

ACE Journey to Central Europe trip FAQ

Q: What is included in the price of the trip?

A: All hotels and park admissions are included in the trip. Transportation between the hotels and the parks is also included. For those attending the Poland portion of the trip, a flight from Germany to Poland will be included as well. Breakfast will be included at the hotel each morning. There may be one group dinner and possibly a few meals provided at parks, but most lunches and dinners will be on your own. A trip t-shirt and tips for the coach drivers are also included. Flights to and from Europe will not be included and must be purchased on your own, as will transportation from your arrival airport to the check-in hotel in Utrecht.

Q: How do I get to Europe for the start of the trip?

A: You will be responsible for getting yourself to Amsterdam and to our first hotel of the trip, the NH Utrecht. You must arrive at the NH Utrecht by the evening of Saturday, July 6. There will be an ACE Journey to Central Europe check-in table at the hotel on Saturday evening, where you'll pick up trip materials. On Sunday morning, July 7, we will load the coaches (buses) and travel to our first amusement park!

Q: What happens if my plane is diverted or delayed?

A: If possible, plan to arrive in Amsterdam early enough so that even if you experience some delays you will still arrive at the hotel by Saturday evening. If you arrive after the group has departed the first hotel, you will need to arrange your own transportation to meet the group. If you know you will be delayed, please contact one of the trip organizers (or get a message to another attendee and ask them to alert the organizers).

Q: How do we get to the hotel from the Amsterdam Schiphol airport?

A: The NS intercity train to Venlo departs from the Amsterdam Schiphol airport to Utrecht Centraal station every 15 minutes. The Schiphol airport train station is located directly beneath the arrival hall in the airport. In the arrival hall, follow the "Trains" signs to Schiphol Plaza. You can buy your train ticket at one of the yellow and blue NS kiosks that say "train tickets" in the airport before you board the train, using a debit or credit card or Euro coins. (The kiosk display is available in Dutch or English; just hit the British flag for English.) [This video](#) shows how to buy a ticket from a kiosk. (When buying the one-way ticket, just be sure to select "Utrecht Centraal" as your destination instead of "Amsterdam Centraal.") The one-way train ticket to Utrecht costs about 11 euros. There is also an NS "train tickets and services" counter with staff, if you need help buying a ticket or prefer to buy your ticket from a person rather than a machine. After buying a train ticket, check the digital signs to see which platform the next NS train to Venlo is leaving from, and then take an escalator, stairs, moving walkway or elevator down to that platform. You'll need to tap your ticket at a card reader before you enter the platform (and again after you exit the train in Utrecht, so don't lose it). The train ride to Utrecht Centraal station takes 30 to 40 minutes. Utrecht Centraal will be the third stop after departing the airport. Exit the Utrecht train station toward Jaarbeurs/Beatrix, and the NH Utrecht hotel will be a short walk away on your right.

We hope to coordinate a couple of meetup times at the airport so that groups can travel to the hotel together on July 6. More details will be shared later.

If you're not comfortable taking the train, you can also take a taxi, Uber, or other car for hire. Expect a taxi ride to cost over 100 euros.

Find more information about transportation, visit the airport's website [here](#).

Q: When can we check in to the NH Utrecht hotel?

A: After 3 p.m. local time on July 6.

Q: Where can we store luggage if we arrive before we can check in at the hotel?

A: If you plan to explore Amsterdam, there is [luggage storage at the Schiphol airport](#) and at [Amsterdam Centraal train station](#) (10 euros for a small locker and 13 euros for a large locker). At the Amsterdam train station follow the signs with the suitcase symbol and then enter the tunnel marked 'BAGAGE' next to the staircase up to platform 2.

If you plan to explore Utrecht, the Utrecht Centraal train station also [has storage lockers](#) by tracks 18-19 (7 euros for a small locker and 10 euros for a large locker).

Q: How do I get home at the end of the trip?

A: If you are doing only the main trip (The Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany), the ACE portion of your trip will end in Munich, Germany, on the afternoon of July 18 and you will be responsible for your travel home from there. If you are participating in the Poland add-on, you will be responsible for your travel home from Krakow, Poland. Our last hotel night will be July 20 and you will be free to travel home or elsewhere on July 21.

Q: How many suitcases should I bring?

A: One. Storage space on the coaches will be limited. And if you are attending the full trip, only one checked bag (50 pounds or less) will be included in the cost of the flight to Poland. (Extra bags and overweight bags will incur a fee.) Plus, you'll have to transport your luggage to and from the airport at the beginning and end of your trip. You'll also have to transport your luggage between your hotel room and the coaches any day that we're changing hotels. When we arrive at a new hotel, you'll also have to wait for luggage to be unloaded. The less luggage you have, the faster you'll be able to get to your room and settle in.

Q: With the limited luggage allowance, how will medical devices be accommodated?

A: During the second registration form, we will ask whether you will have any medical devices that won't fit in your regular suitcase, and we will get back to you with more details.

Q: Will we be able to do laundry at any of the hotels?

A: Some of our hotels do advertise having laundry services, while other hotels do not. (However, some third-party websites indicate that most of our hotels do indeed have laundry services.) Some travelers will bring a small amount of laundry soap and wash clothing items in

the hotel sink and then dry them overnight. Rick Steves offers some tips on doing laundry in Europe [here](#).

Q: Will we only spend one day at each amusement park?

A: We will spend one day at most parks. However, there are some large parks where we will spend more than one day, and some small parks where we might only spend half a day (and we might visit more than one park that day).

Q: How early do we need to be at the coaches each morning?

A: Each day's schedule will be slightly different. Your coach captain will tell you what time to be on the bus each morning, or you can consult the trip schedule, which will be provided by the start of the trip. (Keep in mind, though, that the schedule is subject to change during the trip, and your coach captain will have the latest schedule.) Always plan to board the coaches at least 5 minutes before you need to be on board (in the morning or when leaving a park), because we have a tight schedule and may need to leave without you if you are not on board. Punctuality is imperative!

Q: How much cash should I carry? Should I carry euros and zloty? Are ATMs available? Are there any places that do not take credit cards?

A: It is a good idea to carry some local currency with you, just enough for what you might need that day. (But keep it in a safe place, such as a money belt, to prevent falling victim to pickpockets!) In the past, some locations have not accepted credit cards, so be prepared with some cash. (Zloty are used in Poland, while euros are used in the other countries on this trip.) ATMs are usually available in urban areas, but don't count on finding them at the parks.

Q: Should you carry your phone at all times or is it better to leave it on the coach?

A: Some people carry their phones with them, but others don't. It's a personal choice. (But remember, you will likely need a special service plan or a SIM card to use your phone in Europe.)

Q: Do you need to carry your passport to the parks (or is an ID/Passport card sufficient in the park)? Is it safe to leave those documents on the bus? Hotels?

A: No personal identification should be needed in the parks. (If it is needed for some reason, an announcement will be made by your coach captain.) It might be safest to leave your passport in the hotel safe or on the coach to avoid losing it in a park. Your belongings should be safe on the coach (it is locked when we are in the parks), but an announcement will be made by your coach captain if there is ever a time when you should not leave your belongings on the coach.

Q: Does the group generally eat/socialize together during off-hours or are we on our own?

A: There will be a couple opportunities for the whole group to socialize (typically during check-in on arrival day and during a farewell dinner at the end of the trip). On most free evenings, however, attendees are generally on their own. Small groups often organize outings to

restaurants or to sightsee. You can talk to your roommate (if you have one), other people on your coach, or other trip attendees to ask whether they are interested in joining you.

Q: Will there be an ACE text service for updates/reminders?

A: We haven't done this for international trips in the past, so it is unlikely, but might be possible. Either way, your coach captain will provide updates and reminders on the coach each day on the way to our next destination.

Q: Will there be a forum where we can discuss the trip with other attendees?

A: Trip attendees can currently discuss the trip on the Facebook event page or in the #international-trip channel on Discord. We are looking into possibly creating a forum specifically for registered attendees.

Q: What time will we arrive at Munich airport on July 18? When can I fly out if I'm not attending the add-on to Poland?

A: We plan to arrive at the Munich airport by 4:30 p.m. If you want to fly out that evening, look for an evening flight departing no earlier than 6 p.m.

Q: If I am attending the Poland trip add-on, when should I plan to fly home?

A: We will visit our last park on July 20 and spend the night at the Hilton Garden Inn Krakow Airport that evening. You will be free to fly home or travel elsewhere on Sunday, July 21.