

## You've booked your trip...Now what?

### Packing Suggestions for your Trip to Croatia

#### To Pack in Your Carry-On Bag and Personal Item:

**Money belt (or neck wallet):** This flat, hidden, zippered pouch — worn around your waist (or like a necklace) and tucked under your clothes — is essential for the peace of mind it brings. You can purchase your money belt online at Amazon.com, Eagle Creek, REI, or TravelSmith. We also suggest purchasing a money belt that is lightweight and neutral in color.

**Money:** Bring your debit card, as well as a widely accepted credit card, such as MasterCard or Visa. Remember to contact your debit and credit card companies prior to traveling to let them know the dates you will be traveling outside the United States. Also, be sure to bring US dollars in various denominations.

**Travel Documents:** Pack your airplane, train, and rental car documents and vouchers in an easily accessible area in your bag. Also be sure to pack your valid passport, driver's license, and any other useful forms of identification. Include a copy of your driver's license, passport, and credit cards in one of your carry on bags (the one that does not contain the hard copies of these documents). Also, pack a record of all reservations (print out your hotel confirmation emails) and bring health and travel insurance contact information.

**Guidebooks and Maps:** Pack the vital travel information you'll need on the ground (or download it into your eReader). Rip out appropriate chapters from guidebooks and staple them together, or use special slide-on laminated book covers.

**Journal and Pen:** An empty book to be filled with the experiences of your trip will be your most treasured souvenir. Attach a photocopied calendar page of your itinerary. Use a hardbound type designed to last a lifetime, rather than a floppy spiral notebook.

**Smartphone / Mobile Phone:** Bring your smartphone to keep in touch with folks back home and for accessing resources on the road such as email, travel apps, and GPS. Be sure to contact your cell phone service provider prior to travel for international calling rates, as well as tips for avoiding unexpected charges during your travels.

**Digital Camera:** Take an extra memory card and battery, and don't forget the charger and a cable for downloading images.

**Tablet, eReader, or Portable Media Player:** Download apps, eBooks, and music before you leave home.

**Headphones / Earbuds:** These are a must for listening to music, tuning in to audio tours, or simply drowning out noise on an airplane. Bring a Y-jack so you and a partner can plug in headphones at the same time. We also suggest bringing noise-canceling headphones — they are incredible at canceling out any unwanted background noise.

**Chargers, Converters, and Batteries:** For each device that you pack, bring its charger, or look into getting a charger capable of charging multiple devices at once. You will also need an electrical adapter/converter to use your American volt appliances. WalMart® or Target® feature affordable converters. Power supply: 220 V, frequency: 50 Hz

**(Optional) Neck Pillow:** These are great for snoozing in planes, trains, and automobiles. Some travelers also swear by an eye mask for blocking out early-rising or late-setting sun.

## To Pack In Your Suitcase or Carry-On Duffel:

### *Clothing*

**Shirts / Blouses:** Bring up to five short-sleeved or long-sleeved shirts or blouses (how many of each depends on the season) in a cotton/polyester blend. Shirts with long sleeves that roll up easily can double as short-sleeved shirts. Look for a wrinkle-camouflaging pattern or blended fabrics that show a minimum of wrinkles. Synthetic-blend fabrics (such as Coolmax or microfiber) often dry overnight.

**Pants / Shorts:** Bring two pairs: one lightweight cotton and another super-lightweight pair for hot and muggy big cities. Jeans can be too hot for summer travel (and are slow to dry). Many travelers like lightweight convertible pants/shorts with zip-off legs. While not especially stylish, they're functional, where you can use them to cover up inside churches while still beating the heat outside. If you bring shorts, one pair is probably enough. Shorts can double as a swimsuit for men when swimming in lakes or the sea.

**Underwear and Socks:** Bring five sets (lighter dries quicker). Bamboo or cotton/nylon-blend socks dry faster than 100-percent cotton, which lose their softness when air-dried.

**Shoes:** Bring one pair of comfortable walking shoes with good traction. Mephisto, Ecco, and Rieker look dressier and more European than sneakers, but are still comfortable. Sturdy, low-profile tennis shoes with a good tread are fine, too. For a second pair, consider sandals in the summer. Whichever shoes you bring, make sure they are well broken in before you leave home.

**Sweater or Lightweight Fleece:** Warm and dark is best — for layering and dressing up.

**Jacket:** Bring a light and water-resistant windbreaker with a hood. A hooded jacket of Gore-Tex or other waterproof material is perfect.

**Tie or Scarf:** Scarves and ties give your limited wardrobe just the color it needs. They dress up your outfit, are lightweight and easy to pack, and if purchased in Europe, make a great souvenir. Some women bring a shawl-size scarf or pashmina to function as a sweater substitute, head wrap, skirt at a church, or even a blanket on a train.

**Swimsuit:** For swimming in lakes, the sea, or public pools, you'll need a swimsuit.

**Sleepwear / Loungewear:** Comfortable streetwear — such as shorts, leggings, T-shirts, tank tops, yoga pants, and other lightweight athletic gear — can be used as pajamas or post-dinner loungewear.

**Small Daypack:** A lightweight pack is great for carrying your sweater, camera, guidebook, and picnic goodies while you leave your large bag at the hotel or train station. Don't use a fanny pack — they're magnets for pickpockets.

### *Toiletries*

**Toiletries Kit:** Because sinks in many hotels come with meager countertop space, we suggest packing a kit that can hang on a hook or a towel bar. Be sure to pack only necessary toiletries to conserve on luggage space. For your overseas flight, put all squeeze bottles in sealable plastic bags, since pressure changes can cause even good bottles to leak. Pack your own bar of soap or small bottle of shampoo if you want to avoid using hotel bathroom toiletries.

**Medicine and Vitamins:** Even if you check your suitcase on the flight, always carry on essential toiletries, including any prescription medications (don't let the time difference trick you into forgetting a dose). Keep medicine in original containers with legible prescriptions. Also, be sure to pack anti-diarrhea medication, just in case a meal doesn't sit well with you. And it's always smart to pack some ibuprofen for headaches and other minor body aches.

**First-Aid Kit:** Be sure to pack some Band-Aids and Neosporin for any unexpected cuts and nicks.

**Glasses/ Contacts / Sunglasses:** Contact-lens solutions are widely available in Europe. Carry your lens prescription, as well as extra glasses, in a solid protective case. If it's a sunny season, pack along sunglasses, especially if they're prescription.

**Sealable Plastic Bags:** In addition to holding your carry-on liquids, sealable plastic bags are ideal for packing leftover picnic food, containing wetness, and bagging potential leaks before they happen. The two-gallon jumbo size can be used to pack (and compress) clothing or do laundry. Bring extras for the flight home.

**Laundry Soap:** Although most large hotels have a laundry service at an additional cost to you, we recommend packing a small box or packet of concentrated, multipurpose, biodegradable liquid soap for laundry. Hotel shampoo works fine as laundry soap when doing your wash in the sink. For a spot remover, bring a few Shout wipes.

**Small Packet of Tissues:** Stick one of these in your daypack, in case you wind up at a bathroom with no toilet paper!

**Earplugs / Noise-Canceling Headphones:** If night noises bother you, you'll love a good set of expandable foam plugs or noise-canceling headphones. They're handy for snoozing on trains and flights, too.

**Hairdryer:** Many hotels in Croatia provide en-suite hairdryers, which may or may not be very powerful. If your hairstyle depends on a hair dryer, be sure to have a small, portable-size one to conserve on space in your luggage.

**(Optional) Water Bottle:** The plastic half-liter mineral water bottles sold throughout Europe are reusable and work great. If you bring one from home, make sure it's empty before you go through airport security (fill it at a drinking fountain once you're through).

**(Optional) Small Binoculars:** For scenery or church interiors.

**(Optional) Insect Repellent:** Bring some along if you're prone to bites and are going somewhere especially bug-ridden.

**(Optional) Small Lock:** Use it to lock your backpack zippers shut. Note that if you check your bag on a flight, the lock may be broken to allow the bag to be inspected. Improve the odds of your lock's survival by buying one approved by the Transportation Security Administration — security agents can open the lock with a special master key. Or buy plastic locks or zip-ties to secure zippers (but be sure to pack fingernail clippers or TSA-approved scissors so you can open them when you arrive).

#### **Side Notes from Adventures Croatia:**

- Check the weather before finalizing your packing list to ensure you are properly prepared. Generally, October through April months are between 44°F and 65°F, the months of May – June and September are between 51°F and 76°F, and July and August are typically between 61°F and 82°F.
- We always suggest packing a carry-on and personal item only, but, of course, you may check a bag if you are unable to fit all your essentials.
- If you are traveling with a companion and plan on checking a bag, we suggest mixing some of your clothing amongst each other's checked luggage. This ensures that both of you will have some clothing, should a bag get lost in transit.
- Pack a few clothing items in your carry-on bag if they will fit. Again, this ensures you have some clothing, should your luggage go missing in transit.
- Do NOT put any valuables in checked luggage. All valuables should be placed in your carry-on bag or personal item and remain with you at all times.

- International luggage size standards are mostly weight based. 50 pounds is the usual weight limit. The largest checked international luggage size allowed is 62 linear (total) inches. Typically, a standard checked luggage size wavers around 27 x 21 x 14 inches. The universally accepted carry-on luggage size for domestic flights (within the U.S.) is 22" x 14" x 9".
- If you're trying to blend in, note that shorts are not common streetwear in Europe. They're considered beachwear, to be worn in coastal or lakeside resort towns. No one will be offended if you wear shorts, but you might be on the receiving end of some second glances.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions about packing – we are here to assist and ensure your trip preparation is as seamless as possible!