

Title:

American Standards and European Culture: How to Avoid a Disappointing Vacation Experience While

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Summary:

Many European vacationers plan their activities and accommodations with the assumption that ev

Keywords:

Vacation Europe, travel Europe, European vacation, American standards, European culture, disappoint

Article Body:

Planning a vacation to Europe? No doubt you have certain expectations about your upcoming jour

Perhaps you're the kind of person who expects to spend your days admiring amazing architecture

But stop a moment. Have you thought about your *cultural* expectations?

Many European vacationers plan their activities and accommodations with the assumption that ev

So for anyone planning a vacation to Europe, here are a few "cross cultural conflict" areas th

**Personal Space**

Take a glance at a map of the world. Which is smaller: the US or Europe? That's right-- Europe

American standards of living are very high. We're used to king size beds and bathrooms that ca

But unless you're staying in a massive French chateau or Italian villa, be prepared for spaces

So consider this an opportunity to get closer to your traveling companions. Think of sharing a

**Manners**

A common misperception of Europeans is that they are "rude." Of course, they think the same th

Remember when you're traveling in Europe that rudeness is largely a cultural perception. Someo

Also, subjects which are taboo in your community may be freely discussed elsewhere, and vice v

So, when traveling in Europe, keep a firm grip on your temper. A good way to achieve this is t

**Time**

I have to admit that I get impatient if I have to wait longer than fifteen minutes at a restaur

In Italy, however, a dinner filled with conversation, laughter, and great food can last two ho

Likewise, shops and businesses in Spain close for an afternoon siesta. In the UK, the handyman

Most Europeans do not share the American compulsion to "save time" by doing everything quickly

**Quality**

I often hear complaints, especially from those who rent a villa or apartment, about the qualit

In today's society, we expect things to look like new, feel like new, and behave like new. If

But think of anyone who grew up during the depression. My grandfather kept rows of old coffee  
So if the furniture looks a little worn, or if the sink clogs, think before you complain. Is t  
Treat this as an educational experience; you might even learn from a more conservative lifesty

<b>Language</b>

As an American, I am often jealous of Europeans who pick up languages like you'd pick up a bot  
Since learning three or four languages is neither a cultural necessity nor a scholastic requir  
In the same way that you or I would resent a French tourist who expected everyone in the US to  
While you probably can't learn a new language before your vacation, you can learn some helpfu

<b>The Right Attitude</b>

Lastly, remember that the standards and the customs you find while traveling in Europe are not

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