUR JOURNEY

We recommend that you register with your nearest embassy or consulate for the destinations included in your journey. U.S. citizens can register through STEP, the Smart Traveller Enrollment Program ([step.state.gov/step](https://step.state.gov/step)). Canadian citizens can enroll in Registration of Canadians Abroad at [travel.gc.ca/travelling/registration](https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/registration).

## LOCAL HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

### Masks and other Local COVID-19 Protocols

Face masks are recommended in all indoor public spaces and on all public transportation. We encourage you to bring your own masks; a supply will be on hand where needed. Note all protocols are subject to change in accordance with relevant guidelines, local regulations and conditions.

Take care to observe safe health practices when travelling: Wash or sanitize your hands often; avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth; and cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing. If you begin to feel unwell at any point in your journey, please inform your guide.

Of Special Note

There are no additional required vaccinations for this journey; however, you'll want to visit your doctor or local travel clinic a couple of months before departure to allow time for any recommended vaccinations to take effect or to fill any prescriptions.

Carry your prescriptions and over-the-counter medications in their original containers in your carry-on luggage. Pack a simple first-aid kit along with medicines for motion sickness and mild upset stomach.

Guests who choose to participate in polo instruction and activities on horseback should be in good physical condition. Maximum weight allowance for horseback riding is 196 pounds. This activity may not be suitable for guests with back problems.

## KEEP CONNECTED

While most smartphones work overseas, you might need to turn on international roaming service before you travel. Contact your carrier for information on coverage and voice and data plan options while travelling abroad.

## GETTING ONLINE

Many hotels and public places have Wi-Fi and you'll usually be able to stay connected throughout your journey.

## TIME ZONES

Many websites and smartphone apps allow you to check time zones for specific destinations. We recommend [timeanddate.com/worldclock](http://timeanddate.com/worldclock). Upon arrival, the time on most smartphones will automatically adjust to the local time.

<b>9:00 a.m. in Destination</b>	<b>Universal Time (UTC)</b>	<b>Continental Europe</b>	<b>New York &amp; Ottawa</b>
United Kingdom	+1	10:00 a.m.	4:00 a.m.

## MONEY MATTERS

We recommend travelling with some cash and at least two different major credit cards, such as Visa and Mastercard, so you have backup if your card is not accepted or lost. Contact your bank and credit card companies to let them know where and when you'll be travelling, as well as confirm any foreign transaction fees. When carrying cash, try to travel only with recently issued currency in smaller denominations; many merchants overseas won't accept wrinkled or torn bills. Only exchange currency at authorized outlets such as currency exchanges, ATMs or hotels and save receipts as they may be required for exit.

The currency of the United Kingdom is the pound sterling (£/GBP). Hotels, shops, restaurants and many other venues accept all major credit cards and ATM access is widespread.

## KEEP VALUABLES SECURE

We strongly recommend leaving valuables such as jewelry at home as A&K cannot be responsible. Use safes where available to secure valuable items such as passports, or else always carry them on your person.

Replacing a lost or stolen passport is much easier if you have a copy on hand. Pack a photocopy of your passport's personal information page with your luggage, and keep a photo of it on your smartphone.

## WEATHER

We recommend [weather.com](http://weather.com) to check the forecast for your journey.

	<b>Average High May</b>	<b>Average Low May</b>	<b>Average Days w/Rain</b>
London, England	63°F / 17°C	48°F / 9°C	15
Edinburgh, Scotland	57°F / 14°C	43°F / 6°C	21

## PACKING LIST

The typical attire on A&K journeys is relaxed and informal during the day. Choose versatile, casual clothing that can be layered if the weather (or level of air-conditioning) requires. Spring temperatures dictate medium weight clothing. Women may consider packing a wrap or shawl to wear on chilly evenings. Smart casual is appropriate for most evenings.

Visiting HMS 'Victory' requires negotiating steep stairs and uneven decks. For preservation and conservation reasons, stiletto-type heels (less than one inch in diameter) are not permitted to be worn on board.

At Floors Castle, some evenings will require formal attire for dinner: tuxedo/black tie for gentlemen and a long evening gown or gala dress for women.

Guests participating in polo activities at Cowdray House should pack comfortable activewear. Stretch jeans or jodhpurs, polo-type shirt or T-shirt and riding boots are suggested. If you don't have riding boots, wear a pair of shoes or boots with a short heel. You will be required to wear a riding helmet. A limited supply of riding boots and helmets are available on site; however, if you have your own helmet, you may prefer to bring it with you. In case of cooler weather, a jacket or vest that allows freedom of movement is recommended. Apparel should not be too large or loose so that it may not catch on a piece of equipment.

For optional outdoor activities such as off-road excursions or fly-fishing at Floors Castle, pack clothing you do not mind getting wet, as well as a waterproof jacket and pants and appropriate footwear.

Be sure to bring a global travel adapter set with you to recharge your electronics. You can purchase a global travel adapter and many items on our packing list through A&K's Travel Store at [usa.thetraveloutfitter.com](http://usa.thetraveloutfitter.com).

Use the provided A&K luggage tags, even if your bags already have ID tags. This makes it easier for A&K staff to collect and manage your luggage for you.

## Safe Travel Essentials

Be sure to bring personal protective equipment (PPE), including face masks, travel-sized hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, facial tissues and disinfecting wipes or spray.

## Clothing

- 3-4 casual slacks
- 2-3 evening outfits for special occasions (smart casual)
- 5-6 casual short-sleeve shirts or blouses
- Comfortable walking shoes with low or no heels
- Walking shorts/capri pants
- Formal attire required: tuxedo for men; ball gown/gala dress for women.
- Long sleeve shirts or blouses
- Lightweight raincoat and umbrella

- Sweater or fleece jacket; shawl or wrap for women
- Brimmed hat or visor for sun protection
- Sleepwear
- Personal garments
- Socks
- Swimwear/cover-up
- Optional: Waterproof outerwear for outdoor activities fishing and off-road excursion
- Optional: Clothing for horseback riding including a riding helmet and boots

#### Other Recommended Items

- Sunglasses
- Sun block and lip balm
- Simple first-aid kit
- Prescriptions and medications (in their original bottles and/or packaging)
- Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses
- Smartphone
- Charging cables for electronics
- Global travel adapter

*Please note that while hotels will provide basic toiletries, you may wish to bring your own if you have specific preferences.*

*Traveller's Valet, A&K's complimentary laundry service for 10 articles of clothing per person, will be provided twice during your journey. Dry cleaning is not included.*

#### SMART SHOPPING

If you are interested in shopping, your A&K guide may recommend local shops; however, A&K is not responsible for the quality or value of merchandise. Any purchases and shipping are at your sole discretion. Be sure to review your credit card receipts before signing, paying special attention to currency conversion. We recommend taking items with you in lieu of shipping them whenever possible.

Consult the local customs authority ([cbp.gov](http://cbp.gov) in the U.S. and [travel.gc.ca](http://travel.gc.ca) in Canada) for information on what you can bring back and duty taxes. Keep receipts and items together.

#### PHOTOGRAPHY ETIQUETTE

Be sure to ask permission before taking pictures of local people, including small children. Note that photography is not permitted in some locations; it is usually clearly marked. If in doubt, ask your Tour Manager to avoid having your camera confiscated.

#### TIPS ON TIPPING

As a convenience, all gratuities are included. Any additional gratuities that you may choose to present to specific members of your tour staff are left to your personal discretion