

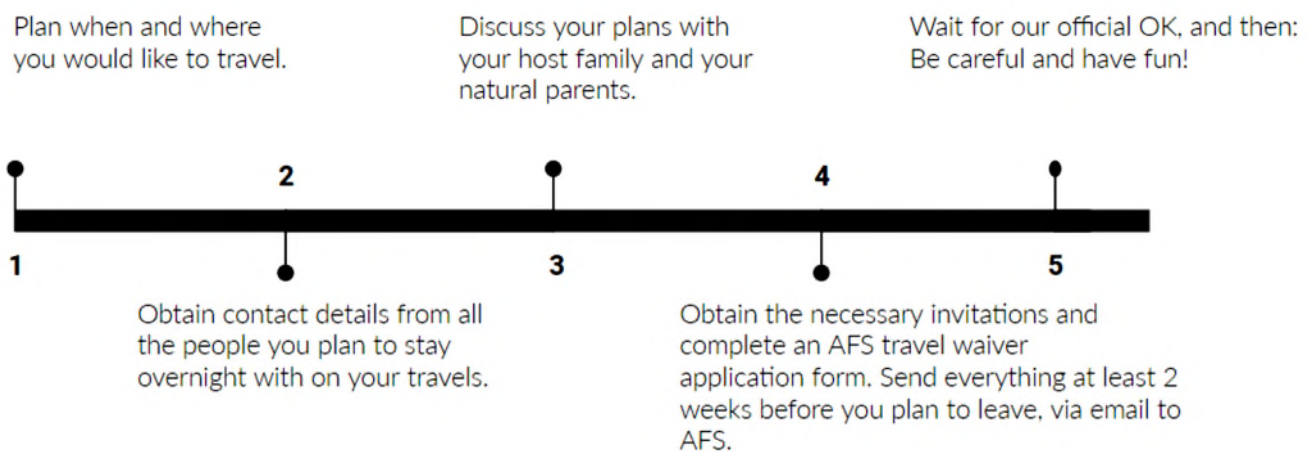
Travelling & How to get permission

Independent travel during your exchange year is possible as long as it complies with the AFS Switzerland Travel Rules. However, permission **MUST** be obtained before travelling independently outside of Switzerland.

What is independent travel?

Independent travel is when you travel outside of Switzerland without the company of your host family or host school.

Independent Travel Process



Can I undertake independent travel without a travel waiver?

NO! Without a valid travel waiver you will not be permitted to travel, and any unauthorized travel will result in the termination of your program.

How do I obtain a travel waiver and what do I have to do with it?

Fill in the Travel Waiver form with your travel details, have the application form signed by your host family and send it to AFS Switzerland at least 2 (better 3) weeks before the date of your departure. If you are invited to stay with someone, you need to provide a **written invitation** as well.

Where do I find the Travel Waiver Application form?

You can find the form here: www.afs.ch/welcomebooklet

There you can download the form, use the fill-in mode and print it out.



Where should I send the fill out Travel Waiver?

You can send the Travel Waiver and the additional required documents to hallo@afs.org via mail.

How long does it take until I have my permission?

AFS Switzerland will transfer your travel information to the AFS partner in your home country, so that they can obtain permission from your natural parents or guardians. This can take quite a while, so it is important that you hand in your application form as early as possible.

You receive permission if the following conditions are fulfilled:

- Your host family approves of your travel plans.
- The trip takes place after the first four months of your stay.
- The trip takes place during your school holidays.
- You have informed AFS Switzerland of your travel plans using an official AFS travel waiver application form at least 2 (better 3) weeks before the date of departure. Make sure you although send in the required documents.
- Your natural parents agree and have given their written consent by signing an official AFS travel waiver.
- You stay with relatives* or friends (≠hotel, youth hostel etc.) or you are accompanied by a person who's a resident of Switzerland and over 18 years old (≠exchange students)

*relatives = not your natural parents, grandparents or siblings

You are planning a trip with your natural parents?

This is **not** allowed during your exchange program with AFS Switzerland. But what about if they come to visit you after the program? That would be a good solution, so you can show them around.

When all these points are in order, AFS Switzerland will give you the green light for your trip.

Any student who travels without permission or behaves inappropriately during an independent trip risks an early return!!