

Yell Squad Tryouts

Open to any males or females interest in trying out.

Attend information meeting at the Devaney Sports Center Track Area

SUN., Feb. 28, 5 p.m.

Open gym 6 - 9 p.m. following meeting.

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If unable to attend or if you have any questions contact: Renee - 476-3397 or Norma - 472-2273

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21



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Travelers give trip tips

European vacation requires planning, knowledge of sightseeing and language

No European travel adventure is complete without a few mistakes and a few major mishaps. Experience is the best weapon. Take a few tips from novice travelers:

On trip preparations:

Prepare yourself for the European experience ahead of time. Familiarize yourself a bit with each country you plan to visit. Invest in both "Let's Go Europe," the student-in-Europe Bible, and Rick Steves' "Europe Through the Back Door." While cheesy at times, these books are invaluable resources for the student traveler. In the traveling subculture, wanderers measure time in how worn their guidebooks are. If you're not going everywhere they cover, rip out the chapters you do not need and leave them behind. Really.

If you're not fluent in every language, learn "please," "thank you" and "hello" in all of them. It will do wonders. Otherwise, you can buy travel guru Rick Steves' phrase book. It's the only practical phrase book available — the rest of them have stupid phrases no self-respecting traveler would ever use.

Don't buy into every "option" available. Really investigate if a rail pass will work for your itinerary. Hitching is relatively safe and easy in Europe. And don't buy a hostel membership. The independent hostels are cheaper, nicer and cleaner. They also let you meet more than just the college kids from New York.

Open your mind: Don't be such an American. Not everyone wastes gallons of water bathing every day and not all beer is cold. Drink the water. Nothing's going to happen to you, unless you're some kind of wimp.

On packing:

Pack light. Buy a small backpack, fill it, then take half of it out. Take a tent and bedroll if you decide not to hostel it. The hostels are very crowded as the summer heats up.

Remember it rains in the United Kingdom often. So take a sweater or a fold-up raincoat. Scotland is cold. Spain is hot. If you're going to both places, be prepared and dress in layers you can peel. Wear Birks or other comfy all-terrain shoes every day. Give up makeup. Get a manageable haircut or bring a ball cap, bandanna or other suitable headgear. Bring one foldable, nice outfit for St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The Pope doesn't go for shorts. Make sure it can double for the dance clubs too.

Take more money. ALWAYS use your money belt. Portable silverware, travel Kleenex and a hip bag are wonders. So are bandages. A simple camera with

a built-in zoom lens is great too.

Ditch the stuff you don't need as you go along, especially as it gets heavy. Don't bring things you can buy there. Don't bring things you absolutely do not need. If you question its value, leave it behind.

On where to go and what to do:

Go to Prague. Go to Ireland. Go to Scotland. Go to Paris. Go where other travelers have had a good time, even if you've never heard of it. Go out of the way. Don't always follow the crowds. They're mostly stupid Americans who don't know what they're doing. Talk to Australians, they've got the travel thing down. Drink more good beer and spend more time in Austrian beer halls run by monks. Call your homeland "The States."

Check opening and closing times of attractions: Otherwise you'll spend too many days in Rome waiting to see the Sistine Chapel. Don't forget things close at lunchtime — plan naps accordingly. Plan train time, know which cars you can be on because changing cars with half a minute to spare sucks.

Within countries, reserve hostel beds in the cities ahead. Otherwise, go nowhere in a new country until you've reserved a bed. Lock up your stuff in the available lockers at the train stations while you explore.

Look around for decent exchange rates in each new country. A lot of Europeans make a lot of money that way.

Know that buses are a good value in England and faster than trains in Ireland. Walking is a viable option and good exercise — especially considering all the bread you'll eat.

Shop at street markets, in grocery stores and from corner shops. They sell pizza by the kilogram in Rome. Take your lunch. Make eating in a sit-down place a real treat — your funds will last longer.

Remember that pictures are more interesting with people in them. Really, how many pictures of the Eiffel Tower can you really look at later? Favorite photos always include some stranger standing in front of an unknown sculpture. You and your traveling companion will both insist the other took it.

Most of all, do it. Go into debt. Beg, cheat and steal. Borrow on your life insurance. Borrow on your dog if you can figure out a way. If you go intending to have a good time, you will have a wonderful time.

And don't eat at McDonalds. No matter what.

— Anne Steyer and Alan Phelps



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