



EDUCATIONAL  
TOURS



## European Information

### Travel documents

U.S. citizens traveling to Europe must have a passport that is valid for six months after their expected return date (eight months if traveling to Turkey on the Greek Island Cruise). Also, you must hold proof of return (your e-ticket receipt will suffice). Entry visas are not required for Europe, with the exception of Russia. This visa should be obtained prior to tour and we recommend using [visacentral.com/efvisa](https://www.visacentral.com/efvisa) (EF travelers get a discount!). Please check [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov) to confirm passport validity requirements prior to your tour. Citizens of all other countries should contact their appropriate embassies to find out what documentation is required for them to travel.

### Vaccinations and health precautions

For the most up-to-date information on necessary vaccinations, we recommend you visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or consult your physician.

### Tour Director and bus drivers

Your Tour Director is responsible for all the logistics of your tour. They will coordinate details including bus transportation, accommodations, meals, and special excursions. Your Tour Director will also show you the highlights of your destinations and can recommend free time activities. Additionally, your Tour Director will be with you throughout the tour and is trained to handle any challenging situations or emergencies that may arise.

## Tipping

It's customary to tip your Tour Director and bus drivers as a token of appreciation. We recommend:

- \$6–8 per person per day for your Tour Director
- \$3 per person per day for your bus driver

We encourage Group Leaders to collect tip money from their travelers before leaving on tour. You can tip in U.S. dollars or exchange the money into local currency before presenting it to your Tour Director and bus driver at the end of tour in the tip envelopes provided by EF. If you have any questions on tipping, please reach out to your Tour Consultant.

## Currency

Most European countries use the euro. The exceptions are Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Iceland, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the UK. Visit [xe.com](https://www.ef.com) for more currency information. We recommend using debit and credit cards to access money while abroad and discourage the use of traveler's checks. If you want to skip the ATM machines abroad, many banks allow customers to order cash in a foreign currency. You can do this at a local branch or through the bank's app.

If you plan to use a credit or debit card abroad, be sure to notify your bank or credit card company that you will be traveling abroad and ask what international fees you may have to pay. You should plan on approximately \$40–\$60 per day for spending money, which should cover bottled water, lunches, souvenirs, some free time activities, and special excursions offered by the Tour Director.

## Transportation

Groups typically travel by motorcoach between destinations, on sightseeing tours, and on EF-included excursions. Some itineraries may also include internal flights or travel by train, cruise ship, or ferry. When traveling to local activities or free time options, groups generally find it easier to use public transportation, which is another great way to experience the local culture. Your Tour Director will help you learn the maps and routes.

## Accommodations

Hotels in Europe are often not as modern, big, or standardized as they are in North America. Rooms seldom have air conditioning or televisions, and not all European hotels have elevators. Students under the age of 20 will share rooms with two or three other travelers of the same gender in rooms that have single or shared double beds (or a combination of the two). Students may also end up sharing rooms with students in the tour group who are not from their own school.

Adults will share twin rooms with other adults of the same gender. They may share rooms with adults in the tour group who are not from their own school. Please note that groups may not all have rooms next to each other (some may even be on different floors) and that hotels may be located outside of the city center.

## Phones and internet

It's easy to get an international phone card in Europe to make phone calls home, and your Tour Director can help you find places to buy them. If you plan to use your personal cell phone on tour, contact your wireless provider to see what fees you may incur for calling, texting, or using data abroad. Wi-Fi is not available at all hotels in Europe. When it is available, there is often a fee.

## Local food

You should expect food and portion size to be different than what you are accustomed to at home. Breakfast typically includes cereal, bread or rolls, jam, juice, coffee, and tea. Lunch is your chance to make culinary discoveries on your own. Included dinners will be a mix of familiar dishes and local specialties, all served from a pre-set group menu. Water in Europe is safe to drink and table water is always available free of charge, provided that you ask specifically for natural or still water. Additionally, in some countries you may have to specify you want tap and not bottled water. Ask your Tour Director for more guidance on the local customs regarding ordering water.

## Safety

Petty theft and pick-pocket incidents have been known to occur in areas frequented by tourists. As a precaution, we recommend that you refrain from carrying large amounts of cash or wearing jewelry, and that you keep your valuables in your hotel room's safe or at the safe at the front desk. When you're out in a city, it's a good idea to keep your passport and spending money in a money belt that can be worn under your clothes. Never leave your bags, cameras, backpacks, or other belongings unattended. Always inform your Tour Director if you should need to break away from the group at any point. And, please be sure to read EF's *Travel & Safety Guide* before going on tour.

## Weather

The weather in Europe varies by destination and season. Please check [weather.com](https://www.weather.com) for your destinations and travel periods.

## Packing

You should pack light and we recommend bringing only as much as will fit in one carry-on sized suitcase and your EF backpack. You will be responsible for loading your luggage on and off buses and into hotels. If your tour includes travel by night train, please be aware that the bunk bed-style accommodations provide little storage space for luggage. We recommend you carry valuables, medications, and a change of clothes in your EF backpack, which you can use as your carry-on item for flights.