

## HOW MUCH CASH SHOULD I BRING?

### CREDIT & DEBIT CARDS

Most of the world is moving to cashless systems. This means that on our trip you can use your credit card for most purchases. However, you should be aware that the European currency is the euro. When you make a purchase overseas, dollars will be converted into the local currency and you may be charged a conversion fee. Check with your credit card company and/or bank so you will not be caught by surprise fees.

### CASH

You may bring cash in dollars or euros. You can get euros from your bank in advance of the trip, although it might be easier to withdraw them from an ATM in Italy or exchange for them at the hotel. Check with your bank on fees.

### GIFTS

You will want to set aside cash for the love offering to the guide and the driver. The recommended gift is \$6 per day for the guide and \$3 per day for the driver. You can pay in dollars or euros. The recipients will appreciate larger bills so they do not have to take piles of \$1 bills to their banks.

### LUNCHESES

You will need money for lunches. They will run \$15 to \$20. You may pay by card or cash. You should add a 10% tip. So you will need approximately \$150 to \$200 for this.

### SPENDING MONEY

You will want to make some purchases. EO will provide some shopping opportunities at approved locations. Here, again, you may use a credit card or cash. You may want to purchase some small items "on the street" (like postcards or booklets). It is recommended that you have dollar bills so that you do not need change (which would be made in euros, so you might be taken advantage of in the conversion). You can also use euros.

Bottled water will be available on the bus for purchase (usually \$1) and there is a charge for rest rooms at some of the sites.

In summary, with a gift for the guide of \$48 and for the driver of \$24 (with extension \$64 and \$36) and \$150 to \$240 for lunches and maybe \$50 in dollars for the street, you will need about \$350 plus additional spending money. *Our travel agent recommends \$500 in cash either in dollars or euros.*