

ADDITIONAL REUNION PLANNING TIPS

Great news! The European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) implementation has been postponed until mid-2025. U.S. Citizens will NOT need a visa for Germany for our 2024 Reunion.

Passports – check the expiration date now! The expiration date must be 6 months past your last date of travel. Re-newing can take 3 weeks to 4 months. Don't be caught unprepared! It is important to keep a copy of your passport at home and one with you. A color copy is best on travel, just in case it gets lost while you are traveling.

https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html/passport_1738.html

Medical Insurance – if you are on Medicare or have private insurance, you will want to contact your carrier to verify that your insurance will apply overseas. Overseas medical providers and facilities often require payment at the time of service.

Trip Insurance - An international trip is a big financial investment which you “may want” to protect with travel insurance. While BBAA does not endorse any particular insurance carrier, here are some well-known companies which you may want to google: Travelex, Travel Guard, Betins, Allianz, and Travel Insurance International. Also check to see if your Credit Card company also offers protection.

Cash / Credit Cards – you will want to have cash and a credit card during your trip. Notify your banking institution and credit card company of your dates of travel and destinations. Failure to do so may cause them to lock your cards. You will also want to ask about fees that might be associated with utilizing your cards overseas. Check your ATM and credit card expiration dates to ensure they do not expire during the trip. One of the best places/best rates for Euros is from a Bank's ATM machine once you arrive in country. Lastly, make sure you know your pin numbers.

Copies – make copies of your travel documents, to include your travel itinerary. Travel with a copy and then leave a copy with a family member at home. Placing a second copy in your luggage is also very helpful.

Phone / Apps – check with your phone carrier to determine if your phone will work overseas and the costs. Some have international plans that you can add to your existing plan for the duration of your trip. Additionally, add any apps to your phone that you think you will need while you are gone.

Medication – make sure you get your refills prior to your trip. You may want to include a copy of your prescription with your important travel documents. Best to keep your meds in their original containers/packaging for any possible airport security measures. Currently, Germany does NOT require proof of COVID vaccinations.

Toilets – there are pay toilets around the city. Make sure to carry some coins with you and a small packet of tissue wouldn't be a bad idea. You can also use toilets in restaurants,

hotels, and most government buildings. Toilets in restaurants will usually be in the basement or lower level so be prepared for stairs.

Washcloths – are usually NOT provided in European Hotels. If you use them – plan on bringing your own.

Irons/Ironing boards – are usually NOT provided in one's sleeping room but can be requested from the Hotel's front desk.

US–Euro adaptors & Transformers - Please make sure to bring with you for ALL your electrical devices and most specifically phone & tablet charging. Do check that your chargers will work at 240 volts & 50 HZ. Most modern chargers are dual voltage & cycles – but please look at the “data plate.”

Hairdryers, Curling irons, Flat irons, etc. – almost all of these hair grooming tools ARE NOT multi-voltage & cycles. Like the chargers mentioned above, do check before you head out. You might want/need to purchase one that works in country.