

Travelling abroad

Master the Art of Foreign Currency

Your class trip is headed to a foreign country and it's worth going out of your way to find an exchange rate that gets you the best bang for your buck. Exchange rates aren't consistent everywhere you go, and in the event of surcharges and commissions you could end up getting way less than you bargained for. Here are three keys to mastering the art of foreign currency.

Start with a little research

Websites like [XE](#) provide the latest exchange rates and free online conversion tools for every major currency. This will give you an idea of what is and isn't a reasonable rate. Having this insight will help you make a more informed decision when it comes to selecting your exchange provider; plus, you can act fast if you see that the latest rate works to your advantage.

Exchange ahead

Typically, our class trips are set up so that you and your students will enjoy a few hours of free time each day for activities like lunch, shopping and group exploring. We recommend budgeting about 20\$ per person per day for this. A four-day trip to Québec City, for example, might require anywhere from 60\$ to 80\$ in spending money: three or four lunches (depending on your itinerary) and a little extra for souvenirs.

For this kind of budget, we recommend preparing your foreign currency in advance by exchanging it at home before departure. Think of it this way: arriving at your destination with your lunch and shopping money ready to spend is WAY better than arriving at your destination and spending all your free time in line at the nearest exchange bureau.

A note about ATMs and credit cards

Consult your card provider about international fees. Having all your spending money on one or two cards is very convenient, but it's important to remember that most banks and credit card companies charge you extra for transactions made in foreign currencies. It might only be a few dollars per transaction, but even just a dozen transactions during your trip could see you 30-50\$ out of pocket on your next bank statement.

Please don't hesitate to [contact us](#) if you have any questions, and for more information about our student travel expertise, download our [Brand Book](#).

See you on the road!