

## Practical Information for Your Trip

**Packing.** Please pack light—preferably one suitcase with wheels, and one carry-on. You will be carrying your own bags in and out of hotels, and on and off buses. No porters. Take what you can comfortably move around by yourself.

**Clothing:** Once traveling, clothing is all about comfort, easy to wash and wrinkle-free. Plan layered wardrobes where you can add or subtract a sweater or light jacket depending on the weather, and can mix and match pants/tops/skirts. Dress code is casual. Take at least two pairs of broken-in shoes that you can alternate for walking tours.

**Money:** You will need some euros when you arrive. Either order euros ahead of time at your bank or get euros upon arrival at the airport from an ATM machine. For ATMs, you will need a debit or credit card that allows money withdrawals and has a 4-number PIN code.

**Cell Phones.** We strongly suggest that you plan to use your cell phone while abroad. This is the best way for you to keep in touch with the group. Check with your provider (AT&T, Verizon, T-Mobile, etc) to confirm that your contract, and your phone, can be used internationally. Most providers offer temporary international plans for both calls and data if you need to add one. add up quickly without one!

Another option is to download the app, WhatsApp. It's free to download and free

for all calls received and sent and all texts when on wifi. If you do not already have WhatsApp on your phone, we suggest downloading it from the appropriate store for your device and learning how to use it before you leave home.

**Internet.** Most hotels have free wifi, as well as a public computer for use in the lobby or business center.

**Credit Cards:** Visa and Master Card are accepted almost everywhere. Other cards, including American Express, are not as frequently accepted. Important: Please notify your credit card company that you will be traveling internationally, and will be making charges from a foreign country. Otherwise, you may find your charges declined and long lengthy phone calls to correct the situation.

**Electricity.** Europe has 220 volts of electricity running through the wires, so your 110-voltage hair dryers or other appliances may need a transformer to adjust the voltage, or risk burning out. Most phones, cameras, and computers today adjust between the 110-240 range and do not need a transformer. Please check the voltage of the devices you expect to use to be prepared.

European wall sockets have round holes, so if you're travelling from the US, you'll need a small adapter plug to fit your US prongs into the sockets. You can easily find these adapter plugs on Amazon, and they usually come in packs of several. Most hotels provide hair dryers, so there's no need to bring one with you.