

# **Policy Update COVID-19 for Kuling Trekking**

(Winter season 2022)

*Update 13 September, 2021*

This COVID-19 Policy Update is in conjunction with the general Kuling Trekking (KT) Travel conditions; they are listed as an appendix to this COVID-19 Update.

In cases of doubt or overlap, this Policy Update will overrule the general Travel Conditions

The COVID-19 pandemic obliges us to be more specific in some of our travel conditions: to secure the health of our clients and guides and to agree on a fair sharing of (financial) risks in case of trek cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Below we have listed the policies and principles that apply together with recommendations and resources for our clients to use when booking with us.

## **Booking, registration and cancelation of a trek**

The general KT travel conditions apply for registration and cancelation. After registration for a trek, a down payment of €200,= is obliged to secure your slot in a trek.

In addition, related to the COVID-19 uncertainties, free cancelation applies in this 2022 winter season until 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2022. After this date, the general cancelation policy will apply.

We strongly advise to arrange an adequate health and travel insurance, covering the potential negative effects of the pandemic risks.

## **Testing and/or vaccination obligation**

Our treks wander into the most remote areas of Norway: for days we may be outside phone coverage and far away from health care facilities. This obliges us to be strict in the safety measures for all clients. At the same time, the potentially harsh weather conditions may ask for seeking shelter in a densely packed hut, cabin or tent.

In principle, we will follow the guidelines by the Norwegian government for entry into Norway for the participation in our treks. Due to COVID-19, special entry restrictions for Norway may apply; at present (mid-September 2021), the following regulations apply:

- **The following groups can enter Norway at present:** *“foreign nationals who are fully vaccinated or who have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 6 months and who can document this with a COVID-19 certificate that is connected to the EUDCC gateway.”*
- **About quarantine:** *“People who are fully vaccinated or who have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 6 months, and who can document this with a verifiable COVID-19 certificate that is connected to the EUDCC gateway, will be able to enter Norway freely, regardless of which country they are travelling from. These people are exempt from the duty to quarantine, testing prior to arrival, testing at the border, and the requirement of entry registration.”*

## **Travelling to Norway**

Please consult the latest update for travelling into Norway here:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/koronavirus-covid-19/travel-to-norway/>

The Norwegian government website about COVID-19 can be found here:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/koronavirus-covid-19/>

It is the responsibility of every registered client to arrange safe and timely travel to the departure location for the booked trek. Risks and losses for not being able to arrive in time must be borne by the individual.

## **During trekking**

As a safety pre-caution, we will make use of a back-up resource person in Oslo that will follow our trek and be available for information, consultation and emergency support. This is a general applied principle of Kuling Ttrekking

In view of this COVID-19 pandemic, we may need to ask extra flexibility for our participants in view of the availability of beds and sleeping opportunities in huts and cabins. Most probably, sleeping capacity in the DNT huts and cabins is more restricted than usual which may prompt us to change the itinerary of our trek.

## **Inquiries**

We understand that unforeseen circumstances may emerge or cannot be covered by this Policy Update. For these situations, at that moment, we strive for providing our clients with the most actual information and providing the most fitting and appropriate solutions, all in a fair and reasonable agreement with our participants. For any other inquiry or question: feel free to let us know.

# Appendix

## Travel conditions of Kuling Trekking

*Please note that by registering for a trek of Kuling Trekking (KT) you also agree to the below travel conditions. Please read them carefully!*

### Registration for a trek

Registration has become official upon receiving your deposit. Registration is possible through the website of KT by filling in the special registration form and by making a deposit (advance payment) of € 200,=. This will be confirmed by email. The rest of the cost (the balance) shall be transferred to KT not later 4 weeks before the trek takes place. After receiving the full fee for the trek, KT will send a confirmation email and provide more detailed information on aspects like personal clothing and equipment, fitness preparations and participants list.

The minimum number of participants for a trek is 4, the maximum is 10 to 12 (depending on the specific trek, as specified on the website). With more than 8 participants, KT will arrange a second experienced guide.

### Guidance and safety

Trekking in natural areas inhibits certain risks. Therefore, the trek will be guided by an experienced guide who will be in charge of the actual day-to-day planning, logistics and safety matters. For emergencies, depending on the trek, KT will arrange special equipment for the group like a first aid kit, bivouac sacs, snow shovels and GPS. In areas without mobile phone coverage we will bring a satellite telephone. Unexpected weather or snow conditions may need to change the original trekking route, upon decision of the KT guide.

### Physical fitness conditions and personal risks

Cross-country and back-country (ski) treks are not without personal risks for injuries and other dangers. Participants should be aware of these risks; have the needed technical (skiing) skills and prepare themselves physically for the trek. They are responsible for their own safety and participate at their own risk. KT cannot accept any liability for personal injuries or other damages. Participants themselves should arrange for an adequate travel and health insurance.

### Costs included in the agreement

The price for a trek excludes travel to the starting place of the trek. Contact data of participants will be shared within the group to encourage joint travel to the start of the trek. Mostly, the trek includes food, basic drinks (coffee/tea/chocolate) and accommodation in cabins or huts..

Depending on the trek skiing equipment will be included, as specified on the KT's website. See the website for actual specifications per trek.l

n a situation of extreme currency fluctuations (more than 10% to the NOK within 6 months period), KT has the right to alter the price.

### **Cancelation policy**

Cancelation can take place by KT in a situation of too few participants (less than 4) or unexpected snow or weather conditions, ultimately announced 1 week (weather, snow conditions) or 1 month (for the minimal number of participants) before departure. In those situations, the paid fare will re-imbursed.

Cancelation by a participant up to 8 weeks before departure will cost € 100,=; up to 1 week before departure, cancelation fee will be 50% of the price. Cancelation within 7 days of departure will cost 100% of the trek price. The cancelation fee can be re-imbursed into a voucher for a future trek.