

WTW Europe Choral Tour Packing Tips

One of the most important things to remember on this trip is that you are representing W.T. Woodson High School and the US. We do not want to be considered “ugly Americans”. Remember, we are guests in another country and one way we can show respect for the culture is by dressing appropriately. Toward that end, you are strongly encouraged to follow these guidelines.

1. No ripped, cut off or holey jeans, pants or shorts. “Dress” jeans are acceptable. Shorts may be worn but no athletic or short shorts.
2. No tank tops, muscle shirts or tube tops may be worn without a shirt or blouse (please no sheer, see-thru varieties) over them. The shirt or blouse may be removed while riding on the bus but when you leave the bus, the shirt goes back on.
3. Girls may feel free to wear skirts (no minis) and tops or sundresses. If the sundress or top is sleeveless, please bring a light sweater, shrug or shawl to wear over it when we tour churches. Also, it may be a little cooler inside buildings we are touring.
4. Logo T-shirts and hats are very popular here. Not so much in Europe. Please carefully consider what these shirts and hats have printed on them. It may mean something totally different in say, Italy, and could offend someone. Stick with solid colored T’s and plain hats, just to be safe.
5. You must bring the trip uniform and appropriate chorus shoes. Boys, please do not forget your black socks. Bring several pairs! Girls, you may wear nude stockings but not knee highs (the skirt will be too short for them). Remember to regularly check this uniform for stains, wrinkles and tears. Spot clean the stains, iron out the wrinkles (or hang in the bathroom while showering) and, if you ask really nicely, an adult may be willing to make repairs.
6. It is wise to bring hand washable undergarments (yes, even the boys) to cut back on the amount of clothing you have to bring and wash a few items at night. Laundry detergent comes packaged in travel sizes for this very purpose.
7. Think mix and match i.e. a pair of pants or nice shorts that can be worn with several different tops. Remember that you cannot bring your entire wardrobe with you. Plan out what you are bringing and make sure you have all the components before you leave i.e. belt, shoes, socks, etc.
8. Bring comfortable shoes and sandals that you have broken in (not worn out, but gently broken in). Wearing new shoes will result in blisters. Flip flops are not advisable. Some churches and restaurants require more covering on your feet than flip flops provide. Since we may not know which ones those are in advance, be prepared.
9. Pack and dress for the weather. Depending upon where we are there is a 30-50% chance of rain on any given day. In Salzburg there are often unpredictable scattered showers. Bring a small collapsible umbrella and/or a pack and go rain jacket (the ones that fold up into a little bag). Mornings are often more humid than the afternoons. The following chart represents the monthly average high and low temperature for each country:

Country	High	Low
Salzburg	74	55
Venice	81	64
Milan	83	60
Como	83	60
Lausanne	80	61
Paris	75	58
Caen	71	55

10. Please pack in compliance with airline and Transportation Security Administration regulations. You may have one checked suitcase not to weigh more than 50 pounds, one carry on bag (not to exceed 45" total i.e. 22x14x9) and one personal item (i.e. handbag or small back pack). You also need to take into consideration the luggage space available on the bus. The TSA is still enforcing the following regulations:

A. All liquids, gels and aerosols must be in three-ounce or smaller containers. Larger containers that are half-full or toothpaste tubes rolled up are not allowed. **Each container must be three ounces or smaller.**

B. All liquids, gels and aerosols must be placed in a single, quart-size, zip-top, clear plastic bag. Gallon size bags or bags that are not zip-top such as fold-over sandwich bags are not allowed. **Each traveler can use only one, quart-size, zip-top, clear plastic bag.**

C. Each traveler must remove their quart-sized plastic, zip-top bag from their carry-on and place it in a bin or on the conveyor belt for X-ray screening. X-raying separately will allow TSA security officers to more easily examine the declared items.

D. The only sharp metal object allowed in your carry on luggage is a pair of scissors less than 4" long and properly sheathed. Everything else must be checked. I would even check the scissors. And don't carry pocket knives or lighters!

11. Please pack "smart". Don't bring huge bottles of anything – we are only going for two weeks, not a year! Most hotels provide hairdryers. Check with your room-mate about sharing other electronic gear. Be organized! It is not possible to unpack and repack every place we go. Mr. E highly recommends packing cubes which allow you to keep like clothing together. Be prepared! Bring a small sewing kit, some bandaids, motion sickness pills, acetaminophen or ibuprophen, sun screen and may be something for an upset stomach. Don't forget your prescription medications. There are not first aid parents on this trip so you need to be responsible for taking them.

12. Feel free to bring your IPOD or MP3 player (don't forget the earphones), cameras and video recorders. Don't forget the chargers or extra batteries. Remember that you will need an adapter to use those chargers. In Europe, they use 230 V or 50 HZ. Some electronics can adapt to both US and foreign currents. Check your equipment before you purchase a voltage converter. FYI, the outlets in the bathrooms tend to run at a lower voltage so be careful when plugging in hairdryers, flat irons, etc.