

## **AWA Foreign Tours: Statement of Intent**

It has been the intent of the AWA Foreign Tours Committee to put together quality tours which involve a minimum number of participants (normally 15) traveling together in Economy Class. This way of working in a history of many years has suited our membership, most who are happy to travel in Economy Class.

We have not offered upgrades to other fare classes because our membership has always demanded best price itineraries – and this has meant Economy Class.

With airfare prices and group travel rates dependent upon having a minimum number traveling together – we are unable to offer individual participants upgrade privileges because this compromises our group airfare negotiated rates and group participation rates. We provide a service that meets the needs of the majority and we must be mindful that this satisfies the needs of the AWA Membership.

Whilst we want every participant to be very happy to attend – may I remind you all that we are offering Group Travel and so our decisions must rest with the majority. Whilst some participants may express the want and have the means to upgrade their fare – in a Group situation we must attend to the majority of wants- which is Economy Travel. In pricing our itineraries the ability of having all participants travel together has been at the very heart and spirit of our mandate.

Our opportunity to offer such wonderful tours is based on all participants traveling together in the same class, dependent upon a minimum number traveling together. At the same time this results in seamless travel where the participants have nothing but their spending money to bring – all meals/ tips/ expenses and logistics are taken care of.

I hope this elucidates what AWA Foreign Tours does best which is to provide the unique opportunity for like-minded individuals to travel together and enjoy a destination without any stress in organization and truly enjoy the experience.

Kind Regards,

*Mary-Elizabeth Brien*

AWA Foreign Tours Chair