

Packing Tips for Germany 2009

First of all, please remember that the St. Mary's dress code is in effect for the duration of the trip. A number of the German students commented that students dressed more casually (and skirts were shorter) here in the U.S. When traveling abroad it is always wiser to dress more conservatively and to err on the side of caution. Therefore use the rule of presenting a neat, clean, and modest appearance.

Concerning the specific clothes you should pack, the weather in Germany in June is typically cooler than in Medford, and some days are even cold. Therefore you should choose clothes that you can layer for the weather. Pack clothes you can wear more than once and that you can combine with a number of things. Laundry is expensive and not always available. Furthermore, it will save you from having to ask your host mother to do your laundry too often.

Remember that you are limited to one checked bag and one carry-on when packing. In your carry-on you should have a change of clothes (in case your luggage is lost), toiletries, camera, your documents (passport, travelers' checks, I.D, etc) and a book. Everything else should be packed in your larger suitcase in the belly of the plane. You may want to bring a collapsible bag for your gifts to your families and for packing gifts on the way home.

Before You Leave:

- Measure your luggage before you select it and pack it. The combined size allowed for checked baggage is 62 in.
- Weigh your luggage after you pack it! Lufthansa allows up to 46 pounds, and I strongly advise you to stick to it – not only because it is expensive, but because you will be hauling your bag through the cobblestone streets of small towns, jumping on and off crowded subways, and lifting your luggage high above your head onto luggage racks. It is unfair to the rest of the group if everyone has to slow down for you or carry part of your luggage because you packed too much.
- Do not pack any of the prohibited items listed on the Lufthansa website. Following is the website that answers all baggage questions http://www.lufthansa.com/online/portal/lh/de/info_and_services?l=en&nodeid=1649717&cid=18002
- Carry-on Bag: Lufthansa: Dimensions may not exceed 45 inches combined and a weight of 18 lbs. **Do not exceed these dimensions or weight as they will both be checked at the Frankfurt airport and you could be sent back to the check-in counter to check your carry-on and thereby miss the flight.**
- Airlines no longer allow locks on luggage.
- Regarding what goes into your luggage:
 - When you are preparing for your trip, remember to pack smart — pack safe.
 - Pack plenty of modest clothing because you want to err on the side of caution rather than offending anyone.
 - As far as backpacks and large purses are concerned, most museums require you to stow them in free, secure lockers, so be prepared to check them at major museums. Also be aware that backpacks and purses are easy targets for theft on the subway and in the streets so pay attention when in crowded areas!
 - Fanny packs are OK, but are also tempting targets for theft - do not put anything very valuable in them.
 - **Leave gifts unwrapped.** Airline security will open gifts if the X-ray scan cannot determine the contents.
 - **If in doubt, don't pack it.**

At the Airport

- Watch your bags and personal belongings at all times and do not accept packages from strangers.
- If you see unattended bags or packages anywhere in the airport terminal or parking area, immediately report them to a security officer or other authority.
- Report any suspicious activities or individuals in the airport or parking lot to airport security.
- Don't joke about having a bomb or firearm. Don't discuss terrorism, weapons, explosives, or other threats while going through the security checkpoint. The mere mention of words such as "gun," "bomb," etc., can compel security personnel to detain and question you. They are trained to consider these comments as real threats.
- Be prepared to answer questions about your bags. When asked who packed your bags and if you might have left them unattended at anytime, think carefully and answer the questions honestly.
- Be cooperative as screeners ask to hand-search your bags. Security personnel will search a bag if the x-ray scan cannot determine its contents.
- Only ticketed passengers are allowed beyond the screener checkpoints.
- Travelers are limited to one carry-on bag and one personal item (e.g., purse or briefcase).
- Electronic items, such as laptop computers and cell phones, may be subjected to additional screening.