

Girl Scouts of the USA, New York
TRAVEL TIPS
UNITED KINGDOM AND PAX LODGE

www.paxlodge.org/

There are some basic guidelines about traveling to the United Kingdom. Although Pax Lodge in London may be the main destination, there are many additional options, including International Youth Hostelling facilities and programs available through GSUSA's affiliation with Hostelling International.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM

A valid passport is required and should be good for a minimum of two months after departure. No visa is required by U.S. citizens.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Girls and adults must bring a medical form, signed by a physician, certifying good health and containing a record of required immunizations. The GSUSA Standard Health Examination forms for international travel should be used. Immunization against tetanus is recommended.

INSURANCE

Additional international health and accident insurance is required and forms can be picked up at your Girl Scout council or through Mutual of Omaha's Web site at <<http://www.mutualofomaha.com/gsusa/index.htm>>. (International Plan 3PI)

LANGUAGE

Although English is the official language, girls may be surprised at the differences between in words, slang, and spelling between "American" and "British" English. It's a good idea to do some research so that faux pas aren't made while "cueing up for the loo." Brush up on your metric measurements, as inches and feet are not used.

CURRENCY NOTICE

The official currency in the United Kingdom is the pound sterling. If traveling on to other European countries, the Euro is now the standard. It is a good idea to learn about the money, symbols used and rate of exchange before traveling.

WEATHER

Weather in Britain is unpredictable. Be prepared for rain, cold weather, or heat waves! Summer months are June, July, August, and early September. Weather is given in degrees Celsius, not Fahrenheit. Carry a water bottle.

HINTS FOR GIRL SCOUT TRAVELERS

Although GSUSA does not require ownership of a uniform for membership, when participating in a Pax Lodge event or session, Girl Scout visitors are expected to wear an official Girl Scout uniform. If a Girl Scout is not using a sash or vest, we suggest that she wear an official GSUSA uniform T-shirt or Polo shirt with tan pants or skirt, along with her Girl Scout pins. When visiting Pax Lodge as a group, it is appropriate to wear your pins and travel wear. Pants are acceptable street wear in London. Head covering is appropriate for cathedrals.

PAX LODGE in OLAVE CENTRE

Mailing Address:

The Center Manager
Pax Lodge, OLAVE CENTRE
12c Lyndhurst Road
London NW3 5PQ, England
United Kingdom

Telephone: (011) (44) 20 7435-2202

Fax: (011) (44) 20 7431-3825

E-mail: Pax.Lodge@btInternet.com

Web site: www.paxlodge.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

Pax Lodge is situated in London, England, United Kingdom, next to the World Bureau of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). Opened in 1990, it is the newest of the four World Centers. Open year round, it provides a home away from home where Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world can meet together in friendship.

The name for the site and two buildings (World Bureau and Pax Lodge) is Olave Centre, a living memorial to Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, the World Chief Guide. Pax Lodge was named after the Founder's homes (Pax Hill and Paxtu) and also because one of the aims of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts is peace.

For groups accompanied by an adult leader (over 21), there is no minimum age requirement. Individual official sessions have various age requirements. This information would be sent upon applying for a specific official event.

THE PAX LODGE SYMBOL

The symbol consists of three elements:

- The World Badge, symbolizing international Guiding
- An ark-shaped dove, bearing an olive branch, representing peace
- Water; a reference to the ark floating on water as depicted in the emblem for the original World Centre in London, Our Ark



LOCATION

Pax Lodge is a ten minute walk from the Belsize Park underground station and several buses pass the end of the road giving good access to other parts of London. Hampstead Heath, a large park, is a short walk away.

HOUSE TOURS

Available daily between 9:30 a.m. and 12 noon and from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tours must be booked in advance. Tours are also available on most business days of the World Bureau.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Incoming guests will be accommodated between the hours of 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., daily. Guests should advise staff if they will be arriving at any other time and if an evening meal is needed upon arrival. Guests are requested to vacate rooms by 10:00 a.m. on the day of departure. There is limited space to store luggage.

HOUSE RULES

Pax Lodge is a non-smoking facility. Quiet hours are enforced from 10:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Pax Lodge cannot accept any responsibility for the loss of personal effects. **Girl Scout activities engaged in while in another country must be governed by the safety guidelines set down by *Safety-Wise* and council guidelines.**

WHAT TO BRING

Although GSUSA does not require ownership of a uniform for membership, **when participating in a Pax Lodge event or session**, Girl Scout visitors are expected to wear an official Girl Scout uniform. If a Girl Scout is not using a sash or vest, we suggest that she wear an official GSUSA uniform T-shirt or Polo shirt with tan pants or skirt, along with her Girl Scout pins. If you do not own an official Girl Scout uniform, you might be able to borrow one with the help of your Girl Scout council. Sports clothes worn at Pax Lodge should be neat and in good condition. The following list contains the minimum amount of clothing required for a stay at Pax Lodge:

- One pair of good, sturdy walking shoes
- One pair of lighter shoes or sandals
- Plastic raincoat and collapsible umbrella
- Warm sweater
- Blouses or tops
- Underwear, socks
- Skirts, pants
- Toiletries
- Sleepwear

LONG-TERM ACCOMMODATION

Long-term accommodation is available for young women who are living in London for the first time and need a home away from home for three to nine months. Accommodation is in a single room furnished with a bunk-bed and desk. Linen is provided. Long-term residents are responsible for keeping their rooms clean and tidy and for helping to maintain the cleanliness and tidiness of the House in general.

Long-term residents at Pax Lodge are encouraged to participate, wherever possible, in the programs and activities offered at Pax Lodge and to take an active part with the staff in helping guests to feel at home and enjoy their stay. Staying at Pax Lodge for an extended period offers the opportunity to live the Girl Guide/Girl Scout Law with sister Guides/Scouts from around the world. To apply for long-term accommodation, contact the Center Manager by e-mail <office@paxlodge.org> or by writing Pax Lodge, Olave Centre, 12c Lyndhurst Road, London, NW3 5PQ, UK.

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