PACKING YOUR BAGS

Our advice always is to pack for comfort and layered wear. Pack comfortable broken-in walking shoes. Please note that proper attire, such as long pants (rather than shorts) for men and pants (or a skirt) and a shirt with sleeves for women, is required for entrance into many religious institutions, especially the Vatican.

Additionally, there are a few things we recommend you DO NOT bring with you, such as valuable jewelry or other precious or sentimental items, expensive gadgets, and generally, anything you can't afford to lose. You don't want to ruin your trip by worrying about your possessions.

When deciding what to pack, remember airline baggage rules can be complicated and vary from airline to airline. Depending on the airline, the baggage allowance is normally one 50-pound bag but please remember that many airlines now charge a fee for checked luggage. Check with your airline before departure for the most up-to-date information on baggage allowances, restrictions, and fees.

As you may be responsible for carrying your own bags for quite some distance, you should aim to bring no more than 50 pounds or one large suitcase. If you cannot carry your bags, they are too heavy. You will be responsible for carrying your luggage to your housing and many places do not have elevators. In addition, many cities in Europe are not set up with wheelchair ramps and, consequently, you may need to carry your rolling luggage.

When packing, also remember that you will be responsible for keeping your luggage with you at all times, even while you are traveling before or after the program. It is very expensive to have bags shipped home or consigned at an airport or train station. Most participants find that they can get by on much less than they brought. Plus, you will want to save room for souvenirs and other items you might purchase!

Helpful Packing Tips:

- Do not pack your passport, currency, jewelry, medication, other travel documents, or valuables in your checked luggage. Keep them in your carry-on bag and insight.
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