

Information Meeting With Parents

Next Mandatory Informational Meeting will be on ...

1A. Passport Update:

- a. Applications complete for all new passports
- b. All current passports found?
- c. Need to submit to Frau Connolly along with:
 1. Copy of Birth Certificate
 2. Copy of the inside page of the passport. **Signed as printed on passport before copying**
 3. Copy of all naturalization papers / green cards, etc.
 4. Two passport size photos
(All of the above will be returned to you if they are not needed while we are in Europe.)

1B. Checklist of Forms:

- a. medical form
- b. copy of health insurance card
- c. copy of signed passport
- d. 2 passport size pictures
- e. photocopy of birth certificate
- f. behavior form
- g. release and assumption of risk form
- h. completed phone tree
- i. completed email contact list
- j. photo release signed and handed in

2. Rooming assignments (will be online)

3. Hotel differences:

- a. You will not be in your hotel very much, just mostly to sleep!
They will be well located, standard 2-3* tourist class hotels. Clean, safe but not fancy!
Mostly twin beds – one for each person
- b. Elevator size
- c. Overall room size compared to equivalent USA hotel chain, smaller, no tubs
- d. Water pressure is not as strong
- e. Telephone locks –ok to call room to room
- f. Pay TV movie lock –There will not be 50 cable channels like there is in US

4. Importance of Proper Eating

*******Stay hydrated***** Stay happy! *******

Very important that you have a water bottle with you every day, refill at hotel to save money!

- a. Skipping lunch to shop/save money
- b. **MUST** try each meal
- c. Vegetarian meals
- d. Continental breakfast –will vary – generally consists of juices, coffees/teas, rolls, bread, jelly, cereals, ham/salami, cheese (not eggs, pancakes, etc...)

5. Packing Tips

a. Per room:

1. Electric current converter: No more than two
2. Limit the number of hairdryers & curling irons
3. Alarm clock
4. Twist ties
5. Hacky sack
6. journal

b. Per person:

1. Two pairs of **STURDY** walking shoes or sneakers
2. Wristwatch
3. Passport Holder
4. Umbrella
5. Layers of clothing
6. Dress outfits: 2
7. Blending in with the European style of dress
 -baseball caps
 -displaying of the American Flag on tee-shirts, backpacks
8. Travel clothes:
 - ...No sweats, pj bottoms
 - ...Casual: Jeans and casual top
9. To go in churches in Europe, shoulders and knees must be covered as well as stomachs. Bring a cardigan sweater to put over shoulders if it is warm and you might have a tank top on. Wear light slacks if it is warm and churches are on the schedule that day.

6. Luggage requirements: Rachel has the latest information!

- a. Suitcase: Not to exceed 62” in combining the width, length & height
- b. Carry-on: Not to exceed 45” in combining the width, length & height. Inclusive of wheels and handles.
 - It **MUST** be able to fit under the seat.
- c. Weight: 40 pound weight maximum for cargo luggage.
 - 22 pound for carry-on luggage. *must fit under seat or in overhead compartment (max 22” x 14” x 9”)

7. Bus rules

- a. **No talking during guide commentary!**
- b. **No I-pod, MP3 player, cell phone use during guide commentary**

OK for free time!

It has been recommended that only one person per room should have a cell phone. They do not work in Europe. It is one more thing that could be lost or stolen. Frau Ashford and John, our travel guide, will have one at all times! Yes, you will have their numbers along with a million other emergency numbers, and addresses!

- c. **Daily cordial remarks to the bus driver & guides**
- e. **While on a walking tour, please don't be lying on the ground!**
- f. **Absolutely no off colored remarks of any kind! Think before you speak!**
- g. **Keep the bus clean and picked up!**

8. Bed checks

- a. Definition of a Bed Check
- b. Chaperones need knowledge group is secure before retiring themselves.
--Example: Get your ice BEFORE bedcheck.
- c. Suggestion to **parents to discuss fully with their students the importance of sleep on such a vigorous and lengthy trip.**

9. Billing Information:

- a. Insurance supplied by company is available but optional
--Check personal insurance for coverage.
--Most insurance companies offer a rider policy for the duration of the trip
- b. It is not too late to buy it, you can up to the day of departure. If you've lost the info, call 1.800.724.8747 and they will send you another form.

10. Spending Money:

- a. Suggest approximately \$350

• 9 lunches	@ \$12.00	\$108.00
• Airport lunch/dinner		@ \$30.00
• Snacks/Souvenirs		@ <u>\$200.00</u>
	Total:	\$338.00

- b. Order Foreign Currency:

(Trip Currency Packets are available through local commercial banks as well as through AAA. It has been recommended to have 40€ (approximately \$60.00) in cash and the rest on a AAA debit card. The cash should last for a couple of days and then we will go as a group to exchange as needed. The debit card can be reloaded from home.

NOTE: It will look like Monopoly play money but it is REAL. Be careful where you place it until departure.)

- c. Credit Card or AAA Card (**Must have your name on it**, not parents)
 - d. Small (Credit card size) calculator can be useful or the cheat sheet from the website.
 - e. Review the numbers in German.
 - f. Must save some American money for airport lunches and snacks. \$30.00 approx.
11. Telephone Tree and Email Contact List
- a. Explanation for need and usage
 - b. Telephone tree and Email tree remain at home. They don't travel with the student.
12. Attempting to use the language
- a. General greetings upon entering and leaving stores
 - b. Politeness
 - c. Buying and requesting information
13. Discussion of / Collection of Tip Money
\$30.00 - Tour guide
14. Camera / Batteries / Film / Extra Memory Card
- a. No laptop computers or larger, older camcorders
 - b. Learn how to load your film or batteries for digital cameras
 - c. Cost of film and batteries overseas
 - d. Pictures are most memorable w/ people in the foreground & monument in the background. (It proves to your friends that you really were there.)
 - e. Internet cafes are widely available. You pay 1-2 € and sit down and send an email back home if you have a web based email account like yahoo... It is very neat, efficient, and cost effective way to communicate with folks back home.
15. Customs
- a. What to expect
 - 1. security measures (yes sir, no sir)
 - 2. carry-on luggage
 - b. Passport stamping
16. Special Medical Needs
- a. Example: diabetes, epilepsy, severe asthma, etc.
 - b. Emergency protocol: Frau Ashford will stay at the hotel if you are too sick to go to a scheduled event. In case of hospitalization, Frau Ashford will be the chaperone who will accompany you.