

Europe Packing List

This list is the result of years of experience traveling through Europe. Some of the items are suggestions rather than essentials. Please consider the advice and never be afraid to ask the WHYS that you might encounter.

THE LINE ON THE LEFT IS FOR CHECKING OFF THE ITEM AS IT IS PACKED.

1. Passport - This is the most important thing you will take with you. **DO NOT PACK YOUR PASSPORT IN YOUR STOW-AWAY LUGGAGE**; as you will have occasion to use it often. Keep it safe!!! Put it in a pouch that you can wear around your neck or under your clothes.
2. Traveler's Checks - Use \$20 and/or \$50 denominations. You may wish to use Thomas Cook traveler's checks which are available at the airport (Desk international - this place also trades foreign currencies) and they are free. Thomas Cook travelers' checks are the most widely accepted check in Europe so this is a better deal than buying them through American express, etc. at your bank.
3. Foreign Currency-We often recommend that you take some money in the various countries' currency so that you will have some available immediately on arrival for any emergencies and so that you grow accustomed to handling it and converting the dollar to the others. This is available at DFW Airport. Thomas Cook is the only available at the international terminal.
4. Photocopy of your birth certificate/ Important pages in your passport - This helps you to replace a lost/stolen passport much more readily. From the passport include the pages with your passport number, your photo & your address.
5. You will need to save receipts for when you return. Your customs declaration will require you to list expenses for purchases. There is a \$400 exemption per person and there is NO concern on goods mailed back to the states.
6. You can use a Visa or Mastercard in parents name, but you must sign your own name and you also must show your passport. American Express must be in your own name to be used in Europe. Guard these carefully. Carry the minimum.
7. Small Address book-for writing postcards.
8. Maps of cities/ Michelin Guides
9. Your Texas drivers license.
10. Small notebook for a journal of activities & \$\$ spent.
11. Tickets-If given before.
12. \$20 to \$30 in American money \$10 in ones
13. Watch - Be on time for everything. Tardiness results in problems for everyone on the bus and in the group. An alarm clock would also be handy.
14. Camera & film-We suggest a lead-lined bag or a ziploc bag for this because the first will protect your film from an x-ray device and the second will allow you to carry it through the customs people quickly and easily. Put your name on the camera if possible. Do not have any film in the camera as you go through the machine. Carry a roll or two of slow film in your carry on. Other film should go in the lead lined bag in your suitcase.

15. Pocket calculator - For figuring rates and prices.
16. Travel Alarm Clock - Put in new batteries and know how to use it. Be certain it will awaken you.
17. Adapter and converter if you plan to use electrical appliances. These can be shared if you like; they cost approximately \$30 and they do not always work.
18. Walkman and Tapes - For years I watched the kids use these and thought it ludicrous. Then I got one and they can make the bus rides pass more quickly if you do not enjoy the scenery.
19. Benedryl - You can pour it on bug bites that might cause infection or if you are allergic to the venom. If you don't have the liquid form you can use the pills (the ones with the pinkie-purple band around it).
20. Medications - If you are on prescription medications you should carry them where you can get to them easily at the appropriate time. You also must take them in the original prescription bottle. Make sure you have enough for your trip so that you don't run out. This goes for contacts as well.
21. A waterproof hat and raincoat/poncho - Make sure that it is light weight and easy to pack so that it doesn't take too much room. The hat is good for keeping the sun away as much as the rain when walking about.
22. A good pair of walking shoes - You should wear them for the same amount of time that you'll be on the trip, before you leave. They should be water-proof. You should bring Band-Aids no matter how used you are to wearing your shoes in case of blisters. To risk stating the obvious they are good for other things too.