



## Cellular Life Internationally

Can my child use their cell phone while on the trip? Yes! But it may come at a **HIGH COST!**

### Will the phone work?

The ein Handy or mobile phone, use a different frequency and technical standards than US. Many newer phones use the same GSM (Group Special Mobile) system such as the Samsung Galaxy S6 or iPhones 5S and up. Many US phones are CDMA which will not work. Check your phones to determine if they are GSM or “world phone” compatible before leaving. AT&T & T-Mobile use the same GSM phone systems while Sprint & Verizon may not. Contact your phone provider to make sure!

### Calling, Texting, Chatting & More – BEWARE!

Using cellular data, texting, sending pictures, social media, Snapchat, groupme, internet searches, video streaming, music streaming and placing calls can be very expensive internationally if they are using data due to roaming charges and can come at a **COSTLY** price if not planned for in advance. All carriers provide a variety of international packages with many including unlimited texting, limited data and for a fee calls per minute. Check out your carriers plans now to determine your families needs.

### LEAD CHAPERONES

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### How to Connect for Less or FREE!

Turn the data plan off the moment you leave US soil. This prevents the phone from accidentally roaming (incurring cost). Using free Wi-Fi, you can reduce or eliminate the high cost of roaming – but it does come with limitations of availability. At our hotels and in some common areas – free Wi-Fi is available. Enjoy the day – take lots of pictures, talk to each other but send the text/pics/etc. later!

### How can we connect for less (or FREE)?

Here are some popular options.

- **FB Messenger** – Essentially free texting through the Facebook network. Need Facebook accounts for all persons (Free).
- **Google+ Hangouts** – This app, connected through your Google+ account, is best for group sharing and video/voice chatting (up to 10 people!). Need Gmail accounts (Free).
- **Skype** – The grandfather of video chatting. Need to download app on phone or computer (Free).
- **WhatsApp** – a multiplatform mobile phone messaging service that uses your phone's internet connection to chat with and call other WhatsApp users (Free).
- **Google Voice** – voicemail service from Google that enables users to send free text messages, customize their voicemail, read voicemail text transcript, and more at a discounted price (Free download – fees apply).
- **Viber** – app used for messaging and making video calls for free to other Viber users.



## Nightly Updates

Nightly updates will be sent via Social Media – Stay Tuned for instructions to connect.

## Austria- Germany Choir Trip 2016 (March 27 – April 3)



## Final Itinerary Coming Soon!

### DEPARTURE & ARRIVAL

- **March 27:** Meet at Chicago O'Hare Airport, Terminal 1, at 1:00pm in front of the Lufthansa Counter.
- **April 3:** Welcome home - Meet at Baggage Claim at 6:45 pm.
- **Carpools** are being set up, if interested. Contact Carla Oldham (630) 991-1156 or wvmomm2018@gmail.com.

### WEATHER

- Weather in Austria/Germany in late March to Early April is between 30-50+ degrees. It can have snow or may be a great spring day. Pack in layers. It also does rain. A waterproof coat a good idea

### TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION

- A Passport is required
- 2/21 Copy turned into wvchoirtrip2016@gmail.com
- All passports by this date will be registered with the US consulate & included in airline documents
- Keep a Copy at home, in case if lost or stolen

### TIME ZONE DIFFERENCES

- Austria & Germany are 7 hours ahead of Chicago. Plan times to connect.
  - Night time hotel check in is ~10:30pm Austria/Germany time which is 3:30pm Chicago time.
  - 8:00am before heading out for the day is 1:00am Chicago Time.



## Money Matters

- Bring about \$50 US cash in small bills for emergencies and \$50 Euro
- Plan to have access for up to \$160 for lunches and souvenirs.
- Determine how funds will be accessed internationally. Not all debit and credit cards work the same internationally and may have international fees associated with them. Many charge \$5 + 4% of the ATM withdrawal and 3% on all purchases.
- We will stop at a local ATM to convert some money which often has better rates than your local bank.
- Notify your bank of travel dates so the card(s) is not blocked.
- Avoid using US Travelers Checks.

### Electronics: What type charger will I need?

- C Europlug (plug adapter) and possibly an E/F Schuko (converter). This article explains more in detail:

<http://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/world-electricity-guide.html>

Hair Dryers will be in the hotel. Check your appliance needs or leave at home.

### Trip T-shirts

Trip T-shirts will be ready to be ordered the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February. Students have the opportunity to design the t-shirt. The cost of the T-shirt will be between \$18-\$25. Watch email or twitter for more details.

## Policy & Procedures

Each student & parent should be responsible for knowing, following and supporting the policies, and rules of WVHS.

<http://wvhs.ipsd.org/uploads/About/2S-WaubonsiePlanner15-16.pdf>

Students are required to follow school dress code policy as this is a school event.

In compliance to district policy, the student

- may not use, sell, provide, possess, or be under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- may not use tobacco or tobacco products
- may not possess any weapon
- Must be under direct supervision at all times unless directed otherwise by district personnel.
- Acts of disobedience or failures to comply with school regulations and misconduct encompasses breaking the laws of society or engaging in acts which are harmful to persons or property or to the order of the school community.

Failure to comply with these specific rules can result in disciplinary action up to termination of the student's trip and being sent home, with the cost for the student and a chaperone fare/expenses being the student's parents expense.

Twitter account:  
Wvchoirtrip2016 (private)

## The Long Plane Trip Plan

Each person is allowed 1 carry-on and 1 suitcase to check. The checked bag must be not more than 50 lbs. and 62" combined (width + height + depth). Remember to leave room in your suitcase for souvenirs, so pack light! Check the daily packing list ideas coming out February 15, 2016.

The plane ride will last between 10-11 hours, so think comfort and sleep!

- Wear comfortable, loosely fitting clothes in layers to accommodate changes in the temperatures.
- Be sure that your carry-on bag is not larger than **21.5 x 15.7x 9 inches**.
- Electrical outlets are available on the flight but are limited. Back-up chargers are recommended.
- Pack in your carry-on:
  - Eye mask and ear plugs.
  - A good neck pillow is a must!
  - Empty water bottle to fill – you will need to stay hydrated.
  - Snacks with protein– an inflight meal will be served in the evening with snacks to purchase (at a premium) with a morning continental type breakfast.
  - Entertainment – though many flights do an in-flight show, bring along other forms like a book, music, movies. PEN! Needed for customs
  - Slip on socks for walking around in
  - Toiletries like a toothbrush/paste, deodorant/wet wipes, lip balm to freshen up the next morning. Remember FAA limitations for carrying liquids.  
[http://www.faa.gov/passengers/prepare\\_fly/baggage](http://www.faa.gov/passengers/prepare_fly/baggage)
  - Your passport and money
  - A change of clothes or at least a shirt.
  - Your prescription plus the doctor's note.

