

Carpe Diem Technology Policy

Carpe Diem Education (CDE) believes that intercultural exchange and experiential learning are best served by being fully present for ourselves, our group, our local partners, host communities, and the environment.

CDE has created the following guidelines to cultivate a strong group culture around the appropriate use of technology, with a commitment to mindful and intentional use.

To strike a balance, there will be some weeks on programs when students have full access to their phones and other weeks when Overseas Educators hold student phones.*

During weeks when students have their phones, they can use them with wifi or data. Students can use their US SIM cards and activate an international plan or purchase local SIM cards in-country. They will be expected to use them appropriately and follow guidelines (listed below) around when they are expected to be off their phones.

There will be three weeks when students cannot access their phones. The first week will be at the very beginning of the program, and the other two weeks will happen later in the program, with exact dates depending on the itinerary.

Week 1: Students will have access to their phones during transit to their orientation location. Once they have safely arrived, OEs will collect all phones and keep them in a safe place for the duration of the first week.

During orientation, OEs and students will discuss the WHY behind this policy, the goals of connecting with one another and the places they are visiting, and the challenges and benefits of disconnecting.

- Near the end of the initial no-phone period, the OEs will facilitate a group discussion to create specific ongoing agreements about the use of technology. These agreements will be revisited throughout the program.

Week 2 through the end of the program: Students will have access to their phones, but they are typically only to be used during downtime, most often in the evenings. Sometimes, depending on the program region, WiFi or cell service will be unavailable. There will be two additional weeks when OEs hold phones so that over the course of the program, all groups have a minimum of three weeks of being tech-free.

The use of any functions other than the camera (note: this includes headphones) will not be permitted in the following situations during the program:

- During ANY activity that involves working, interacting, or learning with local partners and hosts.
- During ANY group activity, including, but not limited to, day hikes, group meals, Carpe Diem Lessons (CDLs), group meetings, structured reflection time, and **any other times specified by OEs**.
- OEs may ask students to refrain from taking their phones to certain events or community spaces.
- OEs may choose to implement additional days of “no WiFi” at any time to mitigate distraction to the group (for example, during a retreat).

WiFi devices **allowed** on program include:

- Cell phones
- Smart Watches
- Kindles
- iPod Touches

WiFi devices **NOT allowed** on program include:

- Laptops
- Tablets (ex: iPad, Chromebook)
- Gaming devices
- Drones

**While OEs will keep phones in locked, secure locations and do their best to ensure safety, neither the OEs nor Carpe Diem is liable for any loss of or damage to students' phones.*