

## Red Deer Royals – Packing for Holland 2017

### **LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE - checked baggage:**

- Royals are allowed 1 piece of checked baggage that weighs no more than 23kg (50lb). Maximum total dimensions (length + width + height) = 158cm (62in). *Smaller is better!!* You'll have to haul this and equipment with you.
- Every member will be assigned a second piece of checked luggage that is a piece of Royals equipment or a larger instrument. You are responsible for this piece of equipment/instrument for the duration of all flights, both outbound and return.
- The equipment team will have an equipment list and you must check in with the equipment team upon arrival at our destinations or when we deplane and need to clear Customs.
- Steve will decide which instruments will need luggage straps.
- Use the Ellison luggage tags to ID your luggage – one for the suitcase and one for your carry-on (backpack/daybag recommended). The name on all tags should be matchable with your ticket. A third Ellison tag will be put on the instruments and equipment items. They will be given to you the morning of the flight. Your chaperones will hand them out to you at the same time as a ribbon for your luggage and backpack for quick identification.
- If using locks, use TSA approved luggage locks. They are keyless and can be opened by TSA if they choose to open your luggage. In some airports, keyed luggage locks are banned from checked luggage.

### **LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE - carry-on baggage:**

- You are allowed 1 carry-on item (such as a backpack/daybag) and 1 personal item (such as a purse, camera bag or lap-top bag) on board.
- Alto Sax, Trumpet, Clarinet and Flute players will be carrying their instruments on board as their personal item. (Flutes and possibly clarinets can be placed inside the backpack.)
- We do have luggage scales and will be weighing luggage as it is loaded onto the buses. We CAN NOT be overweight as a group.
- Drill Masters must go in the on-board backpack. You will need to perform, so we don't want to risk them being in your checked luggage in the event your luggage is lost in transit. An extra black T-shirt and pair of black socks would be handy in the back pack as well.
- Reminder: Leave all your sharp objects at home or, if needed, in your checked baggage. If you are carrying any liquids or gels in your carry-on bag, they must be in approved airline-sized containers (maximum 100ml) as well as stored in a Ziploc bag. A complete list of articles that can or cannot be carried on the airplanes is available at <http://www.icelandair.ca/information/>
- You may want to consider NOT bringing a cell phone. However, if you do decide to bring a phone, contact your service provider to inquire about international packages. Note that even these plans can be extremely costly. A reasonable way of keeping in touch would be with a texting plan; however, in spite of what your provider may tell you, your cell phone may not work in Europe. Note that we will not be taking time to visit cell phone providers in Holland to solve any problems with phones. Finally, remember to use Airplane Mode at all times, and watch for free Wi-Fi sites to prevent charges.
- Snacks – reminder that we will not have a great deal of time at the Iceland Airport, and the meals on flight are only available with credit card. We are recommending that the members pack prepackaged snacks, eg – granola bars, crackers, fruit snacks etc. They will be provided with soft drinks on the flight at no cost.

## PACKING FOR THE TOUR

- PASSPORT and money: Passports should be handed in to the Tour Manager by now. Local currency is the Euro. CASH (Euros) is by far the preferred monetary unit. A money belt or neck pouch is recommended for safety. Bank debit cards may be useful to withdraw cash, but can seldom be used to pay for items in Holland, except perhaps in larger stores. Be sure to advise your bank of travel plans for debit cards and credit cards. Move money to Chequing account (often there's no way to pick an account at the ATMs); PINs must be 4-digits.
- Check the weather. We anticipate that it will be hot and sunny so highly recommend the purchase of a fashionable and function hat being offered by Band Council tour wear.
- We ask for responsibly dressed Royals. No inappropriate slogans on the T-shirts. The Royals are ambassadors for our families, our City, our Province, our Nation and Marching Band both on and off the field. Once a Royal, Always a Royal.
- Each chaperone group gets a unique piece of ribbon or fabric to tie onto your luggage. This way, one person can go to the carousal and wait to collect luggage for the group. Team work is essential in a group this size.
- A clean travel jacket, in immaculate condition, is mandatory for all tour members. Your travel jacket must be with you and visible at all times. It is the "official wear" when not in uniform. If members are dressed inappropriately, they will be asked to change.
- A general packing list:
  - a. 6 – 10 black shirts
  - b. 6 – 10 pairs of black socks
  - c. Running shoes and other sturdy shoes (for rehearsals and walking tours); shoe-shine kit.
  - d. Clothes for 12 days: 2pr pants, 2pr shorts, 6-10 shirts, underwear, socks, swimwear. \*\*appropriate clothing for churches/cathedral = covered shoulders to knees
  - e. Sunglasses, sunhat, rain poncho or small umbrella, light jacket.
  - f. Personal hygiene toiletries for 12 days: comb/brush, toothbrush/toothpaste, shampoo, soap, face cloth (not provided in hotels). *No nail polish or polish remover is allowed.*
  - g. Sunscreen, mosquito spray, hand sanitizer, a roll of toilet paper (not all washrooms provide paper).
  - h. Camera, iPod, earbuds, playing cards, book and travel-size games to keep amused in the airports, in the air, and on buses.
  - i. Electrical adaptor/converter: 2 round prongs (or 3 in-line) for Holland/Germany/Belgium – prefer smaller adaptors that can be recessed into plug-ins. Chargers for electronics. Note that most hotels have hair dryers; arrange to bring shared curling irons or flatirons (and make sure they are dual-voltage).
  - j. Facecloth for our stay in the Hostels, and a Ziploc bag to re-pack into suitcase if wet.

## ROYALS DO NOT PACK IN THEIR LUGGAGE:

- Anything banned by Transport Canada – explosives, things that go boom (e.g. no aerosols)
- Instruments – they travel as 2<sup>nd</sup> item or as carry-on (smaller instruments) in case your luggage gets lost
- Drill Masters – they travel in carry-on backpack/daybag in case your luggage gets lost
- Uniforms – they go in equipment bags
- Shakos – they go in equipment boxes
- Sharps - not allowed in carry-ons

## AIRPORT ETIQUETTE

- Do not make hijack or bomb or gun jokes. You will be detained and we will have a hole in the show.
- Do not ask your chaperone to watch all your group's back packs while you all go shopping in the airport. Security can determine that one individual does not need backpacks and confiscate them. Be responsible for your own things.
- DO NOT pack anything you know you shouldn't.
- You may be randomly selected to be swiped for GSR or drug residue or sniffed by the bomb/drug dogs. Or have your carry-on searched. This happens to all of us. Do as the TSA officer requests. If you are a minor, you may request that your chaperone stand with you during the swiping and search if you are uncomfortable.
- Take all your change out of your pockets – unless you really want to be patted down or searched. This is an excellent time for Lulu Lemon wear or something without pockets.
- Be an ambassador. We want our fellow travelers to say "I traveled to Holland on the same plane as the Red Deer Royals Concert and Marching Show Band and I would do it again in a heartbeat. What a great group of kids."

## WHAT IF IT IS MY ROYAL'S FIRST TIME SO FAR AWAY FROM HOME?

Will kids get homesick? You bet. Will kids get scraped knees and headaches? You bet. Will these kids be well looked after? You bet. Will these kids have a trip of a lifetime and come back as worldlier, independent young adults? You bet. And that is one of our goals.

Kids pick up on our anxiety. If you are worried, they will be worried. If you think something will go wrong, they will think something will go wrong. Please, relax. All will be well. We haven't left anyone behind yet!

The Royals are traveling to Holland to compete in the *World Marching Competition* (WMC) <http://wmc.nl/en/about-wmc-kerkrade/general-information-wmc-kerkrade> competition and to bring musical performances to the Italian people along the way. The Royals are on a working holiday. First and foremost, we have a job to do. For those of us staying behind, it is difficult because we want to be a part of this, too. I would like to suggest that you try to let your member be on task while in Italy. The kids need to focus before and during competition. And they need to be in the moment while touring.

The WMC is thrilled beyond words to have us attend this event. It is the goal of the organizers to create a band as big, as successful, as professional, as fun and as great as the Red Deer Royals in their communities. We are seen as the Rock Stars of the event. We are the role models. We are the ambassadors for all that is Marching Band. This is bigger than just performing. This is an opportunity to have a life-long impact on another person. And we need to be thrilled to have that opportunity. We are the Big Fish in a Little Pond.

## PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS FOR RESIDENTS OF CANADA

Residents of Canada may claim good duty and tax-free if the following conditions are met:

Exemptions	Canadian Funds	Minimum absence from Canada
Any Time	\$800.00 CDN\$	7 night or more

NOTE – all good purchased, received as gifts or acquired in any manner while outside of Canada MUST be declared whether or not they are claimed as part of your personal exemption.

ALL GOOD MUST BE DECLARED, INCLUDING GOOD PURCHASED AT DUTY FREE STORES IN CANADA OR ABROAD. AFTER PRIMARY INTERVIEW, TRAVELLERS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THEIR GOODS COULD BE SUBJECT TO EXAMINATION. GOODS NOT DECLARED – OR FALSELY DECLARED – MAY BE SEIZED OR FORFEITED AND YOU MAY ACE PROSECUTION.

For additional information see <http://cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>