



Italy Trip 2023

Holy Cross Collegiate

Final Meeting
Tuesday, March 21, 2023



Agenda

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- Travel Information
 - Routing
 - Tour Rules
 - Packing Reminders
 - Money Reminders
 - Communication Home
 - Dress/Attire
 - Bus and Rooming lists
 - Helpful Tips
 - Other
 - Questions

Travel Information: Pre-Departure

- Make sure before you leave home you have your PASSPORT (take picture) and various forms of CURRENCY (Euros, debit card and/or credit card) **WITH YOU !!!**
- All trip participants are responsible for getting to the Calgary International Airport (YYC) themselves on the day of departure.
 - The entire group will meet at **8:45am** at the International Wing (Look for Air Canada). Please adhere to this time (**8:45am**) as we are a large group and it will take some time to get us checked in.
 - **WATCH** your bags and belongings at all times - NEVER leave them unattended
 - Please check the Air Canada website for what they allow for carry on items.

Travel Information - Routing

Departing Flights (Thursday April 6, 2023)

- Air Canada Flight #0326 departs Calgary @ 11:55am and arrives in Montreal @ 5:57pm
- Air Canada Flight #0894 departs Montreal @ 8:30pm and arrives in Milan @ 10:15am (next day)

Returning Flights (Saturday, April 15, 2023)

- Air Canada Flight #0891 departs Rome @ 1:25pm and arrives in Toronto @ 4:55pm
- Air Canada Flight #0159 departs Toronto @ 8:45pm arrives in Calgary @ 10:56pm

YOU MUST GET YOURSELF TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT

Travel Information - Return Home

- Participants are responsible for getting back home (Strathmore) so arrangements should be made prior to arriving back at the Calgary airport.
- Please make sure to monitor the return flights to make sure participants are NOT stuck at the airport waiting for a ride home.
- Chaperones will not be responsible for waiting at the airport until participants are picked up.

Tour Rules

- **ATTENDANCE** at all scheduled activities is mandatory - only if a physical ailment occurs would a participant not attend
- **CURFEW** is TBD depending hotels and daily schedules. Students are expected to be in their designated rooms on time; room checks will be done by chaperones
- **ALCOHOL** is strictly forbidden. This includes bringing home alcohol for gifts. We need to report all incidents to CTR Divisional Superintendents - please do NOT jeopardize future trips.

Tour Rules - Continued

- DAILY before getting off the bus stay seated until you receive further instruction. Leave front seats for tour guide and Mr. Evans/Hanson.
- PARTICIPANTS always need to be in a group of at least 3 and use this buddy system faithfully!
- CARRY travel cards with hotels and tour guide contact info with you at all time (handed out tonight)
- HOTEL ROOMS are to be respected. Should anything be broken in the room, that room's occupants are responsible for the damage and must pay for it before we leave the hotel. Many hotels have actual keys that you must return each day to the front desk. Fines typically range from \$100-200 Euros and it must be paid before the group is allowed to leave the hotel.

Packing Reminders

- PACK what you think you want to take in one suitcase and one carry-on. Be able to carry both pieces up and down a long flight of stairs; if this is too much to carry, eliminate what you really don't need!!!
- PACK some clothing in your carry-on bag, incase your suitcase is lost and you would have something clean to wear at least for 2 days.
- IDENTIFY your belongings with name and address tags and some sort of Canadian symbol (tag or patch). **Distinctive pink ID tags that were shared tonight should be attached onto your checked bag. School tag shared are for your backpack.**
- ELECTRICAL appliances require a converter in European countries.
- PACK light, comfortable footwear (not new). **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT**

Packing Reminders Continued

- Travel experts suggest that if you can't wear something several times (except socks and underwear), don't pack it.
- Roll everything you can. This will keep it from getting wrinkled.
- Use space saving ideas - fill backpack with items, stuff socks into shoes if you are bringing more than one pair, etc
- Have the ability to layer your clothes as temperatures may range from 5 C to 20 C. We will most likely encounter rain on our trip so please pack accordingly.
- You will be doing a great deal of walking so ensure you have comfortable walking shoes/runners.

Packing Reminders Continued

Consider bringing the following items with you:

- ☐ A safe way of carrying money (money belt, fanny-pack etc)
- ☐ Comfortable shoes for a great deal of walking
- ☐ Music & Headphones
- ☐ Clothes in layers - a light rain jacket
- ☐ At least one pair of pants
- ☐ Some snacks such as granola bars
- ☐ A watch (preferably with alarm)
- ☐ If you wear contacts, bring glasses as well
- ☐ A plastic garbage bag or two for dirty laundry
- ☐ An adapter to plug in electric appliances such as hairdryers
- ☐ A POSITIVE, FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE !!!

Dress/Attire

- Be aware we are going into religious buildings (Churches, Sistine Chapel, Museums) and appropriate dresses is mandatory to be permitted into them.
- Easter Sunday Mass, April 9th at 11:00am in Pisa

Money Reminders

- Participants must have some foreign cash before you leave Canada. Approximately \$500-\$600 Euros recommended
- MONEY for lunches are needed - calculate for 20% more than what you might spend here so that you can get enough to eat - it is more expensive there, even fast food. A BigMac meal in Rome is \$10-12 Euros = \$14-16.
- HIDE some Euro's (small amounts) in another place in your baggage for emergency use if necessary.
- Carry some Canadian currency for Canadian airports.
- Chaperones/Parents will look after passports, you are responsible for your money.

Money Reminders Continued

CARRYING MONEY:


- Participants should never carry large amounts of money around with them at any one time (pickpockets etc.).
- Participants could consider wearing a money belt or fanny pack to prevent pickpockets.
- Female participants, if they are going to take a purse along, should hold it in front of you at all times.
- Male participants, if they are going to bring a wallet, should keep it in a front pocket rather than a back pocket.

Credit/Debit Cards

- We suggested a credit card with you for emergencies - either one under your parents' account in your name or one on your own - not necessary to have a large credit limit. We'd recommend no more than \$500.
- ATM cards may work well as long as you are prepared to pay whatever the exchange happens to be at that time. Please note that ATM (debit) card use is not as extensive as in Canada so you may not be able to use them at restaurants and shops all of the time. They may not be quickly available and they need to be European-compliant (check with your bank).




Communication Back Home

- PHONE CALLS or other personal expenses incurred in the hotels are the students responsibility to pay before departure.
 - Make sure you are familiar with your data plans from your providers
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Excursions

- Some excursions may come up on this tour.
- Climbing Pisa Tower - this is an option for \$20 Euro. You need to pre-book online between 11:45 - 1:00pm to climb on April 9th. Mr. Evans sent an email with the link to buy tickets to climb the Tower if you want to do this during your free time.
- Please allocate \$50-\$80 Euro's (this is safe) for potential future excursions from your total (Eg. Catacombs).
- Participation in these excursions will be discussed with EF and group leaders



Bus and Rooming Lists

- We had a meeting to determine student rooming lists. They were asked to make groups, keeping in mind there will be times when there will be only double, triple or quad rooms available.
- The busing list has already been created.
- Grade 11/12 students and parents will be on Bus 1 with Mr. Evans.
- Every other traveller will be on Bus 2 with Mr. Hanson.

Helpful Concluding Tips

- You will be visiting very popular areas of Europe. It will be Easter which is an important holiday season with many people traveling. Remember the “Rule of 3” and don’t go anywhere alone.
- Guard against pickpockets and purse snatchers by carrying your day pack or purse across your chest, especially on public transport, escalators or in crowded plazas. Keep each day's spending money separate from your main bankroll so you don't have to "dig" for funds in a public place. Consider wearing a money belt or fanny pack.

Helpful Concluding Tips Continued

- Use the washroom whenever you have a chance. Toilets are scarce, and there is often a charge to use them! Up to \$1-\$2 euro each time! McDonalds is a good choice as an example
- When you're buying lunch you'll be doing so independently from the main group, most likely. Remember the following: a) menus are posted outside; check them before you enter b) the same meal will cost at least double if you have "table service". So buy and eat "take away" style, like the locals do.
- Fill the corners of your suitcase with snacks you can't live without for 10 days. After you go through security, you may want to purchase some food to eat or take with you on the plane.

Helpful Concluding Tips Continued

- Any room charges you incur overnight have to be cleared, by you, before any of us can leave each morning!! So, stay out of the mini-bar - even for snacks!! You won't be popular if you and your roommates get into a big argument at 7:30 am over who had all that pop that now costs 25 euros!!!
- Think carefully about the contents of your carry-on luggage and personal accessories. Discard anything that can be considered a "sharp" object or a potential "weapon".
- Any pressurized, aerosol-type product is best left at home.
- Remember that you are representing Holy Cross. We have high expectations in regards to your behaviour.

Questions

