



June 2017 Packing for your European Vacation

Wow — that time is soon approaching when one of your dreams is finally coming to fruition — traveling in Europe.

Now the stressful thing is: how do you properly pack for the trip?

First of all, you have to pack smart. Look for outfits that give you the flexibility that you might encounter during your trip. You want items that are easily packable and don't wrinkle easily. Plus, does the outfit give you different looks? Can you wear it during the day, but then change it up a bit and wear it in the evening, too?

You should do a little research or ask Facebook friends who have been to the country you are visiting. When we toured Italy several years ago, I had read people entering Catholic churches should have their shoulders covered and shorts / skirts to their knees, in very traditional style. So, we packed appropriately for those days.

If you are visiting many different cities, an accordion file folder can come in handy, using one section per city. That helped me to keep schedules, tickets and other things in their proper order. For example, being an organizer on our recent trip — I wasn't only on vacation, but I was also the one to keep the family organized, knowing what sites to see in that city or along the route.

Do you need to exchange money into euros or that country's currency? You can do this at Detroit Metro airport or often through your local bank. Do this early, and check and see what their fees are. Local currency exchanges sometimes take a week to complete.

Of course, you should check helpful travel websites. There are too many to list, but many people use Travelocity, TripAdvisor, Kayak, Priceline and others for comparison of prices.

Remember to pack comfortable shoes because a lot of walking usually takes place in Europe. And, don't forget about the European chargers for your electronic devices.

It is also worth a stop to your cellphone provider to see what their European plans are. You don't want to get surprised by huge overseas phone charges when you arrive back home. Thankfully, more and more places now offer free Wi-Fi service.

It's also a good idea to make a copy of your passport and leave that copy, along with your itinerary, with someone you trust.

THINGS TO DO BEFORE LEAVING:

- Hold Mail
- Adjust Thermostat - shut off A/C
- Turn off water
- Run garbage disposal final time
- Clean out perishable items from refrigerator
- Remove trash from kitchen

YOUR PACKING LIST FOR TRAVELING TO EUROPE:

Accordion envelope with cities broken down. This is the place to locate printed reservations, AAA maps and tour books, plus proof of things

Cash, ATM notes, passport, medicines

Shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, hand and body lotion, lip balm

GPS if renting car

Make-up, night light

Different currency & money belt

European adapters

Itinerary sent to other family members

Snacks, water, books for plane ride

Personal-hygiene items

Toiletry bag

Toothbrush, toothpaste, floss

Comb or brush

Razors and shaving gel

Hair dryer and curling iron

Contact-lens solution, extra contact lenses or eyeglasses

Sunscreen, aloe and sunglasses

Extra resealable plastic bags

Plastic bags for laundry

Electronics and Games

Headphones for airplane

Laptop and power cord

Books or Kindle

Notebook for journaling

Electronic-device chargers

Cell phone and charger

Extra batteries for your devices

Correct clothing

Swimsuit and cover-up

Shorts and t-shirts

PJs

Bra, socks and underwear

Sweats and long pants

Warm clothing for cool nights

Ponchos for rain or umbrella

Hats and sweater

Comfortable shoes, slippers and heels

Blouses, capris, skirts, dress

Happy Organizing and enjoy Europe!

Your local professional organizer,

Betty Huotari

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betty@logicalplacement.com.

810.348.1772

betty@logicalplacement.com • www.LogicalPlacement.com

