

Europe 2026

April 4, 2026

PLANNING

We want to make sure you're not scrambling at the last minute, so Julie and I put together a list of milestone dates to help you stay on track for the upcoming adventure.

The milestones are organized starting 60 Days out. We are rapidly approaching 30 days from departure. Items listed here have deadlines or dependencies that may require additional time to complete.

Tasks listed at three weeks out are suggestions that in some cases require a phone call or some other coordination in advance.

When you get to one week before leaving, we've tried to provide some obvious tips to make life a bit less stressful.

PACKING LIST

The next update will include an extensive packing list that you can use to pick and choose items for your own customized list.

NYPORTER WEBSITE

<https://work.nyporter.com>

You can find most of the tour information on the website. There's also a FAQ section with more tips.

60 DAYS OUT

Past Due

Medications – Check your prescriptions to ensure you have enough for the entire trip. You should be able to get a vacation refill if you need it.

Cruise and Tour Information – Log into the Avalon Waterways website and make sure you are completely checked in. They have lots of information requirements including emergency contact information.

THREE WEEKS OUT

Passports – Obviously, we all know that we're going to need our passports to travel. By this point everyone has checked to make sure your passport is not about to expire. From personal experience I would just suggest that you know where you have your documents stashed. (Not that I've ever scrambled at the last minute because mine was NOT where I always left it.)

Cell Phone Plan – Many of us have become attached to our cell phones. We want to be available for family or coworkers while we're traveling. If you fall into this category, make sure you have an international calling strategy. The most common plan is to simply sign up with your carrier for international coverage.

A monthly plan works great because we'll be gone for just under 30 days. If you're traveling longer, you may want to consider an international SIM card for your phone. Regardless of which you choose, make sure you have a plan.

Travel Medical Insurance – This should not be an option. Go to SquareMouth.com and do some shopping. These are the important coverages you should be looking at:

- *Emergency Medical* – for an unexpected illness or injury during the trip.
- *Medical Evacuation* provides coverage if you need transport to a nearby medical facility for treatment, and to your home hospital if necessary.

We generally get a minimum of \$250,000 each.

Cash or Euros – How much and what currency? For most of us, we're spending the entire trip in the EU, so euros will work. You'll need cash for tipping, and for small purchases. You have three options- best to worst – for obtaining cash.

- Bring your bank card and make ATM withdrawals in euros in Europe.
- Bring US dollars and plan to exchange them at the airport or in Europe.
- Obtain euros from a money exchange or your bank in advance.

You'll get the best exchange rate at an ATM in Europe, but your bank may not waive the associated fees. You can shop around for the best exchange rate in Europe if you bring US Dollars. The bottom line is do whatever is easiest for you.

Reach out to me if you want to discuss it in more detail.

Credit Cards – Know which card you want to take and use. Using your credit card reduces the amount of cash you need to bring. You will want to pay for most dinners, except on the cruise ship, with your credit card. Some cards waive foreign transaction fees, others don't. Check with your credit card company.

Note – Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted in Europe. American Express cards are less popular because they charge a higher transaction fee. Discover cards may not be accepted.

Two-three weeks prior to departing you'll want to contact your credit card company and let them know that you will be traveling internationally.

Packing List – Finalize a written packing list and start adding stuff to it now. This goes a long way in keeping you organized and (somewhat) stress-free in the days leading up to your departure.

Power Adapters – Have at least one European plug adapter for charging phones. There are US 110V outlets on the cruise ship.

ONE WEEK OUT

Airline Tickets – Print hard copies of your initial airline flights and review the dates and times for departure. (You can always print follow-on flights later at your hotel. This is a good idea, even if you normally use airline apps on your phone.)

Check online for any last-minute schedule changes. The last thing you want to do is miss your flight.

Pre-Pack – Yeah, this sounds funny, but especially if you're traveling with a small suitcase, it is a good idea. Just make sure you have enough room for all the stuff you're planning on taking. That Pucci™ evening gown and your hiking boots take up more space than you might normally think. And remember the dinner jacket (LOL)!

Remember Jaws? “*We're gonna need a bigger suitcase...*”

Julie's Rule – Take less clothes, bring more money!

Mail and Newspaper – Put your newspaper delivery on hold and plan for someone to pick up your mail, or have it held at the Post Office.

Luggage Tags – Make sure you have tags on any item you might be checking or carrying on.

Wallet Photos – Take pictures of passports and anything you're carrying in your wallet. That way you have things like credit card numbers and phone numbers if anything goes missing while traveling.

Hotel Taxi Cards – Write down your hotel address in case you don't get a bilingual driver. Once at the hotel, grab a hotel business card from the check-in counter. Use that with taxi drivers to get back to the hotel.

Airport Transfer – Who's taking you to the airport? When are they picking you up?

NOW RELAX

That's right. Relax. You'll be traveling with the **NYPorter Team**. Julie and Tim are our top travel and leisure team, and one of the best in the world!

Their mission is your enjoyment!