

03/10/14.... 12 days until departure

Hallo

We will be discussing the following ideas:

Preparation-

- ✓ Please **contact your hosts** and communicate with them before arriving. It is also customary to bring your hosts some token of a gift. Those of you who hosted may remember your German students doing this.
- ✓ Copies of your passport, (notarized) power of attorney, health info, and rules sheets are turned into Mrs. White or Mrs. Richards, If not, turn them in ASAP.
- ✓ If you are bringing prescription medication, please bring the med in the original bottle/packaging. Also if you use contacts, you may want to bring a small (3 oz or less) bottle of solution on the plane in your carry on, in case your luggage is late
- ✓ The best way for money transactions, if you have not yet converted to Euros, is to have a credit/debit card tied to a CHECKING ACCOUNT. You can set these up with your bank, or several other ways to get one set up. Call your bank; they will be able to help you. MasterCard seems to be accepted a little more than Visa, though not a deal breaker. Last time, our students found it hard to cash traveler's checks (also there is a pretty hefty surcharge)
- ✓ Another suggestion is to **pack light!** There IS A 50 LB. weight limit on your checked bag (including the bag)...plan to be under, in case you bring some stuff back. A rule of thumb is to pack everything and then carry it around your house, including stairs, for 15 minutes. YOU will be responsible for hauling your stuff...no, chaperones will not help carry your stuff. This is what you will have to do at the airports, trains, and hotels. Bring good serviceable clothing, it's not about quantity, it's about flexibility...also, they have laundry facilities where you can do a load when needed.
- ✓ Bring rain gear(small umbrella or coat that is rain repellent) and an extra **pair of comfortable shoes, you will be walking...a lot!** A hat and pair of gloves might be a good idea too! Weather temperature is comparable to ours this time of year minus the snow!
- ✓ Also, an alarm device to wake you in the am. You will want to purchase or borrow a convertor for you electronics(Phone or hairdryer)..Girls you may want to coordinate with your host, if you don't have to lug one that's even better!
- ✓ Language is really no issue, though it is really cool if you can learn and use some basic German phrases, especially with older adults, they appreciate it. Signs and announcements will sound foreign at first, but if you listen carefully, you will hear quite a few words that sound like and have similar meanings in English. Also, don't forget your accessibility to Rosetta Stone here at school
- ✓ PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR CREDENTIAL (PASSPORT) ON YOUR PERSON, NOT IN YOUR LUGGAGE, WHEN YOU GET TO THE AIRPORT.
- ✓ Spending money- virtually all meals are provided, excepting some in Berlin. We will give you some Euros there for meals, but bring some money to buy an occasional extra meal, side snacks, t-shirt or sweatshirt, etc.
- ✓ If you are planning on having your trip count toward your Delta Skymiles, register in advance: <http://www.delta.com/skymiles/index.jsp> then mention your account upon check in at the airport. All the information is on that website.

IMPORTANT: Please plan in advance with your teachers here at school...check deadlines for scholarships, papers, group projects. We are missing 5 full days of school prior to the official spring break. It is up to you to know the deal. The end of the marking period is the week we are gone so if possible having all of your work completed before you go would be ideal!!

The Trip-

- ✓ Decorum in the airport, and security: We must stay together...
 - Always, if you are needing the restroom, please tell a chaperone, and go with someone...NEVER ALONE.
 - BE ON TIME...BE ON TIME...BE ON TIME, plan ahead and have your stuff together...we will be working on, at times, a very tight schedule....German trains ARE ALWAYS ON TIME...if we are late, we will miss it, period.
 - Security: is very serious business. Please make sure you know what is permissible in your carry on, and if it is not, don't pack it. They can, and will, detain you for any off-remark, off-handed joke etc., so do not do it. Info can be gotten online at TSA.gov
- ✓ No whining
- ✓ Eat light... you will be sitting for a long time,
- ✓ Drink lots of water- the air in the plane is very dry, and can cause you to feel dehydrated.
- ✓ Plan on sleeping on the plane, there are movies to watch, but we will want to be as fresh as possible when we arrive
- ✓ Bring something to read for layovers, downtime, etc (pack of cards are great..think small)
- ✓ Phones etc.... it is up to you, but this might be a really good opportunity to take a much needed break from your technology. You can email your parents when you arrive and on occasion to set their minds at ease. Texting on a Intl plan can get really expensive, in a hurry...know your deal before you take your phone.

Here is a website where you can find what is, and is not allowed on board an airplane...just Google TSA, and the first site to pop up is this: <http://www.tsa.gov/>

You will learn about carry on limits- 3-1-1...all liquids, gels etc in 3 oz. or less volume, 1 quart sized zip lock bag (transparent), 1 bag per passenger. No exceptions

Please review this information and plan accordingly....ignorance is no excuse

While there-

***CARRY YOUR PASSPORT...AND DO NOT LOSE IT!...(especially in Berlin)

*Keep track of your stuff. Cameras, ipods, etc. If you don't hang on to it, you will lose it.

*Stay healthy, **wash your hands**, do not share soda/water with others, sleep, etc

- ✓ Remember, you are guests, and need to keep your living space clean. Not a bad idea to offer to help with cooking, dishes etc...be part of the family. German families typically keep doors closed. Bedrooms, bathrooms, even when nobody is in the room
- ✓ Your cell phone probably will not work in Europe, but virtually everyone is online. E-mails are the best way to check in back home, though navigating the German keyboard can be tricky. If parents need to contact a student, and you have no luck through normal channels, you can e-mail Mrs. White at : aaswhite@gmail.com or Mrs Richard at richark@glenlake.k12.mi.us , and we will pass along anything you need. In an emergency situation Mrs. White will be toting a cell phone which you can text/call- number 231-218-0180
- ✓ You will be eating some new foods, though most meals are pretty much like here. Be polite and try things...this is a big part of the experience.

- ✓ We will walk...A LOT. You will need good (broken in) walking shoes, it's not a bad idea to walk some before we go, to avoid that pesky leg cramp in the middle of the night.
- ✓ No whining
- ✓ Be mature, traveling can be very trying on one's constitution, it is sometimes hard to avoid drama...but we will! Always take the higher path.
- ✓ Shopping- the exchange rate will be prohibitive to do much heavy duty shopping, and remember, you will have to carry it back, and still be under the 50 lb limit.
- ✓ Things may not always go your way...meaning you will have to adapt, this is a great time to be mature and flexible
- ✓ And, be on time.

The Return-

- Anything you obtain will be carried back by YOU
- PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR CREDENTIAL (PASSPORT) ON YOUR PERSON WHEN YOU GET TO THE AIRPORT
- Keep track of your stuff when you get on/off the plane

Please Meet at the TC airport by 12:00 noon so we can all get checked in and on the plane on time!

Below is the flight itinerary

SAT, 22 MAR 2014

TVC•DTW:^{DL}₃₅₇₀

1:40 PM DEPART

2:47 PM ARRIVE

DTW•FRA:^{DL}₁₄₂

6:20 PM

8:00 AM

THIS FLIGHT ARRIVES - SUN, 23 MAR 2014

RETURN

TUE, 01 APR 2014

FRA•DTW:^{DL}₁₄₃

9:40 AM

1:00 PM

DTW•TVC:^{DL}₆₁₂₅

DEPART:

9:35 PM

10:42 PM

See you on March 22!!!

