

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Hotel Rooms/Roomates**

- 1) Where is the information about hotels in case I need to be contacted while away or if I want to look into what amenities are offered by each property?
  - All the information about flights and hotels is on the SCSO tour website: <https://sacramentochoral.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Flight-Hotel-Information-SCSO-Updated-May-2019.pdf> (see page 3 for hotels)
- 2) What are the electricity adapter/converter requirements for each country?
  - For all countries, the voltage is 220-240. A European (two round prongs) is needed, and if the appliance is not dual-voltage, you will need a step-down converter as well.

### **Buses**

- 3) What bus am I on?
  - For the Main Tour, we have 3 buses (!). Please see the handout to know which bus you are on and who your bus captains are. For the Extension, there is 1 bus.
- 4) Why do I need to be super nice to my bus captains?
  - Your bus captains are the people who will be keeping track of whether or not you get back on the bus after excursions/concerts.
  - They are NOT responsible for ensuring that you do get on the bus before leaving. If you are late getting back to the bus, you may be left behind and will have to find your own way to the next destination.
  - It is recommended that you note the hotel addresses and keep them on your person should you need to find alternate transportation.

### **Money**

- 5) Should I bring cash (e.g., Euros and/or Kuna)?
  - Having cash before you depart can be helpful, but isn't necessary. It is generally easy to find an ATM and get cash quickly with a minimal transaction fee (keep in mind that fees are per transaction, not by amount).
  - Pros: No worry about hunting down an ATM as soon as you arrive. Handy for getting out on the town quickly and getting a quick bite. Some small establishments/shops/taxis may not accept credit cards at all.
  - Cons: Fees for obtaining foreign currency in the US are charged for the exchange through TravelEx or a similar service. Carrying a lot of cash around can be stressful.
- 6) Should I bring a credit card?
  - It is recommended that you have a credit card (Visa, Mastercard, or AmEx), preferably with a chip and pin. If you don't know your pin, contact your credit

card company to get one. It is preferable to use a card with no foreign transaction fees if you have one, as these can add up quickly!

- Pre-paid chip and pin credit cards are also available and can be pre-loaded with multiple currencies.
- A debit card can be used in Europe and is an easy way to get cash on the go (often a fee is charged per transaction, so it's good to plan out how much you need and when). ATMs are often located close by hotels.

### **Dietary Concerns**

7) How are my dietary restrictions being handled?

- All meal preferences that were captured in the survey were forwarded to MCI. With that said, some dietary concerns are more easily addressed than others, and MCI doesn't have control over all of the local meals that we will be provided.
- Should you have concerns when meals are served, please consult the MCI Guide for your bus to resolve the situation.
- If you have severe food issues or allergies, it is advised that you bring some additional acceptable snacks to tide you over should there be an issue that can't be resolved immediately.

8) How can I maximize my travel experience?

- Sleep - on the plane, and when you need it. Travel can be stressful, and you can handle any situation better when you're rested.
- Go out and share a meal with some fellow adventurers - pick a restaurant beforehand, ask your bus guide or the hotel concierge for a recommendation, or explore to find your own perfect spot.
- Be patient and kind - with yourself and with others. Being part of a large group of travelers can be a lot to handle. Support your fellow travelers, our wonderful guides, and all the staff that are there to make each of our experiences the best they can be. And hey, keep in mind that some of the best travel stories and memories come from when things go awry!
- Keep a journal - even writing down just a few anecdotes from a trip is a wonderful way to remember it after the fact. Fun interactions, humorous stories, a touching moment, or the way singing in a certain spot made you feel are all memories that can slip away without writing them down. I love going back to travel notebooks and reliving experiences.