Oklahoma Youth Orchestras
OYO European Tour 2025
June 1-9, 2025

As of 5/30/25

OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS
Outstanding Students. Amazing Music.

This packet has been thoughtfully prepared to ensure that all travelers represent the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras with excellence. Our top priority is to provide a safe, enriching, and educational travel experience for every participant. By following the schedule and guidelines included, we can work together to make this journey a success. As with any travel experience, it's essential to stay attentive, follow instructions, and remain flexible if plans shift unexpectedly. We're all in this together, and your cooperation helps create a positive and memorable experience for everyone.

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CURRENT ITINERARY

General Rules

1. All rules outlined in the OKYO Student and Family Handbook are in effect for the entirety of this trip. This includes rules on dress code, drugs, and alcohol.
2. Observe the schedule in every detail and pay attention to announcements.
3. Alcoholic beverages or intoxicants are illegal and will not be tolerated. You will be sent home at your guardian's expense.
4. Tobacco may not be used in any form at any time, regardless of age.
5. The chaperones on the trip are an extension of the OKYO staff. Follow all directions given by the chaperones.
6. Proper conduct and respect for private property is expected at all times. No shoplifting, pranks, or destruction of property will be tolerated, and you will be sent home at your guardian's expense.
7. Public displays of affection are not appropriate.
8. This list is certainly not exhaustive. Always behave as if OKYO staff is standing beside you...they just might be!

Certain behavior by a student, including the possession of alcoholic beverages or intoxicants, the possession of firearms or other weapons, shoplifting, or any other illegal or immoral act, may require that a student be sent home at the parent's or guardian's expense, or the parent or guardian may be required to pick the student up and escort the student home. The decision regarding the necessity of such action will be reviewed and made by the OKYO Artistic Director and Executive Director.

Traveler Expectations

- Chaperones must have cell phone numbers for students in their group if available.
- Chaperones will collect student passports for safe keeping and redistribute them when needed.
- All travelers must join the Tour GroupMe in advance of departure.
- Every time we disembark the bus, students must check in with chaperones - each chaperone will have a sign that will help you identify them more easily.
- If a nonstudent who is a parent would like to explore with their student separately from the chaperone group, the parent must check in with the chaperone.
- Nonstudents are also welcome to explore on their own, away from chaperone groups. Should you choose to do this, please notify your student's chaperone or a member of the staff, and be sure to meet the group at the next appointed gathering time. If not, you may be left behind.
- Students must notify their chaperone each time we reconvene at a meeting point for bus departure. After such notification, a student may not leave the meeting point.
- Chaperones must see each student's face inside his/her hotel room at curfew room checks. This duty may be shared by another chaperone visiting a room at each chaperone's discretion.

- As an extension of the staff, chaperones may issue orders and behavioral consequences to students. Students should follow those requests.
- Anytime we are gathering or waiting in groups, be mindful of the people and spaces around you. Do not block doors, escalators or access points. WE ARE A LARGE GROUP!

EVERYONE
European Tour GroupMe

Group Communication

In addition to general announcements, staff will communicate with travelers through the Group Me app. Download the Group Me app and scan the QR code to join.

Non-Students Checking Out OKYO Students

Non-Students - You are more than welcome to stay with your student's chaperone group, but if you wish, you may choose to explore on your own. If this is the case, you are responsible for returning to the group at the appropriate time for departure to the next activity. If you are not present, we will assume you have other plans and will not wait on you.

Checking Out Students - Whether you are a nonstudent traveler who purchased the OKYO trip package, or a family member who is not traveling as part of the OKYO Tour, if you plan to check out your student at any point in the trip to do something different than that of their chaperone group, you will need to follow these steps:

1. Students will only be able to be checked out at times in the itinerary when we are changing activities. For example, when the group is gathering to depart a location, loading a bus, or returning to a location.
2. Discuss your plans with your student's chaperone in person.
3. Then, text or message your student's chaperone through GroupMe with the details of your plan so that we have it in writing.

Chaperone numbers below:

Angela Andes……...(405) 684-6425
Allison Howison…...(918) 340-8713
LeAnn Hufnagel…...(405) 613-2277
Kimberly Moran……(405) 808-8938
Sarah Mosley……...(405) 202-7907
James Reynolds…..(405) 416-3837
Amy Rubin……(405) 777-3255
Sonia Thomas……..(405) 274-7664
Sandra Varner……..(405) 831-6259
Ashlee Waugh……..(405) 227-4190
Leo Xie……..(405) 473-9865
Maggie Zhang……..(405) 473-9867

Cell Phones, Currency Exchange & Spending Money

Cell Phones

- Contact your cell phone provider at least one week prior to your trip to ENABLE International Calling on your phone. Things to consider:
  - Will you make or receive calls often? Will you send or receive texts? Will you use data online for directions, websites, check email, etc.?
  - If you plan MINIMAL USE: Pay as you go and access FREE WIFI where available.
  - If you plan FULL ACCESS: call your provider to ask for a plan adjustment.
  - For more details about options, see page 25 of full itinerary.

Currency Exchange - NOTIFY YOUR BANK THAT YOU ARE TRAVELING

- Debit or Credit cards can be used to withdraw cash at ATM's to receive cash in the local currency. NOTIFY YOUR BANK that you are traveling.
- You may also exchange at the airport, but the exchange rate will not be as favorable as an ATM.
- Most businesses and restaurants will accept credit or debit cards - Visa and Mastercard are most commonly accepted.

Spending Money

- Breakfasts and Dinners are all included in your tour package.
- Lunches - budget about $10-$15 USD per day.
- Snacks - budget about $10-$15 USD per day.
- Don't forget extra spending money for souvenirs and bathroom visits.
- All tips for drivers and guides have been included.

OKC-DFW-OKC

- Those flying with the tour as a group will meet at OCU on Sunday, June 1 for an 8:45 AM departure to DFW. Be early.
- Village Charters will be ready to load at 8:15 AM.

- Charters will be in the lot south of the Meinders School of Business: on NW 25th between McKinley and Blackwelder.
- For those needing to leave a car at OCU for the duration of the trip, please drop off passengers and luggage in the Meinders lot and move your vehicle to a space in front of the Bass School of Music - this is for security purposes. Please notify kris@okyomusic.org if you plan to leave your vehicle at OCU. Thanks!
- Anytime we are traveling to or from an airport, you will be in your flight chaperone groups. It's only once we arrive in Europe to start the tour that we will divide into regular chaperone groups. This is due to airport logistics. FLIGHT CHAPERONE GROUPS
- For our return to OKC, charters will depart from DFW at the same time and arrival at OCU is scheduled for 7:00 PM.

Airport and Plane Procedures, Travel Checklist, Luggage Info and Chaperone Groups

Packing List

** Note for our outdoor concert on June 8 in Bad Ischl, it could be quite hot and it has been recommended we wear casual clothes. Shorts, skirt or jeans with a t-shirt. If you have any version of an OKYO t-shirt, even better!!

Checked Luggage - *Mark all luggage with luggage tags - 2 will be provided and additional tags are available at the check in counter.*

- One checked bag is included with your airline ticket, and it should not exceed 50lbs. If your checked bag weighs more than 50lbs., you will be responsible for extra charges. It is requested that you NOT check more than one bag due to very limited space on the buses in Europe. For tips on how to pack light, please visit One Bag.
- Any charges for instruments that have to be checked (some horns, trombone, tuba) will be covered by OKYO.

Carry-on Luggage - *Mark all luggage with luggage tags - 2 will be provided and additional tags are available at the check in counter.*

- ALL woodwinds, violins, violas, trumpets, horns with a detachable bell, and mallet bags will be considered carry-on items. THEY MUST FIT IN THE OVERHEAD BIN.
- In addition to the instruments as carry-on items above, you will be allowed **one personal carry-on item** (purse, travel pack, small backpack, etc; something that stays on your person or can **fit under the seat in front of you**).
- You may not carry-on anything knife-like, possibly including nail files, fingernail clippers, pliers, etc. You may not carry-on lighters or matches.
- For carry-on luggage, liquids/gels must be in a 3.4 ounce bottle or less (by volume); these bottles must fit comfortably inside a one-quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag; one bag per passenger will be taken out of your carry-on luggage and placed in a screening bin. If in doubt, put your liquids in your checked baggage. For more information, visit One Bag-Packing Liquids.
- You will not be allowed to bring outside drink through security. However, beverages or toiletries purchased inside the airport beyond the security checkpoints will be allowed onboard the aircraft.
- Medications are allowed in reasonable quantities exceeding three ounces and are not required to be in the zip-top bag but should be in their original prescription container. TSA officers may need to open these items to conduct additional screening.
- For international travel, it is recommended that you include some essential items in your carry on luggage:
  - Medication, Money/Credit or Debit Cards, Passport, and two days of essential clothing!
  - With our first concert taking place the day after we arrive, consider packing concert attire in your carry on.
- Additional references with detailed information and examples of allowable items may be found at the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) web site, www.tsa.gov

Preparing Your Instrument For Travel:

Clean out your case - consider putting some items and accessories in your checked luggage.

- Everyone should bring a pencil - we will be participating in a workshop and you may need to write something down.
- Woodwinds: Secure your instrument in its case with a soft rag or padding to prevent movement, ensuring the case still closes properly. Pack reed knives or similar sharp items in checked luggage.
- Brass: Secure your instrument in its case with a soft rag or padding to prevent movement, ensuring the case still closes properly. Fragile stickers available to pick up next week.
- Violins & Violas: Make sure nail clippers or any sharp object are in your checked luggage. Loosen your bow like normal and loosen strings down only a ½ step (any more than this and your sound post and bridge might move). Put a humidifier inside the case and prep it accordingly. Secure your instrument in its case with a soft rag, tissue paper, or padding to protect vulnerable areas and to prevent movement, ensuring the case still closes properly.
- Cellos & Basses: Pack any necessary accessories - rockstop or strap, rosin, mute (if needed), & pencil.

Check-In/Airport Procedure

- Be prepared to show your identification at any time; do not store it away.
- Airline Seat Assignments - Board flight in airline assigned groups, but sit here.
    - To accommodate seating requests, OKYO staff has reassigned seating to make boarding the plane run smoothly. This means that your actual paper ticket WILL PROBABLY NOT match the seat OKYO assigns you, but it will put you near your seatmate request and will reduce the amount of shuffling once we board the flight. Exception: those with dietary restrictions/allergies will need to remain in their seat assigned by the airline so that the correct meal can be delivered to you.
- Travelers will receive an actual ticket at airport check in and you will need your passport to check in.
- There may be a group check-in counter/agent available. If this is the case, they will check in our entire group.
- Do NOT check in online as airlines assign seats for group bookings in their system, but the seat numbers might not be visible on the airline's app. It is not recommended for us to use the airline online check-in function as it may force you to pay for a seat assignment.
- Students will check in and go through security in flight chaperone groups.
- When loading the plane, within your boarding group, allow violins & violas to go first (so that instruments can be stacked into the large overhead bins - we want to store our carry ons as compactly as possible), followed by other students carrying on instruments, followed by everyone else. This will ensure that all of our carry-on instruments will have a place to be stowed in the overhead bins. Staff will manage this process: Lufthansa - Francisco Venegas; Air France - Sarah Neely
- When regrouping following a flight, be sure to gather in your chaperone groups away from doors, escalators and other access points.
- When connecting, all students and chaperones will go directly to the new gate before seeking restroom or food.

Airplane Rules

- Students are to remain seated with seatbelt fastened at all times during flight, except to use the restroom. Students may not congregate in the aisles or galleys.
- Listen to and observe all instructions from the flight attendant; note your nearest exit from your seat.
- Any extra charge for snacks on the airplane will be paid for immediately by the student. Typically, only credit cards are accepted.
- Students with carry on instruments must store them in the overhead compartments. In the unlikely event that your instrument will not fit, prepare to check it at the gate and retain your claim ticket.

Flight Chaperone Groups

Because we are on two flights and a number of travelers who are flying separately from the group, the Chaperone-Student Groups for the flights are different than the groups when we get to Europe.

Europe Chaperone Groups and Bus Assignments & Rules

These chaperone groups differ from the flight groups due to multiple flights and travelers who are flying separately from the group. Chaperone groups and bus assignments were formed based upon a combination of rooming assignments, parent/chaperone requests and limitations on bus capacity due to our group size.

- The Front Row is reserved for staff only.
- Our Tour Guides will narrate some of the time while we are traveling. Please be courteous and respectful to them as they share their vast knowledge.
- Bus drivers are governed by strict regulations and can only drive a max of 9 hours per day. This could affect the tour schedule if travelers are late to the bus or the tour experiences delays.
- Students are to remain seated at all times while the bus is in motion.
- All listening devices must be used with headphones.
- All drinks must have re-sealable lids.
- Do not bring "stinky" food onto the bus. Use your best judgment.
- The restroom on the bus is for emergency purposes only. Plan your restroom breaks and consume liquids accordingly.
- A chaperone can move a student's seat should inappropriate behavior exist.

Bus Chaperone Groups

Hotel Procedures & Rooming Lists

Hotel Room Rules

- At NO TIME are a male and female student to be in the same room, even for an instant. If you need something out of another student's room, either ask a chaperone for assistance, or have a guest in that room meet you in the hallway.
- Some European hotels require a key card be placed in a slot by the door in order to make electricity work in your room.
- Keep your room clean and organized. Remember that it is a shared space. Respect your roommates.
- Curfew times will be set each night. You must be in your room and may not leave after a scheduled curfew time. Chaperones will patrol the hallways to enforce the curfew.
- A "lights out" time will be given each night. All lights, television, and electronics must be off at this time. This is to ensure the needed rest for both you and your roommates.
- If you are not sure if something in the room costs extra, do not use it (this includes the telephone). Any extra charge to the room is unacceptable and will be the student's responsibility.
- We are not the only people in the hotel. Be quiet and respectful in the hallways and rooms. Please, SHUT DOORS QUIETLY and NO TALKING IN THE HALLWAYS!
- With the number of people in our group, elevators could be slow. Please plan accordingly and take the stairs if possible.

Hotel Check-in Procedure

- Hotel check in will vary in each hotel, but tour managers will facilitate.
- OKYO staff will meet with chaperones to distribute keys and room assignments
- Upon entering your room, look carefully for any damages you think you may be held responsible for upon leaving. If you find something, please notify a chaperone immediately.
- Notify a chaperone immediately if you have an adjoining room that does not link to an appropriate room. Do not wait for an adult to discover this.

Hotel Check-out Procedure

- Return room to an orderly manner
- Take luggage, instrument, and personal items to bus
- Chaperones to inspect designated rooms
- Return room keys to chaperones
- Chaperone returns keys to front desk in lobby

Rooming Assignments

Prague Rooms
Vienna Rooms
Salzburg Rooms

Itinerary

Current as of May 30, 2025 – itinerary details subject to change
CURRENT ITINERARY