

Minnetonka High School Band & Orchestra
Germany, Austria & the Czech Republic
March 29-April 5, 2012
Pre-Tour Travel Information

Air Travel

Your group will be flying on United and Delta Airlines to/from Minneapolis to Munich, Germany via Chicago and Atlanta. Students have been assigned flights by the Minnetonka High School music staff. Passengers will be ticketed approximately 30-days prior to departure on group reservation numbers. Seats will generally be assigned in alphabetical order within each reservation number. You will not be able to adjust seats or check-in online, as you would on an individual passenger reservation number. Land-only passengers will be responsible for managing their individual flight arrangements. Flight itineraries will be included with your tour documents and these will be distributed at the final tour meeting. GrandTours staff will assist with check-in at the airport.

Please review current baggage allowances and information at:

www.delta.com and www.united.com

Protecting Your Luggage and Valuables

The best way to protect and carry valuables such as a passport, boarding passes, credit/debit cards, and cash is to purchase a zippered passport holder or a money belt. Either of these can be worn beneath clothing or attached to a belt. You may find them at stores such as Target, Walmart and REI.

All checked luggage must NOT be locked unless you use a special TSA approved lock. Make sure you have your GrandTours luggage tags and personal identification attached to your bags at all times. It is wise to also include identification inside your suitcase in case a tag is destroyed or removed. Do not pack items such as your money, passport, ticket receipts, or other travel documents.

Lost or damaged luggage must be reported before you leave the airport. The airlines will not be responsible for unreported loss or damage. See your tour guide if you need help with lost or damaged luggage. Check with your insurance provider to make sure personal musical instruments are insured to full replacement value.

Passport

All tour members are required to have a valid passport, which must remain valid 6-months beyond the return date of the tour. Do not pack your passport in luggage, but keep it with you and available always. We strongly recommend that you keep a photocopy of your passport in your luggage in case you happen to lose your original.

3-1-1 Guidelines for Carry-On Luggage

All liquids, gels or aerosols in your carry-on luggage must be in original containers of 3 ounces or less. All containers of liquids, gels and aerosols are to be placed in one quart-size clear plastic zip-top bag. One quart-size bag of liquids, gels and aerosols per traveler allowed in your carry-on luggage. This bag must be removed from your luggage and placed in the security bin for x-ray screening at the security check point. Visit www.tsa.gov for further details and the most current security policies

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Time Difference

Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic will be 7-hours ahead of the Twin Cities. When it is 9:00 am in Minneapolis it will be 4:00 pm in Europe.

Inoculations and Medications

Special inoculations are not required to visit Europe. We encourage you to check with your physician as a precaution. Be sure to bring necessary medication with you on the trip. DO NOT pack medication in your checked luggage. We suggest you obtain a duplicate of your prescriptions and inhalers. Please inform your teacher of any illness immediately so that you can receive treatment.

Weather and Clothing

The entire trip is casual so please dress for comfort. You can expect average daily temperatures to vary between 60-30° F over the course of the day/night. The Minnetonka music staff will communicate proper performance attire. Use www.weather.com as a resource.

Phoning Home

We recommend using local phone cards that can be purchased in Newspaper or Tobacco Shops. We do not recommend dialing home from your hotel room as heavy surcharges can be applied. You will need to check with your provider if planning on using your mobile phone. Roaming voice/data charges can be very expensive and this deserves careful attention to this issue prior to departure. Be sure your mobile phone has a data/app switch if you plan on using it abroad.

Electricity

The electricity in Europe runs at 220 volts, 50 cycles. You will need to bring an adapter and converter in order to use a U.S. hair dryer, curling iron, razor, or travel iron. Some appliances now are able to accommodate both 110 and 220 volt current. Please review your device information before departure. Converter and adapter kits can be bought at Target, WalMart, REI, etc. Most U.S. made electronic devices such as laptops, I-pods, camera chargers are now dual voltage and only require a 2-prong European adapter plug.

U.S. Customs

You can currently bring back into the United States \$800.00 of personal and household goods duty free. Anything above this amount and you will have to pay duty.

Identity Theft

Please contact your credit card company before departure to advise them that you will be using your credit/debit card in Europe. This should insure that your card can be used hassle-free during the trip.

Travel Guard Protection Plan

Each traveler has limited insurance coverage with a Travel Guard protection plan. There is NO pre-trip cancellation coverage provided as part of this coverage. Please review the benefit summary prior to departure. For incidents not affecting the entire group, claims must be filed by individual travelers at the time of the incident. From Europe, call toll-free (715) 345-0505 (in the US call (800) 326-1300).

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Trip Interruption \$0.00 Trip Cost option includes \$750 Return Air Interruption benefit or 150% of trip cost	Up to 150% Trip Cost
Trip Delay Reimburses you up to \$150 a day for additional accommodations or travel expenses if you are delayed for more than 12 hours	\$750
Missed Connection	\$250
Accident and Sickness Medical Expenses Covers necessary medical expenses up to one year after the sickness or injury, provided you sought initial medical treatment while on your trip	\$25,000
Emergency Dental	\$500
Optional - Accident and Medical Expenses Upgrade (Cannot be purchased separately)	Additional \$25,000
Emergency Medical Transportation Covers evacuation and transportation to the nearest adequate medical facility and home if necessary	\$250,000
Lost, Stolen, or Damaged Baggage & Travel Documents Reimburses you if your luggage is lost, damaged, or stolen while you are on your trip	\$1,500
Baggage Delay Reimburses you for the purchase of essential items if your bags are delayed for more than 24 hours	\$200
Accidental Death & Dismemberment	\$25,000
Worldwide Travel Assistance	Included
Travel Medical Assistance	Included
LiveTravel Emergency Assistance	Included

Foreign Currency

1 US Dollar = .77 Euro

1 Euro = 1.30 US Dollar

1 US Dollar = 20 Czech Koruna

1 Czech Koruna = .05 US Dollar

Money and Credit Cards

We recommend you bring a combination of cash and some type of debit/credit card for the tour that can be used in local ATM/Bankomat machines. We find that traveler's checks are being used less and less due to the commission charged when cashed at local offices or hotels. Check with your bank for any ATM or foreign transaction fees associated with your debit/credit card.

MasterCard and Visa are accepted in most major souvenir shops. American Express is accepted as well, but not in all locations. Local currency can be withdrawn from ATM Machines with cards on the Plus and Cirrus systems. You must have a 4-digit PIN for these cards to work. You generally receive the Interbank rate-of-exchange plus any transaction fees associated with your card. It is essential that you contact your credit card company before departure to inform them that you will be using the card in Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic. You can also get a student credit card at www.visabuxx.com, or at select major banks, for use on the tour.