**Packing Guide**

Packing Tips:

-Make a packing plan, and write it down on paper. It might sound unnecessary…but if you don’t, half of the stuff in your bag will be unnecessary. Have a parent look over the list, and possibly cross out anything you might not need.

-Start packing several days (or more) before we leave. If you wait until the last minute, you will most likely pack items that you don’t need, and forget ones that you do.

-“Twice is nice!” Pack things that you will be able to wear twice.

-Pack outside the bag first. Compile all the items you plan to pack, and examine it all before you put it in the bag. Think to yourself “do I really need all these tops/bottoms/shoes etc?” For some reason, things seem to “hide” in the bag while packing and you are liable to put in more than you need.

-Consider using packing cubes and/or compression bags.

-Roll t-shirts/shorts/pants to reduce wrinkles and save room in the bag.

-Wear your athletic shoes and hoodie on the plane. These are bulkier items, and if you wear them, you save room in the bag.

-Plan ahead and share items with roommates. (ex: hairdryer, flat iron, converters, adapters, etc).

-Save room for the souvenirs you will purchase while on tour.

-Make sure your checked bag weighs no more than 40 pounds. (this will give you room to bring home souvenirs.)

-After you have your bag packed, try to carry it up a flight of stairs. If it is too difficult…take something out!

Bag Limitations:

1Checked Bag (no larger than **60** when length, width and height are added together).

1 Carry-on bag (no larger than a 21” bag, and no more than 20 lbs.)

1 personal bag in addition to carry-on (ie: purse or small back pack).

**Carry-On Bag Information**

We will have an overnight flight, so it is important to pack items that you will need, such as:

-A change of clothes, in case of lost baggage.

-Contact case and solution

-Medication (if necessary)

-Book

-IPod

-Toothbrush/toothpaste (I use those little *Wisp* disposable things)

**ANY LIQUIDS NEED TO BE LESS THAN 3oz, AND ALL PUT INTO *ONE QUART SIZED ZIPPER BAG***

See attached page for more information on this.

**Ms. Taylor’s Suggested Packing List**

**Must have’s:**

-At least **one pair of long pants/jeans** (for girls and guys).

-Clothing that you can layer.

-**Athletic shoes**. We do lots of walking, and you will want to have comfortable shoes.

-**Rain jacket/umbrella**. It is always good to be prepared for rain when traveling. I suggest the “Jacket in a Packet” from Old Navy (they come in lots of cute colors!). They make both the male and female version of this jacket.

**Check list**

-**Summer Trips:** Light weight clothing (t-shirts and shorts are fine). Girls: NO SPAGHETTI STRAPS, and NO SHORT-SHORTS!!! Make sure tanks have at least two inch with on the shoulder and that the shorts come down to finger-tips. Ms. T will be enforcing this on the trip!

**-Bathing suit and cover up. #1 Rule = Girls must wear a cover up/Boys must wear a shirt when in the hotel and walking to and from the beach.**

**- Lightweight pajamas**. “Lightweight” because we might stay in a hotel with no AC, it will be a little warm.

-**Sunscreen**

**-Sunglasses**

-**Spring Break Trips:** Clothing that you can layer. The weather will be cool in the morning and evening, but will warm-up a little during the day. Take a hoodie or jacket. Plan to re-wear some of the items, to keep your suitcase light.

-**Trip T-shirt.**

-**A Wylie East Shirt.** We will pick a day that we all represent Wylie East. Be sure to pack a Wylie East shirt of some sort.

-**Personal toiletry items** (shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc).

-**Washcloth.** Washcloths are usually considered a “personal item” and are often not provided by hotels.

-**Flip-flops/sandals.** Convenient for the beach (summer trips), hotel and bus rides.

**-Travel-sized alarm clock**

-**Camera and extra batteries**

-**Converter and adapter:** Converter changes the amount of electricity. Adapter changes the shape of the plug.

-**Chargers for electronic devices** (phone, camera, ipod, etc)

-**Dramamine** (if you are prone to car sickness…helpful on those long bus rides)

-**Backpack/bag.** You will need to have a bag to carry your passport, money, sunglasses, and a bottle of water when we are on the go. This can double as your carry-on bag.

-**Extra money for optional excursions.** The Tour Director will offer special excursions or shows that you can pay for while on tour. These usually range between $20-$50.



**Make Your Trip Better Using 3-1-1**

TSA and our security partners conducted extensive explosives testing since August 10, 2006 and determined that liquids, aerosols and gels, in limited quantities, are safe to bring aboard an aircraft. The one bag limit per traveler limits the total amount each traveler can bring. Consolidating the bottles into one bag and X-raying them separately from the carry-on bag enables security officers to quickly clear the items.

**3-1-1 for carry-ons** = 3.4 ounce (100ml) bottle or less (by volume) ; 1 quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag; 1 bag per passenger placed in screening bin. One-quart bag per person limits the total liquid volume each traveler can bring. 3.4 ounce (100ml) container size is a security measure.

**Be prepared.** Each time TSA searches a carry-on it slows down the line. Practicing 3-1-1 will ensure a faster and easier checkpoint experience.

**3-1-1 is for short trips.** If in doubt, put your liquids in checked luggage.

**Declare larger liquids.** Medications, baby formula and food, and breast milk are allowed in reasonable quantities exceeding three ounces and are not required to be in the zip-top bag. Declare these items for inspection at the checkpoint.

**Ms. Taylor’s List of Non-Negotiables**

On the day of departure, I will be checking for the following things from each traveler…

* **At least €50 - €100 in cash** (yes, in the Euro). Sometimes it takes us a while to find an ATM when first arriving. It is best to have some cash on you, to get you through one or two days.
	+ You can order the Euro at most major banks. It usually takes them a week or more to have the currency delivered to the bank branch…so, plan ahead. (For example, I bank at Capital One. I go into my local branch at least a month before departure and fill out a form to order the currency. They look up the current exchange rate, and let me know how much the currency will cost in the US dollar. I sign the agreement, and they deduct the amount from my account.)
	+ You can also by cash from a currency exchange store. This usually comes with a fee and a higher exchange rate. I have used the Travelex Store in Addison before. (5100 Beltline Road Suite 532, Dallas, TX 75254)
* **A wrist watch.** I know that most students today don’t wear watches anymore (myself included). Speaking from experience, cell phones are not reliable as your only source of time. The roaming often drains the battery quickly. (Mine wouldn’t stay set to the correct time zone, once). I recommend leaving the time on your cell phone set to Central Standard Time, if possible, so that you will always know what time it is in Texas when you want to call home. We will often split up in groups and have a set meeting time. Being on time is **very** important.
* **A change of clothes in your carry-on bag.** You are not a believer until you have had it happen to you…you arrive in Europe, but your bag doesn’t. It is very miserable to go a day or two without a change of clothes and basic toiletry items. Play it safe, and bring a few items to make it through, in case the inevitable happens. I have also found it helpful to use this change of clothes when staying only one night in a city/hotel…not having to drag in my large suitcase.
* **System for securing money and passport.** Be sure that you have a safe way to carry your money and passport at all times. I carry a messenger bag with an inside zipper pocket (the inside pocket makes it a tricky for the pick-pockets). I have used a back pack before (you need to keep money and passport in an inside pocket…backpacks are easy targets). I have had students in the past who have used a passport wallet that hangs around their neck. Whatever you decide to use, it needs to be with you at all times. On the day that we depart, I will give you a card that has all the addresses and phone numbers of the hotels where we will be staying. This card is designed to be the same size as your passport. Please include it in your bag/wallet, and have it on you at all times.