



THE JOY OF LEARNING

11 March 2012

Dear All Spain Tourists & Parents

SPAIN ART & HOCKEY TOUR 2012 – INFORMATION & FINAL ARRANGEMENTS

It's less than 2 weeks before take-off! All tourists have had access to a few Spanish Language Sessions at school – please remind your teens to practice their Spanish words! Anyone who would like a copy of the words, please pop into my office to pick up a sheet.

Please take note of the following important information and final arrangements below.

Travel Wallets (Air tickets, 2 luggage labels & Travel Insurance Policy)

South African Passport holders who required visas together with the travel wallets will be available for collection by parents.

If parents are unable to collect these, please send an email to Mrs Sharon Brown authorizing a representative to collect and sign on your behalf. The passports and wallets will be available for collection from Sharon Brown or Mrs Finch (PA to Mrs Brown) in the College Admin Office from Monday 12th March 7.30 am until 2 pm each day next week.

Tour Send-Off Party – Tuesday 20th March 2012 at 18h00 - School Hall & College Quad

The format of the evening will include a short tour presentation, Q&A, handing out of tour day packs, tour brochures & tour clothing. The 20/20 Tour Raffle Draw and Breitling Watch draw will also take place. Snacks, wine and fruit juice will be available – if you would like to bring along any other drinks, please do so. The evening should end at approximately 20h00.

Raffle Forms

Please hand in all raffle sheets (sold and unsold) together with raffle funds to Catherine Brodie by Tuesday 20th March. If the sheets are not handed in, they will not be part of the draw! 75% of raffle funds will be credited to the seller's tour fund.

Final Accounts

All Tourists must ensure that they have paid R28,205 by Wednesday 14th March 2012. We cannot finalize the last minute arrangements without full tour funds received and we have no facility for fly now / pay later! Thank you to all those parents who have made prompt tour payments.

Bon Voyage Tour Message charges and the R10 outdoor skiing insurance cost will be debited to your school account.

The Optional extra costs must be paid by each tourist to the Tour Operator on arrival in Spain. Please ensure that you carry sufficient Euros in cash to pay for the options you selected. You may not change your mind and pull out as we have committed to these extras. Please budget on the following amounts:

Outdoor Skiing	Approx Euros 75
Ski Lessons	Euros 20.50
FC Barcelona Football Match	Approx Euros 80 - 90

Travel Details

A final itinerary will be emailed later this week once the football match dates are finalized.



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Knysna Departure Time & place: **Oakhill School at 6 am Thursday 22nd March 2012**

Plett Departure Time & place: **Ultra City Garage, Plett at 6.45 am Thursday 22nd March 2012**

All students wishing to board in Plett must please email Sharon Brown (s.brown@oakhillschool.co.za) to confirm this arrangement.

Any latecomers will be left behind.

Please ensure you have in your day backpack your South African passport (or residency permit), foreign passport, air tickets and your pocket money. There will be a 'boarding' check before you hop on the bus. No passports / No Air Ticket = No Spain!

On the 4th April 2012, the flight from Johannesburg arrives at Port Elizabeth airport at 14h50. The Oakhill buses and trailers will transport all students, unless otherwise advised in writing, to Ultra City Plett or Oakhill School. Subject to no delays, our tourists will arrive in Plett at approximately 18h15 and Oakhill 18h45.

Clothing

Flight Travel Days – All students must wear blue jeans, white tour t-shirt and their grey tour hoodie. Civvies may be worn on all other tour days, except for hockey matches.

Hockey Kit – All hockey players to wear the correct 1st team hockey kit. Second Skins are suggested!

Climate - The temperatures during March / April in Spain are usually between 12 Deg Celsius and 20 Deg Celsius so it is important to pack both warm clothes and some summer items.

Please take a towel – all bed linen is supplied.

Luggage

Luggage – You are allowed one check-in bag (weighing a maximum of 23kg) and one carry-on bag as hand luggage (weighing a maximum of 12kg). Any excess luggage charges will be for your own cost. If you plan on shopping, ensure that you take less weight to make allowance for your extras when returning home. Your carry-on bag is the Travel & Sports Day pack which will be given to you at the Tour Send-Off Party. This bag has pockets and zips and can be used for your daily needs.

You may take a total of 1 litre of liquid in your hand luggage consisting of 10 x 100ml containers / bottles. No containers / bottles bigger than 100 ml that are only filled partly will be accepted. Medications that require prescriptions need to be accompanied by a copy of the prescription from your Doctor. Liquid and medication should be placed in a zip-lock bag. Sharp objects such as nail files, nail clippers, scissors etc are not allowed in your hand luggage. Place these items in your check-in luggage. No flammable or poisonous objects are allowed.

We are still waiting for confirmation from Air France that our hockey stick bags (black stick bags for boys and blue stick bags for girls as arranged by your coaches) can be taken as an additional check-in item. For planning, and where possible, please see if your hockey stick bag can be placed inside your luggage bag. The sticks do fit diagonally across some bags, including the wheelie Gryphon bags we took to Holland in 2010. We will confirm Air France's response shortly.

Label all your luggage items with your name and a contact telephone number. Travel light and pack wisely. There are self-service Laundromats available and you can rinse hockey kit in your hostel / hotel bathrooms.



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Pocket Money

Each tourist will be given cash on departure to pay for their 'on the run' lunches and 2 casual dinners (Real Madrid Football Match and the day of the outdoor skiing/free day in Barcelona). Pocket money is only needed for snacks, refreshments, airport meals (or pack some tuck and water for the bus to PE and Jhb airport to save wasting money on expensive airport food!), shopping and any other personal needs. Remember to take extra Euros for your extra football match and skiing!

Recommendation for Euro Purchase

An advisable option is to purchase a Travelex 'Cash Passport' – this is a pre-paid currency card and is a safe and easy way to take spending money. The card looks like a credit or debit card and you can use this card to pay for goods and services or draw Euros from a Visa cash machine in Spain. FX Africa at the Knysna Mall (it is the shop on the main road at the N2 Entrance to the Mall) supplies these cards. We have negotiated a competitive 'Oakhill Spain Tour' commission rate. Visit FX Africa and speak to Cornel or Magda and mention Oakhill. Parents (students do not have to be present) need to take along the air-ticket, tourists' passport, parent's ID or passport, proof of parent's residential address (not less than 3 months old) to purchase the card and Euros. The cost of the actual card is R112 incl VAT and the card is valid for 3 years. A commission is payable on the amount of Euros loaded onto the card and any cash Euro purchases but this is less than usual for this tour. Parents can 'top up' funds should our tourists over-spend (!!) and you can change the PIN, obtain a balance and track purchases etc on the internet. If the card is lost or stolen, Travelex will suspend the card and arrange for emergency funds and a replacement card. ATM withdrawal fees are 2 Euros per transaction. Unused funds can be withdrawn out.

Safety in Spain

Crime is everywhere. Spain is not immune from pick-pockets, especially in the underground Metro, and it is important to be vigilant and to keep all personal items, money, cameras, cell phones and travel documents safe and 'out of sight'. We will be in 3 large cities and you need to be aware at all times. Use your day pack-pack – handbags are easy to snatch!

Communication

Each student will receive a card to keep in their wallets. This card will include the Spanish Tour Operator's contact number and the Spanish Mobile numbers of our Tour Teachers. Should parents wish to contact a tour teacher, the Spanish mobile numbers may be used.

To keep in touch with your son or daughter, Skype, Facebook and email is a good option as most of the accommodation has Wi-Fi available. Check with your mobile service provider that your child has international roaming on their phone. BBM and SMS's will cost – WhatsApp should be free.

There is a Facebook site – "Oakhill School – Spain Tour 2012" which will be updated by our tourists. Join the site!

General Information for Spain

The dialing code for Spain is 00 34 ... followed by the telephone number.

The time difference is currently "– 1 hour". On the 25th March, Spain reverts to daylight saving and the time difference is "– 2 hours" and our Tourists gain an additional hour!

Spain mostly uses the Standard European 2 Pin plug (see images below). Travel adapters are available at most luggage outlets and at the airport.



Accommodation Details

Madrid – Modern Hostel in the center of Madrid called Albergue Juvenil Madrid. All rooms are en-suite and the hostel has the following free services: 24 hour reception desk, internet access, lockers, home cinema theatre, vending machines, billiards/games room and an exercise room.

Valencia – Expo Hotel Valencia. All rooms are double en suite. This hotel includes many restaurants and a roof top pool.

Barcelona – New purpose built youth hostel in one of the safest districts of the city. The hostel is called The Pere Tarrés. The hostel has modern facilities and includes free internet Wi-Fi, table tennis, board games and all rooms are en-suite.

Code of Conduct

Respect other travelers in our group and other passengers on the plane.

Respect sleep deadlines and keep your bedrooms quiet to allow your roommates to sleep.

Keep the coach, bedrooms and bathrooms clean and tidy.

Check your rooms and bathrooms carefully before packing up.

Respect meeting and group gathering times.

Respect the rules of the accommodation establishment, hockey clubs, tourist sites etc.

Respect our Spanish Tour Operators and Tour Teachers.

No Tourist may wander off or leave the group.

The School's Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures apply throughout the tour and will be strictly enforced.

Gracias

Your Spain Tour Committee

SPAIN ART & HOCKEY TOUR 2012

Packing Checklist

Travel Wallet – South African Passports, Residency Permit if no SA Passport, Foreign Passport, Air Tickets, Travel Insurance document, Medical Aid details etc

Pocket Money (Cash and/or Debit card) – Ensure you have enough cash Euros to pay for your skiing and extra football match on arrival in Spain!

Towel
Underwear
Socks
Jeans / Long pants
T-shirts
Jerseys / Hoodies / Jackets
Scarf & gloves
Ski clothes (jacket and pants)
Walking shoes / boots / going out shoes
Swimming costume
Shorts / t-shirts for warmer days
Tour T-shirt and Tour Hoodie

2 sets hockey kit, Oakhill tracksuits, second-skins, boots, socks, shin pads, mouth guards, hockey ball, helmets, stick, practice t-shirt & correct stick bag

Camera
Cell phone & Charger
Personal Toiletries – 100 ml bottles only
Books
Notebook / Journal

Medical Kit – plasters, Deep heat, Voltaren gel, head-ache pills, throat lozenges etc
Prescription Medicines require a copy of the Doctor's prescription

Note – we will have two first-aid kits on tour but these kits do not include medicines so please pack your own.

REMEMBER TO WAKE UP EARLY ON THE 20TH – DEPARTURE TIMES BELOW!

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