Travel Basics: EUROPE
On March 11, President Schlissel announced that all U-M international nonessential travel is suspended until at least April 21.

- This led to a U-M Global Travel Suspension

In addition, all Winter and Spring term U-M education abroad programs have been altered or suspended (Summer term study abroad programs are TBD)

- Many non-UM affiliated programs are also being altered/suspended and are pulling students out on an individual basis

- President Schlissel’s announcement does not apply to independent/personal travel, but we strongly discourage international travel until the travel suspension is lifted

On March 19, the U.S. State Department issued a Global Level 4 Health Advisory -- Do Not Travel

- This information can change at any moment
Here are several University and federal resources that will be useful if your students are still planning to travel:

- [COVID-19 updates from U-M](#)
- [UM Travel Registry](#) (Register your travel with the University)
- [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (Register your travel with the State Department)
- [UM Travel Abroad Health Insurance](#)
- [UHS COVID-19 Information](#) (Includes Travel Information)
- [CDC COVID-19 Travel Information](#)
- [Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

If you need to cancel a flight, check with your airline to see if it is possible to get a refund. Many airlines are offering refunds and flexible rebooking options that could help you minimize your financial loss.

- If you haven’t purchased a flight yet, consider [Cancel for Any Reason Travel Insurance](#)
Obtaining A Visa

How long are you traveling?

U.S. citizens traveling for less than 90 days do not need a visa for most EU countries.

For more than 90 days or if traveling for other reasons (study or work-related), you’ll want to check with individual countries’ visa requirements.

Tips for applying:

❖ Apply at least 6 weeks in advance
❖ Make copies of your passport and visa
❖ U.S. Students: country specific visa information
❖ Non-U.S. Students: travisa.com
  ➢ Schengen Visa
Health and Safety

Register your travel with the university

No Immunizations Needed for Europe

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

Bring enough prescription medicine to last the duration of the trip

Travel.state.gov for additional safety information

GeoBlue International Health Insurance

UM Travel Warnings and Restrictions
**Luggage**
- Depends on length and purpose of trip
- Be aware of airline dimensions
- Pack less than you think you need
- Consider packing in a backpacking pack

**Don’t Forget**
- Adapter/converter
- Quick-dry towel
- Food/snacks from your home country
- Water bottle/coffee mug
- Products that aren’t sold in the country you’re visiting
- Umbrella/rain jacket
- Day pack
- Paper copy of your passport and/or visa
General Tips

● If you want to be treated like a local, it helps to dress like one
● Dress more conservatively to avoid drawing unwanted attention

Clothing

● Comfortable shoes are a must
● A scarf, sweater, jacket, etc. for visiting churches
● Neutral colors are best for mixing and matching
● Pack for layering
Transportation

Flights (from the U.S. to Europe)

- Search Engines
  - Skyscanner
  - Google Flights
  - Momondo
- Discounted Student Tickets
  - StudentUniverse
  - STA Travel
- Very cheap flight deals
  - Scott’s Cheap Flights
- Stopovers
  - Icelandair
  - TAP Air Portugal

*Flying from Canada and Chicago is often cheaper than Detroit*
Transportation

Flights (within Europe)

- Sometimes, flying within Europe can be cheap (even within one country)
- Low-cost airlines
  - Ryanair
  - EasyJet
  - WizzAir
  - Be aware that carry-on dimensions are smaller!
- Search Engines
  - Skyscanner
  - Google Flights
  - May direct you to low-cost airlines’ websites
Transportation

Trains (multi-country)

- Eurail
  - Explore up to 28 countries
  - 3 types of passes:
    - Global Pass: 5+ countries
    - Select Pass: 2-4 bordering countries
    - One Country Pass: 1 country
  - Flexi Pass: can be applied to any of the 3 passes
    - Allows you to travel during a fixed number of days
  - All passes have different validity time frames
  - Expensive but flexible
Transportation

- Trains (single country)
  - Each country’s railway system works differently
  - Examples:
    - Trenitalia: Italy
    - Renfe: Spain
    - Deutsche Bahn: Germany

- Buses
  - Most time but cheapest option
  - Megabus/Flixbus

- Metro/Tram/City Bus
  - Options for buying multi-day, weekly, or monthly passes
  - Some countries require validating ticket
Transportation

Trains/Buses

- More comfortable
- Arrive in city centers
- No long check-ins or lines
- Typically no luggage limits
- Often better for spontaneous travel
- Options for overnight travel
- Flexible

Planes

- Faster
- Can be cheaper depending on country and when ticket is bought
- Additional cost for transportation from city to airport
- Souvenir restrictions
Transportation

**Things to Consider:**

- **End destination**
  - Will you need to catch a taxi?
  - Where is your accommodation in relation to drop-off spot?
- **Travel warnings or strikes**
  - Check in advance and the day of
- **Luggage**
  - Know restrictions
- **Time of departure and arrival**
  - Is the area safe?
Lodging

- Hostels
  - Hostelworld
    - Inexpensive
    - Central locations
    - Full of young travelers
    - Community kitchens
    - Privacy and security issues
    - Room options: private or dorm-style
  - All hostels are unique and offer a variety of amenities
    - The Hat Madrid, Madrid
    - Czech Inn, Prague
    - Orsa Maggiore for Women Only, Rome
Lodging

- **Hotels**
  - [Skyscanner Hotels](https://www.skyscanner.com) or [Booking.com](https://www.booking.com)
    - From budget hotels (and hostels) to luxurious ones
    - Safer and more private
    - Breakfast sometimes included

- **Staying with Locals**
  - [Airbnb](https://www.airbnb.com): Rent shared rooms, your own room, or an entire apartment
    - Prices vary greatly
    - Safer and more private
    - Great for large groups
    - Tips/recommendations from locals
  - [Couchsurfing](https://www.couchsurfing.com): Stay on locals’ couches
    - Free
    - Great for meeting locals/other travelers
Phones and Banking

● Cell phone:
  ○ Purchase a cheap cell phone and add minutes to it
  ○ Change your U.S. phone to an international plan
  ○ Offline Maps
  ○ You can find wifi in most accommodations and cafés
    ■ WhatsApp, Viber, Skype

● Banking:
  ○ Always have some cash on you!
  ○ Notify your bank and credit card companies where you are traveling
  ○ Short trips
    ■ Exchange money before you go or when you get there
    ■ ATMs are usually the cheapest option
    ■ Debit cards vs. Credit cards
  ○ Long trips
    ■ Bank account
Offline Google Maps
Tips and Advice
Cultural Expectations

- Be aware of cultural norms
  - Cultures in Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western Europe can vary
  - Different concepts of time, space, noise, etc.
- Beverages - Ordering water, tap water safety, refills
- Drinking embedded in European culture
- Bathrooms - go when you have the opportunity
- Most big cities will have English speakers, but it’s always a good idea to learn basic words and phrases
- Solo travel vs. group dynamics (compromising)
- Be aware of afternoon and Saturday/Sunday closures
Social Identities Abroad

- Equaldex
- Global Identities
- Diversity Abroad
- Perceptions of Americans abroad
Avoiding Pickpockets

- Keep your belongings close and closed
- Don’t put anything in your back pockets. Wear backpacks in the front
- Avoid large crowds
- Only carry bags that zip or at least have a clasp
- Don’t carry around your passport or a lot of money
- Be wary of scams - trust your instincts
Budget Travelling

- Think about getting a guide book or following a blog
  - Rick Steves
  - Lonely Planet
  - Young Adventuress
  - Nomadic Matt
- Research places to eat cheap and authentic food
  - TripAdvisor
  - Happycow ($2.99) or Vegman (free) for vegetarians/vegan restaurants
  - Yelp (not available in some East. European countries)
  - Ask locals!
- Save money by grocery shopping and cooking at home
- Bring your Student ID card with you for discounts
  - Consider getting an International Student Identity Card (ISIC)
Working Abroad: Celia’s Experience

Greece
Study & Work Abroad: Katie’s Experience France/UK
Questions?

- cweberg@umich.edu
- cooneyka@umich.edu
- jkoelzer@umich.edu
- ic-abroad@umich.edu

Education Abroad Advising

- By appointment only
- Check the IC website for updates