

# Packing List & Instructions

## ITALY: CULINARY TRAINING & CULTURE

The weather in Italy in the summer tends to be very hot and humid, so please pack light, breathable clothing. Quick-drying materials are the easiest to care for.

You will be responsible for carrying your own luggage. The most important packing advice is to pack lightly— whether you pack in a duffel bag, a suitcase, or a large backpack, you should be able to carry (not roll) your luggage up two flights of stairs and across the length of a football field. When determining what luggage is appropriate, it is important to consider the program itinerary and group activities. Travel between cities is often by train or private bus. Whatever luggage you bring, you will need to be able to get it on and off yourself, including up and down aisles, and into overhead storage.

*Special Note on Luggage:* On the Italy program, your primary piece of luggage should be a backpack and not a rolling suitcase. This is a specific request from our in-country partners. In recent years rolling suitcases have caused a significant amount of damage to the ancient cobblestone and marble throughout Italy and many cities are even considering banning them. Additionally, students have noted that large rolling suitcases have been especially difficult when getting on and off trains in Italy.

The list on the following page has been suggested by past participants and leaders. You will have opportunities to do laundry while on the program, often during your homestay. Even though your program may be three or four weeks, pack for about a week. Even though we provide a comprehensive packing list, it is good practice to research the temperature and climate of your program country before you depart. These can vary from year to year, so it is important to check current and expected conditions for your program abroad and pack accordingly.

### A Note on Dress

Remember, while traveling with The Experiment, you are an ambassador for the program and should dress appropriately for the country you will be traveling to. You will want your clothes to be comfortable, compact, versatile, and quick to dry (since access to an electric dryer will likely be limited). You will not need more than one nice outfit, suitable for a religious ceremony or celebratory dinner. Shoes should be comfortable, broken in, and versatile—bring as few pairs as possible – 3 is more than enough. Layering is recommended for changing temperatures rather than bringing bulky sweaters and jackets.

### A note on Hotel Accommodations

All hotel rooms are equipped with air conditioning; however, standard regulations set that temperatures cannot be lower than 77° F (25°C) so rooms can be quite warm, even with air conditioning.

## Notes from our Team

### **PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS**

Make sure to keep any prescription medications or vitamins in their original containers, and bring a sufficient amount for the entire duration of your program, plus extra in case of travel delays. Bring a paper copy of your prescription from your doctor in case you lose your medication. Travel with all essential medications in your carry-on luggage. If you are diabetic and traveling with syringes, bring a certificate or letter from your doctor.

### **RESCUE MEDICATIONS**

If you use any rescue medications and or devices (i.e. medications intended for the immediate relief of serious symptoms like an EPI pen or albuterol inhaler) you must travel with one or more backup supplies of this medication or device. (e.g. A participant who uses an inhaler would travel with at least two inhalers, while a participant with a severe allergy might travel with several EPI pens.) Comparable therapies can be very difficult to obtain while traveling.

### **OTHER MEDICATIONS**

While you will not need an entire pharmacy, do bring the medication you normally use for minor ailments like body aches, upset stomach, bug bites, common cold, seasonal allergies etc. A travel first aid kit from your local pharmacy is recommended. All medications should be in original packaging with the package insert if possible, to avoid seizure at customs. Please see the Health Guidelines for more information.

### **PERSONAL FIRST AID KIT & OTHER MEDICATIONS**

The group leaders will carry a first aid kit for emergencies whilst traveling with the group, but you should bring a travel personal first aid kit with medication you normally use for minor ailments like body aches, upset stomach, bug bites, common cold, seasonal allergies, bandaids and moleskin for blisters etc.

With the increasing temperatures of summer heat and traveler's diarrhea, it is important that you also bring a personal set of oral rehydration salts/electrolytes. These can be found in travel-friendly powder packets to add with water.

[Also include any program-specific recommendations and requirements from previous Experimenters, group leaders and partners]

A travel first aid kit from your local pharmacy is recommended. All medications should be in original packaging with the package insert if possible, to avoid confiscation at customs. Please review the Health Guidelines for more information.

### **TOILETRIES AND SANITARY ITEMS**

Please bring the toiletries and sanitary items you are accustomed to using. It is recommended to bring enough feminine hygiene products for the duration of the program. It is often difficult to find the items you are used to using while abroad.

### **CORRECTIVE LENSES**

If you wear glasses or contact lenses, please bring extra pairs and extra contact cases, as these are often difficult to replace if lost. If you use contact solution to clean your lenses, bring plenty of the type you prefer as your specific brand may be difficult to acquire abroad. Consider program itinerary and activities when choosing appropriate eyewear.

Please direct any questions or concerns to [medicalteam@experiment.org](mailto:medicalteam@experiment.org).

## VALUABLES AND ELECTRONICS

The Experiment is not responsible for any items lost, misplaced, or stolen. We recommend you not bring large electronics, laptops, iPads, tablets, hairdryers, or other items that you would consider expensive to replace. If you choose to bring small electronics (your digital camera or cell phone) remember to bring your own adaptor, batteries, and a voltage converter (which can be obtained from a travel store or pharmacy.) More info about electricity, voltage, and adapters can be found here: <https://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/>.

## GIFTS

While not required, it is nice to be prepared with a gift to offer your homestay family in gratitude for their hospitality and to share a part of your culture with them. Gifts do not need to be expensive or elaborate. We suggest one or two gifts that the whole family can enjoy; you do not need a gift for each member. Try to choose gifts that represent you or the part of the country and/or community you live in. Think about what your city, state, or local artisans produce (for example, a Vermonter could bring a small bottle of maple syrup). Postcard books and other souvenir items from your hometown are good options. Draw upon your personal interests or hobbies for ideas.

## CLOTHING RECOMMENDED

- 1 lightweight sweater/sweatshirt
- 1 light, hooded rain jacket
- 5-6 shirts, appropriate for varied settings
- 1 tank top
- 1–2 pairs of lightweight pants
- 1 pair of sturdier pants (e.g., jeans)
- 1–2 pairs of long shorts/skirts
- 1-3 casual summer dresses/skirts
- 1 set of sleeping clothes
- 7 pairs of underwear
- 5-6 pairs of socks
- 1 swimsuit and swimming cap (cap required at pools)
- 1 pair of comfortable, broken-in walking shoes. *You will be required to wear closed-toed shoes in the kitchen*
- 1 pair of comfortable sandals, or 1 pair of comfortable flat shoes (e.g., Clark's, Toms, etc.)—also may work as your nice shoes
- 1 nice outfit and pair of shoes for special occasions
- 1 pair of water sandals to be worn at the beach, pool, etc. ( i.e. Teva or sturdy flip-flop)

## GEAR RECOMMENDED

- Reusable and durable water bottle (1 liter) – **REQUIRED**
- 1 set of toiletries—should be smaller than your head
- 1 small beach towel—microfiber quick-drying towels work well
- Travel size detergent, biodegradable if available – Laundry pods or bar laundry soap are great options
- Travel size personal first aid kit
- Sunglasses and hat with a brim
- Money belt
- Travel watch with alarm—a watch is necessary since you may not be able to use your cell phone as a timekeeping tool
- Small notebook and pens
- Small Italian-English dictionary
- Small flashlight/headlamp with extra batteries
- Camera, charger, and adapters or extra batteries
- Insect repellent
- Personal first aid kit (as noted above): including oral rehydration salts, Imodium / Pepto Bismol
- Sunscreen and lip protection (SPF 30)
- Plastic bags—small Ziplocs and a few large garbage-size bags (great for wet/dirty clothes and keeping clean clothes dry while traveling)
- Small backpack for day trips—can be your school backpack
- School ID—if you don't have one, it's okay
- A gift for your host family

## IMPORTANT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- Passport, or residency card (if applicable)
- 2 photocopies of your passport stored separately from your actual passport
- Photocopy of visa (if applicable)
- COVID-19 vaccination card (digital and print)

## OPTIONAL ITEMS RECOMMENDED

- Journal and pen
- Printed photos of family or friends
- A small game of cards, Uno, Bananagrams, etc.

Where to start: A great place to visit for these types of travel clothes and gear is an outdoors store such as REI and EMS. These places will have waterproof, light weight, quick drying and versatile clothing options specifically made for travel and

backpacking. They can also talk you through layering techniques and give you gear recommendations. These stores tend to be a little pricey so don't forget to check for second-hand outdoor gear stores locally as well!