

Agenda for Meeting 3

1) Dealing with Airport issues --

- a. **Packing smart** --- Europe is very different from America. You will find that escalators oftentimes do not work in airports, train stations have steep stairs, and many buildings simply do not have elevators. Packing intelligently is very important for this trip. Take only about a week's worth of clothing because you can buy clothes in Benevento if you need it. DO NOT pack hair-dryers or electric shavers – these will blow a fuse in less than 5 minutes. DO NOT pack towels. You will get bath towels every other day, and you will have use of the washing machine at the B&B.
 - Make sure you pack everything that might be a liquid or even construed to be a liquid (even though it says “solid” on the label) like deodorants in zip-lock bags. In fact, you can buy good deodorants in Benevento. Please DO NOT pack soap. Shampoos and conditioners are available in super-markets in Benevento. If you can avoid packing these heavy things, then you will do your shoulder muscles a favor when you have to climb stairs. If you do not put all liquids in zip-lock bags, you can get delayed for a long time at security checkpoints. European security checks work differently from America. Here, if you forget putting a toothpaste or ointment in a zip-lock bag, they will simply do it for you and bid you a good flight. In Europe, they will take your bags apart and do an explosive substance check. So, if you do not want to spend half an hour at the security check, then please follow my instructions.
 - Make sure that you COMPLETELY EMPTY out your suitcases and CHECK all nooks and crannies before you pack. Europeans are very thorough and you simply do not want them to find a live ammo shell that was somehow hiding in the suitcase. Europe is not Texas – you WILL get into serious trouble for that.
 - *Appropriate attire*
- b. **Carry-On baggage** – Remember that in Europe, the carry-on suitcases allowed are slightly smaller than those allowed in US.
- c. **Getting bumped of a flight** – This has never happened to me or anyone I know, but in light of what was in the news recently, this is a possibility. If you are told that you have been moved to another flight, take a deep breath, and just follow their instructions. Just send me your new anticipated time of arrival.
- d. **Humor is not an option at the airport– Penalties can be severe!**
- e. **Return to USA** – Remember that if you are underage, you are not allowed to bring wine with you to the US. Border security officers have broad latitude – they might ask you to give them your phone and/or laptop, your social networking sites, and look in your baggage. They are even allowed to download data from your phone and/or laptop.
- f. **Medications** – Make sure you have your medications filled before you go, and they are in clearly identifiable bags at airport security.
- g. **Electrical outlet converter** --- Make sure you purchase converters for Italian electrical outlets. As each country in Europe has slightly different electrical outlets, it is important to get the correct one for Italy. It will be easier to purchase these here than in Italy. Don't forget your fitbit charger cords. Those are nearly impossible to find in Benevento.
- h. **Allergies:** Create an Italian language card stating what you are allergic to for use in case of an emergency.

2) **Contact Info** – My email is ram.iyer@ttu.edu. I will let you know my phone number in Italy after I purchase my SIM card there.

3) Upon Arrival

- a. **First Meeting** – We will meet on Sunday, May 14, at 6 pm at Piazza Roma (this is the square right next to your accommodation) for our orientation meeting.
- b. **Emergency numbers in Europe** – The number 112 is the pan-EU emergency number and will connect you to the police. In addition, 113 is General emergency, and 118 is Ambulance/Medical emergencies in Italy. Operators answering 112 will be able to assist in English.

4) Taking the train in Italy

- a. **Finding an ATM.** If you cannot find an ATM, ask someone “Mi Scusi! C’è un bancomat qui vicino?” (literally, “Excuse me! Is there an ATM near here?”). This is pronounced “Mee Scoosee! Chay oon bancomat cooey veecheeno?” They might point and say “li”. It means “there”.
- b. **Validate train tickets – or you will get fined.** Tickets purchased on the internet have a time stamped on them already. These do not need to be validated. Tickets purchased at the kiosks (such as the ones at Roma Fiumicino Airport where you purchase the Leonardo Express ticket to Roma Termini) have to be validated. Use the small yellow or green machines on the walls before you enter the platforms. Notice the sign showing the space for validation on the ticket below.



If you cannot find one, ask “Mi scusi! Dove posso convalidare il mio biglietto?” to an official looking person and they will show you the nearest machine. It literally means “Excuse me! Where can I validate my ticket?” The word “biglietto” is pronounced “beeleeeyetto”. They might point with an emphatic “li”. It means “there”.

Make sure you push the ticket in firmly and wait for the printing sound. Don't rush – otherwise, the machine will print the number twice and you will get fined for reusing a ticket!

c. Leonardo Express train



The Leonardo Express train has the colors from the flag of Italy. It is Red, White, and Green! The train also says "Leonardo Express" right near the doors in Red lettering. Do not get in a train without these features. Those trains will not go to Roma Terminus.

d. Train to Benevento

- On the train to Benevento, you will need the QR code you received in your email while purchasing the train ticket. **You should take a photo of it so that it is handy even if you do not have internet coverage inside the train.**
- At Roma Termini, when you are studying the information board for the Benevento train, *look for the train by its number and the time (for example, **Frecciargento 8315**)*, as the destination might be listed as "Bari" or "**Lecce**" because Benevento is only a stop on the way to these places.
- The platform for the Regionale trains might be listed as 21B or 22B. This means you have to walk on the 21 or 22 platform all the way to the end until **you have gone past the roof.**



NOT a Regionale train. This is a Freccia train A platform without a roof. A Regionale train on the right.

- If you are not sure where the train is going, you can ask someone "Mi scusi! Questo treno va a Benevento?" Literally – "Excuse me! Does this train go to Benevento?" They might say "Si" for Yes, or, "No" for no, or "Non lo so" for "I do not know", in which case, ask someone else.
 - **Before the train arrives in Benevento, the audio system will say "Siamo in arrivo a Benevento" which means "We are arriving in Benevento." Remember that you have at most 2 minutes to get off the train. Get ready with your bags even before the train stops at the station. You will see people lining up near the exit and you can join the line.**
- e. **Need a 1 euro coin to use restroom at Rome station.** --- This is typical in Italy. You have to get used to carrying coins all the time in Europe. The restroom at Roma Termini is underground – just take the stairs or the escalator. *There is no restroom in the restaurants at the station.* If you cannot find it, ask someone "Mi Scusi! Dove' il bagno?" (literally, "Excuse me! Where is the restroom?"). Pronunciation: "Mee Scoosee! Dho-way il baanyo?".
- 5) **Fitness Center** --- There is a fitness center called Palestra Fit house 0.5 miles exactly from Piazza Roma, which is the center of the historic town. The 2019 prices were (i) twice a week - 30 euros per month; (ii) thrice a week – 35 euros a month. There is a 10 euro registration charge.
- 6) **Phones** – If your phone has wifi then you will be able to Skype or Whatsapp in Benevento. At the University of Sannio in Benevento, you can use your TTU account by logging into the EDUROAM server. Your login ID will be ERAIDERID@ttu.edu and your password will be your Eraider password. Using the university wifi, you will be able to communicate via Skype with friends and family.
- **You will need an unlocked phone so that you can use a SIM card purchased in Italy on your phone. Check with your carrier ASAP to find out how to unlock your phone.**
 - Iphone 14 has an esim card. You still need the phone to be unlocked before purchasing a esim card in Italy.
 - You should contact your phone company and see if you can get roaming while in Italy for 2 months (make sure you understand the charges). **Do this ASAP.**

- If you do not have roaming and need to make a call at the airport or train station, then buy a telecom card from a TABACCHI (a little convenience store like a 7-Eleven but much smaller). In some places, it is called a TABACCHERIA. Insert the telecom card in the public phone to make a phone call. DO NOT use your credit card because the charges can be very high (those phone machines can recognize an American credit card). The minutes you have on the telecom card depends on whether you are making a local call or a long distance call.
- 7) **Course registration** – Everybody has permission to register for courses. The CRN numbers for Math 2360 – Sec 260 and Math 3350 – Sec 260 are 37070 and 36778 respectively. If you have applied for study abroad scholarships, they want you to register for courses before they can award money.
 - 8) **Money** – the best way to convert money is to use ATMs in Europe. There will be a charge for each use of the ATM (usually like \$5). I usually withdraw money at the airport when I arrive (in this case, Rome) and that is usually enough to tide me through until I arrive at my destination city (in this case, Benevento). There are plenty of ATMs in Benevento. In fact, there are three right next to the B &B where you will be staying.
 - 9) **Extra nights** – The accommodation is paid for starting 13 May until 24 June. If you need extra nights, let me know.
 - 10) **Accommodation** – If you wish to be roomed with a friend, send me an email. I will honor these requests starting with the first 18 students who made the program.