

Sidewalk Sale Georgetown Market July 5-6 & 7

Europe Is Yours If You Don't Mind Roughing It

BY J. LAURIER McFARLANE
You want to go to Europe and don't mind roughing it, with a pack on your back, then be prepared to wash infrequently, sleep in your clothes, stand for hours hitchhiking—then go! It will be a great experience and a lot of fun. Maybe I can give you just a few helpful suggestions and an insight in what to expect.

First of all, limit yourself to essentials: two pair of jeans, two or three T-shirts and a good pair of boots—you'll do a lot of walking—and a good coat because even in summer it can get cold. A light sleeping bag can come in handy but isn't essential. A camera is suggested because you'll have chances for some good shots and you can buy film easily

over there. Take also an adequate canvas pack. They hold up better than nylon. One big factor is money: take more than you think you will need and with some idea of destination and spending habits, gauge accordingly. I coordinated \$100 per month and found it quite sufficient. Remember, Spain, Morocco

and Greece are not as expensive as you are led to believe. I used American travellers' cheques because they are accepted almost everywhere and can be replaced if lost. Make sure you have a list of the cheque numbers on your person and a list left at home in case of emergency.

If you are worried about possible money problems buy an American Express card. One costs \$10 and can get you out of a jam. Before leaving get a student and youth hostel card. There are special discount prices for students in most European countries and youth hostels are invaluable. They are cheap and you will meet other travellers in your own age group. With your passport, your basic travelling itinerary, visas if destination includes Communist bloc countries, you should be ready to go.

SPRING TRAVEL
I left in May and found it a good time for departure. It isn't cold, middle of spring, and you are there before the crush of the summer tourists and you find the off-season rates to your benefit. Instead of looking for the special flight fares of charter organizations, I opted for Air Canada's student price with the one-year open return. This cost me \$215. I can't forget all those weary, broke travellers I saw at an embassy in Paris worrying about getting home after charter bankruptcies. The flight will take six hours from Toronto to Orly Airport.

All cities boasting an international tourist trade have a very good transit system to and within the city. Besides the Hilton and Sheraton Hotels, there are hundreds of other hotels in every price range. Go to the small ones, ask the price and consult your budget.

In the summer you may have some trouble finding cheap lodging due to the influx of tourists in the big cities. Even youth hostels are crowded but outside of the cities you

shouldn't find this a problem once arrived acquire a good local map and set about, by foot if possible, to see the spots of significant interest. Such sojourns are usually very inexpensive and most worthwhile. You can ascend the Eiffel Tower for \$1.50 which gives you an excellent view of the city. If the weather is good and you feel safe about it, sleep in the open. People pitch camp illegally in the Bois de Boulogne, Paris.

In Spain and Greece, it is worth the few extra cents to get a hotel room with a shower. In Morocco, the only youth hostel I recommend is the one in Casablanca. Avoid the youth hostels in Switzerland and not open in the winter. You'll meet lots of fellow North Americans who are travelling so just ask them where it is happening and they will clue you in.

Some people have some wild stories to tell so keep your ears open. It is useful to take Canadian flags with you because Canada and Canadians generally have a good reputation in foreign countries.

HIKING
There are numerous modes of travel, the cheapest being hitchhiking. It has its drawbacks, for example, waiting hours on a deserted corner. Off season, it is difficult everywhere except in the United Kingdom and in Germany and always tough in Spain and Greece. France, surprisingly, has earned a bad reputation.

From personal experience I recommend it for summer travel. For those on a tight time schedule, trains are the most dependable. They are excellent in most of Europe, less efficient in the south. It is less expensive if you have an Euro-rail Pass which can be obtained in Canada.

Boats are also good and dependable if you wish to cover long distances in a short time. From Genoa to Morocco, it cost me \$30. If you can get rides from people owning vans you are in luck. The owner will charge a flat rate for a certain distance and there is the possibility of sleeping in the van as well.

I had a ride from the tip of Spain to Paris for the sum of \$20 which is half the normal cost. The best place to find out about van travel is at the American Express offices.

CURRENCIES
As you travel through the various countries you will constantly be dealing with different currencies and you can obtain a list from your bank before you leave. Food varies with each country and it doesn't take too long for the youthful traveller to find the best value for his money. Eating poorly does not pay because your health is your best asset on the road.

Water is fairly safe to drink in all countries although less certain in Morocco. English is the international language but especially French. After being in each country for a short while, you will learn enough words and with sign language you will manage. Most countries have a maximum three-

month time limit and if you wish to stay longer you will have to get the necessary papers. Crossing borders does not prove too hazardous if you have your passport in good order and are fairly neat and clean. Long hair will be cut forcibly before entering Tangiers. If you are thinking of taking drugs across the border into Spain don't because it could mean six years in prison if caught. If you find yourself in difficulties in Europe, get in contact with the Canadian representative in the country involved.

If you are leaving for Europe this summer and hope to get a job there, it may prove difficult. Working permits are very hard to come by, so any job a young traveller gets is usually paid under the counter.

Speaking English is an asset, so you could try the tourist resorts etc. You can go to a kibbutz in Israel and during the months of September and October you can pick grapes in the south of France for \$6 per day, including room and board. I found it a most rewarding experience and hope to repeat it in the not-too-distant future.

SILVERWOOD
Mrs. W. H. Norton won 13 ribbons at the June 16 flower show.

Ben Case is home again after a trip to the Maritimes and the New England states.

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Capt. Charles Fogal was officer in charge of the ill-fated Air Canada plane that exploded and burned at Malton recently. He was not injured.

Clarence Bain is home after several weeks in Georgetown hospital.

Total rain fall to date for June is 2.59 inches. (Alicia F. C. Scott)



FAREWELL TO PRINCIPAL

Principal Jo Huston of St. Francis of Assisi school crouches down to the same level as kindergarten-pupils Ruth Auote and Jay McMann, to read the framed

prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, presented to him by the pupils on his last day as principal of that school. They also gave him a Polaroid camera. The framed, and

warmshred parchment prayer was made by teacher John Shaw. Mr. Huston will be principal of St. Patrick's school in Burlington in September.

(Herald Photo)

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