

10 Important Things to Consider When Travelling to Europe for the First Time

While Europe is said to be the smallest continent in the world, it's the figurative description and not the literal. With 44 countries, you can still call it big and diverse in reality. If it's your first time travelling to this continent, it could be so fascinating that it could give you the chills. However, that's how we'd always feel when we're visiting countries - well, a continent for the very first time, and that's okay.

So today, allow us to share with you some really important things you should consider when visiting Europe for the very first time.

1. Check the best time to travel to Europe.

Spring in Europe is from March till May. This is the time when plants and flowers would start to bloom, making it the most beautiful season of the year. Countries around the continent will begin to warm up, so this time of the year, travelers may already explore without having to feel too hot nor too cold.

For travelers who'd like to see the beaches, the Summer Time (June to August) would be perfect. This is when the coasts of Norway and Iceland will let you see whales off the coast.

If you'd rather prefer to wander through the cities, tour around awe-inspiring architectures and museums, Autumn would be ideal. This is the time when the leaves become to look sentimental with those beautiful shades of red and orange. Apart from that, this is when the Northern Lights start to show off. Well, the photos will surely be Instagram worthy!

From December to February, it's the coldest and undeniably unbearable time of the year in Europe. However, it is considered a popular time to travel to this continent. Well - a white Christmas is indeed beautiful!

When is the best time? We'll leave you to choose according to the season that you think will fulfil your travel goals.

2. Be knowledgeable about Visa requirements.

There are countries in Europe that require different visas. If you're visiting one of the 26 countries that are part of the Schengen Zone. Canadians, Americans, and Australians are among the major non-European passports which may stay within the zone for 90 days without a visa.

Countries in the United Kingdom, Balkans, and Ireland are not in the Schengen Zone, so when planning to travel to these areas, check the visa restrictions.

You may check out this [LINK](#) to see if you belong to those required to get a Schengen Visa.

3. Book your air tickets and accommodation/s early on.

To get a great deal on Euroflights and accommodations, it is best to book early. When traveling during popular seasons, getting better deals in terms of prices would be possible when planning and booking ahead.

4. Do detailed research.

It would be better to know the popular and convenient destinations already beforehand. Most travelers plan this out, but others may only say "come what may." However, to make the most out of your trip, detailed research would make it easier and less stressful for you. Even the food that you would most likely prefer needs a bit of review. With the best pasta in Italy and croissants everywhere - you should know which serves only the best. Well, it's easier to find the most preferred places to explore and eat these days - it's all online.

Oh, tipping, by the way, is not mandatory within Europe compared to 15% - 20% standard in the U.S.

5. Plan your itinerary.

Having a well-planned itinerary will better your stay in Europe, especially since there are a lot of must-visit places. You surely won't be staying in the hotel for a long time.

After your research, list down the countries you want to visit. Check how far they are from each other. Now go to the specifics as to the spots you want to see according to the location. A schedule would be perfect. You'd want to make that trip worth the visit, so make sure that you don't schedule going to the beach and hike on the same day. (*wink!)

6. Check your Phone Plan.

For sure, you'd want to use your phone to check your socials. If you prefer to keep your local lines open, better check with your network what your phone plan includes so you won't be surprised by the charges on your next bill.

Should you prefer purchasing a prepaid sim card you may use across Europe, Orange, Three, and Sim Options are the most recommended.

And oh, speaking about phones, make sure your camera is working. If you think it's not enough to capture the memories you will be making during your euroflight, go ahead and take your DSLR with you.

7. Inform your bank.

Using your card/s in Europe is actually recommended rather than having to take loads of cash. Yes, it's also safe. However, you have to inform your bank that you will be using your card/s overseas. Most banks have automatic anti-fraud features, so you might want this lifted when you go overseas.

You might need to have some local currencies ready before taking that euroflight, check the best exchange rates to get the best value of your money.

Take note that there are 28 currencies on this continent. Euro, however, is the most commonly used currency in major countries. For other places you might visit the first time, keep in mind the following currencies:

- The United Kingdom (U.K.) - British Pound
- Hungary - Hungarian Forint
- Switzerland - Swiss Francs
- Croatia - Croatian Kuna
- Czech Republic - Czech Crowns
- Iceland - Icelandic Krona

8. Prepare casual, comfy clothes, and shoes.

The outfit that's going to fill your suitcase will depend upon your preferred season to travel. If traveling during the winter, keep yourself warm with jackets, a hat, scarf, and gloves. During summer, casual clothes, flip flops, your hiking gear (if you plan to hike), and swimwear (if you wish to go swimming).

Take a little extra stuff, especially when you plan to take great OOTD (Outfit Of The Day) shots. And also, some buffer outfits may help, especially when it's a first time Europe trip and during spring, too. It can still be a little cold.

9. Learn a few basic words/phrases in the language of the country you are visiting.

Learning a few basic terms in the language of the country you're going to may somehow require a little effort, but it will at least make it easier for you and the people there. Also, it is a polite gesture from a tourist as well. Some locals are unable to express themselves in English, and making signs might not solve the barrier. You don't have to speak the language fluently but trust that the basics will save you.

10. Be vigilant.

Beware of pickpockets and fraud. There are congested areas, especially the tourist spots. It would be best that you carry a cross-body bag for your safety. Make sure that you split your cards and cash from your wallet, pocket, or purse. In hotels, better that you put your valuables in the safe. If you did your homework well, you would know which countries/locations you're allowed to use your phone around.

It pays to be ready. Your beautiful memories will depend upon how much you prepared for your trip. Considering these tips will surely make your first Europe trip, one of the most memorable travels of your entire life. And yes, you no longer have to feel the chills! When you're ready, you'll be fine. (*wink!)

Do you think that we missed a tip? Share with us your Euro flight experiences!