

Travel Considerations for Savvy Nomad 2023 Alsace-Lorraine Canal Boating



Dear Friends -

We've noticed a few things over the years we've traveled with folks. We'd like to share some considerations, best practices, and new requirements for traveling to France.

***Over-packing is a huge detriment to enjoying your trip.**

Here's why:

- 1) Can you climb up and down 4 flights of stairs carrying all your bags? You'll often need to in Paris.
- 2) Can you lift (bench press) your bags over your head and stow them in a luggage rack on the airplane and/or train? You'll need to.
- 3) Can you keep track of all your bags? If you have more than two bags, usually the answer is NO. We've seen it time and time again. If you have more bags than hands you will either lose one, get pickpocketed, or miss your train. Limit your packing to one bag (luggage) and one personal item (purse, man-bag, day pack, etc.) per person and put your address inside every bag.

***Physical fitness is necessary in weird ways.**

Here's how:

- 1) Do you have good balance? To embark/debark you must walk on a potentially wobbly, one foot wide, six foot long plank with no hand rails. Also, the bow of the boat is wide open - no rails.
- 2) Can you climb a ladder? You might need to on the boat.
- 3) Can you step up and down a 2-foot span onto a moving platform? That's a boat!
- 4) Can you swim? Let's hope so if you fall overboard. (We do have life vests to wear if needed.)
- 5) Can you throw a rope 20 feet? Bollard-wrangling is a big and fun part of each day. Don't worry, we'll teach you.
- 6) Do you mind hitting your head? It will happen most days on a boat. (This is about mental attitude, not hard-headedness. Lol! Every time we hit our heads we say, "It's a boat day!")
- 7) Can you walk a mile without stopping? Everyone loves walking into small French villages along the canal.
- 8) Luggage again: See above for the luggage considerations and best practices.

***There's new requirements on the horizon for traveling to Europe.**

Here's what:

- 1) Starting in late 2023, US citizens must apply online for the ETAIS visa-waiver to visit the EU. More details to come.
- 2) You no longer need the digital Covid Passport, "Tous Covid" to travel in France. And vaccination entry requirements are in flux. It's still a good idea to carry your vaccination card.
- 3) The US is no longer requiring a negative covid test to fly home. And you are not required to wear a mask.
- 4) Not new, but important: your passport must be newer than 6 months before expiration in order to travel to the EU. Passports are taking a very long time to receive so apply as soon as possible if renewal is necessary.
- 5) Never assume these are the only requirements. Things change all the time. We will keep you updated as best we can. But if you are traveling outside of the plans we make, you are responsible for knowing the rules of travel to the places you go.

All that said, nothing is insurmountable. As Dave says, "There's nothing that can't be solved by large applications of cash." But the best way to avoid needing large applications of cash is to be prepared. This packing list and travel considerations document will pave the way for best travel practices.

We look forward to traveling with you! Sara & Dave