

Qs & As - updated Jan 5, 2026

Who can a family member contact if they can't get a hold of me while on our European Vacation? Mollie (507) 259-3834. Contacting Mollie through WhatsApp is the best way. I-messaging and calling usually works, as well.

Any tips for luggage? Take a picture of your luggage before you leave home. If you are rooming with someone and you are both bringing a suitcase, consider splitting up your luggage if you are checking the suitcases as you fly to Europe. If you have an airtag, you may want to consider putting it in your checked luggage.

Will photos be taken and available for us and our friends to see? Yes. Mollie posts photos daily on [Facebook.com/MollieBMusic](https://www.facebook.com/MollieBMusic). She will share the exact link in an email or facebook post.

How do we handle sickness? First, it is impossible to prevent germs from spreading, especially while in a foreign country as we travel around many people in a crowded bus. Therefore, please start taking vitamins and supplements before we start the trip and while on the trip. If you have a cough or suspect a virus, it is required that you wear a mask around others.

I am traveling with the "group flight travel," do I need a ticket or boarding pass? We will check in with your passport. At that time, you will get your boarding pass/ticket.

How much luggage can I bring? Try to limit your luggage to one suitcase, and an additional carry-on. It will be your responsibility to handle your luggage. Delta and AirFrance use these regulations on most of the flights — Checked luggage: Maximum of 50 pounds and 62 linear inches. Carry-on luggage: Maximum of 26 pounds and 22"x14"x9".

How do I measure my luggage to find out how many linear inches my bags are? Measure the length, height, and depth of your bag, including handles and wheels. Add those three measurements together. The total is your linear measurement.

Will the hotels have laundry rooms to do laundry? Maybe -- we should know more in the future. A personal suggestion for more than one night: On the first night at the hotel, wash clothes in the sink with regular soap, and hang them up to dry. Since they have a good 36 hours to dry, drying shouldn't be an issue.

Should I bring my smart phone? Someone in your party should have a cellphone in Europe. If your party plans on splitting up for any length of time during the trip, then you should all have a smart phone.

What free apps should I download on my cell phone before I leave home?

1. "WhatsApp" - highly suggested
2. "MCP MPC" (mobile passport control) - highly suggested
3. "Google Translate"- highly suggested

4. Your airline's app - highly suggested
5. "Uber" - suggested if you may do anything on your own
6. "Google Maps" - suggested if you decide to do exploring on your own

What do I do with my smartphone to not get charged extra international fees? IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE CHARGED FOR INTERNATIONAL USE, put your phone on airplane mode starting when we take off from the United States, and do not turn off airplane mode until we return to the United States. Use wifi when available, if wanted.

What do I do if I want any international cell phone plan? Contact your provider and find out from YOUR cell service provider what options you have for calling or texting or using data, that is if you want to utilize cellular use at any time while in Europe.. For example, Verizon has the "TravelPass," a daily option that allows you to use your domestic plan's talk, text, and data in over 210 countries and destinations for a \$12 daily fee (\$6 in Canada and Mexico, \$12 elsewhere). The cost is \$12 per day and the \$12 fee is charged ONLY on the days that you use it. Please read the next paragraph before deciding if you want to spend the money on international calls/communication.

How do we communicate back home? You will have *some* opportunities to connect to wifi FOR FREE: airports, hotels, some restaurants, some public areas etc. If you download "WhatsApp," which is a messaging app for your phone. You may want to request family members back home to also download the app so they can communicate with you that way. Through that app, you can call or text anyone, as long as you are connected to wifi and the other person also has WhatsApp. **The other apps you may already have to communicate over Wi-Fi are i-messenger (text message i-phone to i-phone) and facebook messenger.**

Want more information on cellular data and WiFi? See the bottom question.

Anything different about the public restrooms? Yes. First, they are commonly referred to as "toilet" or "WC". Next, don't expect them to be free. The bathrooms may NOT provide toilet paper. The payment situation may vary.

- 1- They may be free.
- 2- They may require a receipt from the store (or money)
- 3- They may require coins (money).
- 4- They may accept a credit card that you can tap, OR
- 5- The toilets may be free, but there may be a bathroom attendant that greatly would appreciate a 50 cent tip.

What do I need to do at customs coming into Europe? You will hand them your **passport**. Always have it open to your picture page. Also, have your **airplane ticket, hotel name/address, ship name/sailing dates, and itinerary** also ready to share them, if they ask. Digitally is fine, but a lot of people prefer having the paperwork ready -- your call. Our last entry into Europe as a group did require the name and address of our first hotel.

How should we handle our own personal money situation in Europe? The ship will have you charge everything to your Princess account which is attached to a credit card of your choice.

If you plan on using debit or credit cards, find out the foreign transaction fees (for each card) and make the credit/debit card companies aware of your travel plans. If possible, have a Visa, MasterCard, debit card, and a card that you can tap for purchases. And it's okay if you are bringing just two cards that fit these descriptions, such as a debit Visa card and a master card that you can tap.

When using your credit card it may ask if you want the transaction in local currency or USD? Choose the local currency.

Expect pick-pocketers, especially when we are in crowded areas. Put money and other valuables in your front pockets. Ladies, it is suggested to hold your purse, if you are carrying one.

Tipping in Europe is NOT like it is in the U.S..

- Restaurant tips are more modest in Europe than in America. Servers are paid a living wage, and tips are considered a small bonus — a reward for great service or for simplicity in rounding the total bill to a convenient number. In many countries, 5 percent is adequate and 10 percent is considered a nice tip. Do not leave your tip on the table. It is considered very rude. Instead, tell your server the amount you wish to pay (including any tip) when handing over your payment.
- If you enjoy a tour with a guide, 0.5-3 euros a person is what I would suggest for a tip, after reading the latest suggestions I found online.
- Read what Rick Steve's has to say about tipping:
<https://www.ricksteves.com/travel-tips/money/tipping-in-europe>

Will the cabins have hair dryers? Yes.

What will the weather be? Check the forecast before you go. Don't forget, rain is very possible.

What is the difference between using “Cellular Service” and using “Wi-Fi” with my smartphone? The main difference between Wi-Fi and cellular data (also called “mobile data”) is how your device is connecting to the internet.

Cellular service allows you to make phone calls, access the internet, use apps on your phone, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google, or your email in most locations. You just need to have a phone plan with a data allowance and be in range of a cell tower. Cellular Service is when your phone connects wirelessly and communicates with cellular towers to make calls, send text messages and utilize data. It consists of interconnected cell towers, which send and receive communication signals to and from mobile devices within their respective area. If you use

cellular service outside of the network that is provided by your cell phone provider, there are additional charges to utilize these other networks, such as when you're in another country.

Wi-Fi, on the other hand, only connects you to the internet when you're near a router and are connected to its network. This is different from the signal sent from cell phone towers. Wi-Fi is a wireless networking technology that allows devices such as computers (laptops and desktops), mobile devices (smartphones and wearables), and other equipment (printers and video cameras) to interface with the Internet. Internet connectivity occurs through a wireless router. When you access Wi-Fi, you are connecting to a wireless router that allows your Wi-Fi-compatible devices to interface with the Internet.