

United Kingdom Travel Information

PACKING TIPS

First and foremost be *comfortable!* Pack clothes which can be worn in layers and colors which allow you to mix and match. Note that in many European Cathedrals shorts and sleeveless outfits are not permitted. Consider the following ideas when you pack:

- Your favorite pair of walking shoes
- 1 warm cardigan sweater
- 2 pair of slacks
- 1 pair of jeans or casual pants
- 1 pair of bermuda shorts
- 3 cotton shirts
- Rain coat, rain hat and small umbrella
- Swim suit
- Converter and Adaptor plugs
- Travel Alarm
- Emergency Sewing Kit and First Aid Kit
- Travel packs of towlettes and tissues
- Powdered laundry soap
- Camera, film, extra battery and Journal
- **Wash Cloth (unlike what we are accustomed to, European hotels do not provide wash cloths).**

ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES - The electric current in Europe is 220 volts. To operate small American appliances you will need **both a Converter and Adaptor Plugs**. In most English hotels hairdryers and coffee and tea service is provided in the rooms.

IDENTIFICATION - Please place luggage tags on suitcases and wear name tags at all times.

TELEPHONE CALLS - Calling from the UK can be costly. It is more economical for friends and family to call overseas than for you to call home.

Go to **www.Alphatours.com** for up to date information on weather, currency exchange rates and other helpful tips.

LUGGAGE - You have paid portorage for one suitcase. The airlines will allow one suitcase (not to exceed 30" x 21" x 10" and 50 lbs.) and one small carry-on (not to exceed 12" x 12" x 18"). Be sure all of your bags are clearly marked with your name and address. It is always advisable to pack any medicine and valuables in your carry-on bag which will always be with you. **Please remember that you are responsible for your passport and carry-on at all times.**

WEATHER - Plan for warm weather during the days and cool evenings. Temperatures range from 50 to 70 degrees.

MONEY - Major credit cards and traveler's checks are accepted in most places. One English pound equals approximately \$1.50USD. Automatic Teller Machines are available throughout the United Kingdom for your convenience. *A voluntary Love Offering for our Guide & Driver will be taken as an expression of our appreciation for their services. Suggested donation is 2GBP per person per day for each.*

ILLNESS - If you need medical attention while abroad, contact the reception area of the hotel. Your travel host should also be notified.

TIME CHANGE - There is a five hour time change difference. 11:00 p.m. EST in the USA is 4:00 a.m. the next day in the United Kingdom.

MEALS - Breakfast and dinner (except in Edinburgh and London) are served daily.

Traveling Do's and Don't's

- ▶ Do carry a copy of the first page of your passport and a list of traveler check numbers separate from those items.
- ▶ Do carry an extra supply of all prescription medication
- ▶ Do carry a list of essential medications and doctor's phone numbers
- ▶ Do take only what you can carry yourself
- ▶ Do plan your wardrobe around one color
- ▶ Do plan to dress in layers
- ▶ Do place all liquids in plastic bottles and pack in zip-lock bags
- ▶ Do notify your credit card company that you will be traveling abroad
- ▶ Don't overpack
- ▶ Don't bring expensive jewelry
- ▶ Don't pack your passport in a suitcase
- ▶ Don't pack money or valuables in a suitcase
- ▶ Don't pack essential medication in a suitcase

A Good Traveler

A good traveler remembers that they are traveling with a group and considers the comfort and well being of the entire group.

- ▶ Follow the Guide's directions & listen to all instructions carefully (especially for the time to be on the bus). If one person is late, everyone loses valuable time
- ▶ Settle any personal charges you may have (laundry, telephone, etc...) directly with the hotel the night before you check out
- ▶ If you have to be absent from a day of touring for any reason, please notify your travel host or guide as soon as possible
- ▶ Please rotate your seat on the bus every day
- ▶ Be flexible and congenial