



Alliance Internationale de  
Tourisme

A I  
International Touring Alliance  
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**The Worldwide  
Organization  
of Touring Clubs and  
Automobile Associations**

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## INTRODUCING THE AIT

The Alliance Internationale de Tourisme (International Touring Alliance) is a non-profit, non-governmental association representing motoring organizations and touring clubs around the world.

The history of the AIT developed in three stages, but one common idea of service to tourism has prevailed throughout the 100 years of its existence. Before emerging as the world-wide federation of touring clubs and automobile associations which it is today, the AIT started as the first international organization of tourists. It was founded in Luxembourg in 1898 by seventeen clubs from Europe and America with the purpose of catering to those cycling and hiking tourists who ventured to cross their national frontiers in search of adventure abroad. The organization was then called the Ligue Internationale des Associations Touristes, or LIAT for short.

The development of the international touring movement was brutally affected by the war of 1914-1918. At its end, the LIAT was reconstituted under a new name, the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme, the AIT. The Alliance was motivated by the spirit of international co-operation and desire for peace, which in turn brought an unprecedented expansion of tourism. With the progression of the automobile from a luxury item to a popular means of professional and recreational transport, the AIT family was bound to acquire a predominantly motoring character. The idea of reciprocity of services, one of the cornerstones of the AIT, bore fruit and flourished, reaching well beyond European boundaries.

The further interruption by the Second World War did not permanently impair the irreversible trend toward the recognition of the right to leisure as one of the basic achievements of our time. Tourism had become a potent force in the economic and social policy of the industrial states and proved to be an important stimulus in the development of the new countries in Asia and Africa as well.

The explosion of the motoring population over the last few decades has determined the AIT's emphasis on tourism by automobile, including its camping and caravanning variety. However, mindful of its origins, the Alliance is keen to maintain close ties with cyclists as well as nautical and pedestrian tourists who continue their pursuits within the framework of the AIT's open air activities.

The steadfast dedication of the AIT to the promotion of tourism and defence of the rights of the individual tourist has inexorably led it to a firm commitment towards environmental and road safety concerns.

## AIMS

- AIT vision: to be the essential international network of communication among member organizations;
- AIT mission: to promote safe travel and freedom of personal mobility world-wide;
- AIT values: to build on a century of international goodwill, understanding, co-operation and consultation;
- AIT objectives:
  - to co-ordinate a system of reciprocal services between member organizations for the benefit of their individual members when travelling abroad;
  - to study, make recommendations and disseminate information on matters pertaining to tourism and mobility;
  - to take part in relevant meetings and conferences and to maintain relations with international governmental and non-governmental organizations;
  - to meet the varied and changing requirements of member organizations.

## ACTIVITIES

- Political and lobbying activities:
  - the promotion and co-ordination of national and international action to ensure that measures facilitating international motor traffic and the free flow of tourism are implemented;
  - the promotion of the world-wide implementation of road safety measures;
  - the promotion of international action on environmental protection.
- Advancement of the AIT Tourism Policy, promoting sustainable international tourism and mobility through, and for the benefit of, the network of over 110 million individual tourists which the AIT reaches through its members – automobile, touring, and open air associations;
- Management of a comprehensive touring information system covering more than 70 countries around the world;
- The compiling and dissemination of statistics on motoring and tourism at a world level;
- The promotion of open air activities such as camping and caravanning, cycling, hiking, boating;
- The organization of meetings, conference weeks, workshops, international cycle-touring rallies, traffic education contests and other inter-club and international events;
- The monthly publication of *MOBILITY*, in conjunction with the FIA, which provides an additional link between member associations offering a comprehensive exchange of information and experience.

# MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

To assist in the implementation of international co-operation, the AIT has set up multilateral agreements between its associations which specify their mutual rights and obligations. Such agreements are in effect for the following:

## The AIT Assistance Booklet

### The AIT Assistance Booklet (ETI Booklet)

is a document offering its holder assistance from a member association of the AIT in case of vehicle-related or personal problems after a breakdown or accident while travelling abroad. There are currently over 10 million booklets issued every year by AIT clubs.

The **Assistance Booklet** also includes **AIT Letters of Credit**, a means of payment to cover unforeseen expenses such as vehicle repair or towing costs, costs for medical or legal aid, or costs for technical assistance, etc. **Letters of Credit** annually represent an overall credit of 12 billion Swiss francs.



## Carnet de Touriste

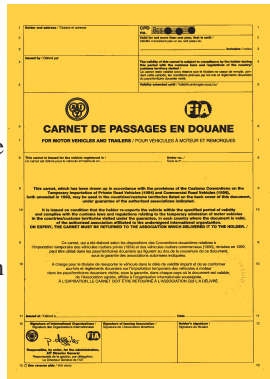
The **AIT Carnet de Touriste** is a Guarantee Document for citizens from East and Central European countries travelling to the Schengen states. It

guarantees consular agencies that costs will be covered should a Carnet holder require medical treatment or repatriation while visiting a Schengen country, thereby facilitating the obtention of a visa. Since 1995 more than 300'000 **Carnets de Touriste** have been issued.

## Carnets de Passages en Douane (CPDs) / Triptyques

Customs documents, issued in accordance with the terms of the UN and WCO Customs Conventions, are still required in a number of countries for the temporary importation of private and/or commercial road vehicles.

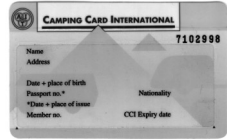
Under the AIT Guarantee Agreement for the Operation of the **Carnet de Passages en Douane**, the association in the visited country guarantees payment of the customs duties and taxes if the vehicle is not re-exported.



## The Camping Card International – CCI

The **Camping Card International (CCI)** serves as an identification document which may be used to facilitate registration at campsites. It is valid world-wide except for in the USA and Canada.

Each card holder is third party insured for 2.5 million Swiss francs against any damages accidentally caused by him/her while camping. For campsite owners/managers, the CCI provides a guarantee that in the event of payment default by a card holder, the campsite will receive compensation. The Camping Card International is delivered by three international federations – the AIT, FIA and FICC – to their affiliated clubs. Each year CCIs are issued to approximately 750'000 campers.



## INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

The AIT has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) and with the Council of Europe. It also has links with the United Nations Environmental Programme and the World Health Organization, and is an affiliate member of the World Tourism Organization (Madrid).

It participates in the work of international governmental and non-governmental organizations dealing with mobility, motoring and tourism. The AIT co-operates with specialized UN agencies and with the European Union in the fields of road safety, technological development, customs matters, environmental protection, consumer protection and open air activities and represents the interests of its member associations within the framework of its public policy.

The AIT, in conjunction with the FIA, operates an office in Brussels, the function of which is to represent AIT interests in the European Union.

### **AIT/FIA Foundation for Mobility and Society**

The AIT/FIA Foundation for Mobility and Society was established to conduct research studies, and to document and analyse the international research activities of the clubs and their foundations. The Foundation's headquarters is in Washington D. C., USA.

# STRUCTURE & ORGANIZATION

The AIT is structured according to a regional system which grants administrative autonomy to Regions constituted within the framework of the AIT Statutes.

## The Regions are :

**Region I** Europe, Middle East and Africa

**Region II** Asia and Pacific

**Region III** North America

**Region IV** Latin America

The General Assembly comprises the whole of the membership of the AIT; adherent members may be heard in a consultative capacity. This body meets once a year.

The President of the AIT is elected by the General Assembly for a single term of office of three years.

The Management Committee administers the AIT and is responsible to the General Assembly for its activities. The Management Committee is comprised of the AIT President and up to 24 individual members nominated by the Regions (representation of the Regions is proportional).

The Management Committee appoints from among its members a Finance Commission which, in co-operation with the AIT Treasurer, assists in preparing the annual budget and producing audited accounts.

The Director General of the AIT is appointed by the Management Committee and is responsible for the organization and management of the work of the General Secretariat.

The AIT General Secretariat has its headquarters in Geneva and ensures the co-ordination between the four Regions. The General Secretariat has the task of generating and promoting world-wide AIT activities, organizing international meetings and representing the AIT at international organizations.



# SERVICES

AIT clubs agree to provide a wide variety of reciprocal services to each other's members when travelling abroad. These services generally are the same as those provided by the clubs to their own members, thus varying from club to club. The following list indicates the type of activities which provide a common link.

## Motoring

- breakdown assistance (road patrols, SOS centers)
- technical assistance
- urgent messages
- repatriation
- road information
- car tests and servicing
- consumer protection
- legal assistance
- insurance

## Touring

- touring information & documentation (maps, itineraries, lists of hotels, campsites, tourist information)
- travel organization (tour operator, travel agency)
- camping and caravanning (site management, equipment)
- open air touring (cycling, nautical activities, hiking & trekking)
- youth touring
- touring for the physically handicapped
- touring for the elderly
- publications, magazines

## Education

- road safety brochures for motorists, motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians (children and adults)
- protection of the environment
- school safety patrols
- school brochures and equipment
- driving schools and advanced driving courses

## Commissions

The AIT has established a number of Commissions to deal with certain areas of activity in depth. The AIT Region I coordinates Commissions devoted to the following :

- Road assistance services
- Letter of Credit & Assistance Booklets (ETI Booklets)
- Marketing

A number of other Commissions are active at a world-wide level in the areas of:

- Traffic and road safety
- Customs affairs
- Legal matters
- Technical and environment
- Tourism
- Open air activities
- Camping

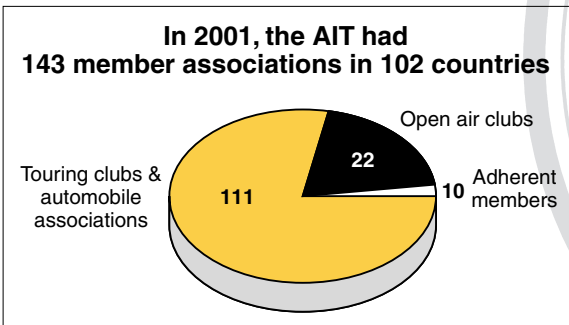
All Commissions meet on a regular basis.

# AIT MEMBERSHIP

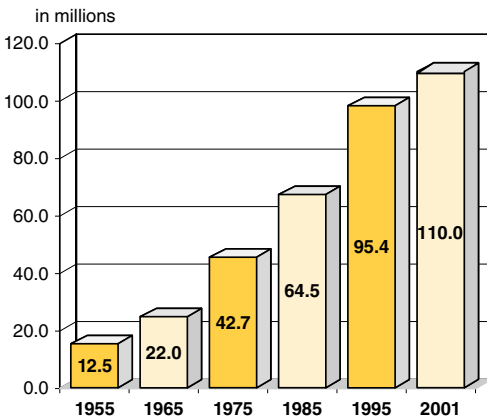
The AIT is comprised of 143 member associations, divided among 102 countries. There are also adherent members – national tourist organizations which, though they do not have individual club members, support the objectives of the AIT. Most AIT affiliates, however, are associations and clubs which consist of individual club members.

The majority of the AIT's active members are touring clubs and automobile associations. Their aims are to assist and protect the interests of their motoring members as well as those who practice other forms of tourism. About one fifth are open air clubs (cycle touring, camping and caravanning, hiking, nautical touring, etc.).

The member associations of the AIT number approximately 110 million individual club members world-wide. The AIT thus represents in family terms more than 300 million tourists and car drivers around the globe.



## Membership evolution : 1955-2001



The number of AIT member associations grew from 108 in 1955 to 143 in 2001