

Title: Travel rules (in English)

Category: Matkustaminen

Uploaded: Meri Mattus 01 Dec 2023

Last Updated: Meri Mattus 01 Dec 2023

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## **AFS Finland Travel Rules**

Applied to all students regardless of age

# **TRIPS WITHIN FINLAND**

### **With host family or school**

AFS students can travel freely in Finland with their host families, preferably during school breaks. If the trip is during school, the student must ask for permission to be absent from his or her principal or contact teacher. The maximum allowed absences for travel reasons is 5 school days per trip and 10 school days during the entire program. The AFS student can participate on school trips within Finland with host family permission.

### **Independently without host family or school**

AFS student can visit host family's relatives, another exchange student or school friends, as long as host family and the receiving family have agreed about the visit. AFS students are not allowed to travel over night trips alone or among themselves without a host family or AFS office approved adult chaperone, "as tourists" in Finland, and may not spend nights in cabins, hostels, hotels, motels or "as tourists" in another town.

# **TRIPS OUTSIDE OF FINLAND**

### **With host family**

AFS student can travel abroad with his/her host family without separate permission from the AFS office. If the trip is during school, the student must ask for permission to be absent from his or her principal or contact teacher. For longer trips abroad, please notify the AFS office with travel dates and destination.

Important: Even if your host family invites you on a trip with them, never assume that they will pay any of your travel expenses. We recommend that you discuss and agree on the details ahead of time.

### **With school**

For school trips abroad, AFS student needs to ask for permission from host family and the AFS office.

### **Independently without host family or school**

AFS students must have a valid reason to travel abroad independently. For example visiting a relative or a former

AFS host sibling living in another European country.

When an AFS student is planning an independent trip abroad: ☒

- The student needs host family permission for the trip.
- The student needs a written invitation from a family or person that he/she already knows well and plans to visit. The invitation needs to be attached to the travel permission application.
- If the planned trip is during school, the student needs a written permission from his/her school. The trip can be a maximum of one week (5 school days). The permission must be attached to the travel permission application.
- The student must carefully fill out the travel permission application, found as an attachment or on the AFS FIN website and return it to the AFS office at least 3 weeks before the planned trip.

## TRAVEL PERMISSION APPLICATION ☒

- Is found as an attachment or on our website <https://www.afs.fi/hosting-students> section travel guidelines and applications.
- Needs to be filled out and returned to the AFS Finland office at least 3 weeks before the planned trip.
- Are processed on a case-by-case basis. The student should not pay for the trip before AFS office has granted the permission.
- Travel permissions are not processed after April 30th . For trips planned for May or June, the permission application must be at the AFS office by April 30th.

## VISITS IN FINLAND BY NATURAL FAMILY OR FRIENDS

AFS strongly advises against visits from your family or friends during the AFS year.

AFS has seen the damaging effects such visits can have on the participant and the relationship between the participant and the host family. If for one reason or another there is talk of such a visit, the AFS office must be contacted in advance. The AFS student must ask both the host family and AFS for permission, which may be granted or denied in consultation with all three parties.

Please note: All AFS students must return home after the AFS program ends. Semester students cannot extend their semester program to a year program.