

USA EVENTING

Guide to Traveling Overseas



3, 2, 1...Have a great ride!

Traveling abroad can be a daunting task. This guide will help outline what to expect in a trip, who to contact and a majority of what you need to arrange for your departure. Traveling abroad is an exciting and fantastic opportunity to learn from other horsemen.

Regardless if you are on a USEF funded trip or traveling by yourself, USEF Staff is available to answer your questions and provide recommendations on what has worked for athletes in the past.

The key to remember is that you know your horse best and are their strongest advocate!

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PHOTO: TAYLOR PENCE PHOTOGRAPHY

ENTERING AN FEI COMPETITION ABROAD

You will have to complete an FEI entry as well as an entry directly with the competition. Once you have completed your FEI entry through your USEF Account, your qualifications are checked by USEF Staff and the entry is ready for submission by the USEF Athlete Services Department. Don't forget- you still have to enter the competition directly with them, Every country is different- many only require a wire transfer. All competitions in the U.K. require an entry through British Eventing.

The FEI Definite Schedule is your FRIEND! It will have all of the pertinent information on timetables, expenses, completing your entry as well as contact info for the competition.

In the U.K. remember helmets have to be certified prior to competing. Allow enough time prior to competing to meet with a steward.



DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PAPERWORK

Carnet

ATA carnet is a temporary import bond that allows you, as the user of the carnet, to enter into countries without having to put up a bond in that country for up to 1 year. The carnet application must be filled out correctly including the general list which must include all horses and equipment that you will be exporting, (for equipment you only need to list things that can be counted as a piece, e.g. trunks, tack bags, brooms, ice boots, etc.).

COMPETITION REMINDER

Fluids must be organized well in advance. The use of fluids is not as prevalent as in the U.S. Do not assume that a vet at a competition will have these readily available. Be timely in your payment; often they only accept cash at competitions.

Health Papers

Sixty day health papers must be signed by a vet (doesn't have to be a government vet). These will need to be completed for every place the horse spends the night. They are easy to fill out and need to be done.

Trace papers

For every European competition, horses must have trace papers completed before leaving the grounds. There will be a government vet that comes to the competition to do paperwork for ALL



LOGISTICS

Organizing an overseas trip can seem daunting but the following is a breakdown of the important topics.

HORSE FLIGHTS

- Flights are typically out of New York, Miami, Los Angeles, Chicago and Huntsville.
- Make sure you tell your provider how long you are planning to stay overseas. It will determine the correct paperwork to get back into the country.
- When you are booking travel, ask if it's possible to fly with your horse – free ticket! There may not be room, but it's always worth asking.
- If you have a mare and are planning to stay over 90 days, you will need to do CEM quarantine back in the U.S. for 2 weeks.

USEF FUNDED TRIPS

USEF Staff will handle many of the logistics on your behalf. Let them know of any travel preferences, plans outside of the competition, etc. to assist in planning the trip.

horses, not just U.S. horses. Make sure you arrange this at the beginning of the competition.

Passport

All horses must have a valid passport. If an overseas trip is in your plan then make sure that your passport will be valid for the entirety of the trip. For both horse and human!

Other Info

Coggins must be within 30 days of the flight date.

Helpful Tips

1. Travel with a bag of carrots - it helps keep hydrated and distracted if nervous
2. Label ALL your trunks and equipment with name and phone number. Take a picture of equipment in case it goes missing. It will make it easier to relocate it.
3. Use tupperware and tape up to avoid spillage.
4. We recommend taking a mineral salt block

with you, the soil is different and the horses need to increase potassium.

5. It is expensive to ship items on the plane- be consignment that you can purchase shampoo, use smaller spray bottles, etc.
6. Share large items like magnetic blankets, iceboots,
7. Keep the horse's passport with them while on ground transportation. Don't leave it in the bottom of your trunk!

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Horses will be shipped to an airport's export center (in the U.S. these are USDA approved quarantine centers). The flight carrier will let you know what time to be at the center. DO NOT be late! The horses will have access to a stall to rest prior to loading. If there is a delay with the flight, or a cancellation, the horses will be returned to the stalls at the export center to rest.

Once ready for departure, horses are inspected by a USDA representative. Horses are loaded onto a van or pallet and driven directly to the place. The "jet stall," as it's known, is typically about 8 x 10 feet with 8-foot-tall sides, and can hold three horses in individual side-by-side standing stall compartments. Horses are cross-tied, and there's a breastplate across the front of the stall. In some cases, an owner may pay more for a double stall in which the horse usually is not tied. Shavings are typically put down over the stall flooring.

The in-flight groom will hand water the horses during the flight to monitor how much they are drinking. Note that the

in-flight groom(s) are responsible for assisting with all of the horses on the flight not just the ones with your group. In some cases, horses may receive intravenous fluids upon arrival at their destination.

The horses' cargo compartment is cool (about 68 degrees), and once the plane is in flight, the lights are usually dimmed. Many horses find air travel preferable to road travel and rest for the trip.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Getting Around Once Overseas
 - » If you are staying for a longer period of time, it may be worth purchasing a car and be able to sell it
 - » Check the country requirements you are going to
 - additional licenses may be needed for transporting horses
 - » Otherwise you will need to confirm with the stable you are at that they will be able

to ship your horse

- Paperwork surrounding departure and entering the U.K. has significantly increased since Brexit. Do not be clever and try to circumvent the processes or paperwork. This could cause your horse to be standing on a lorry far longer than you anticipated.
- Check the legal driving age for vehicles and lorries in the country you are going to be in
- Check out [usa.gov/international-drivers-license](https://www.usa.gov/international-drivers-license) for information on how to obtain an International Driver's License

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GROUND TRANSPORT

Please do not get sticker shock – ground transport is very expensive anywhere in EU, BUT – they are professionals and will make sure you get from point A to point B without drama. It is worth the investment!

HAY, GRAIN, BEDDING

Know if your horse has allergies or prefers certain bedding. Some competitions offer a choice that can be included with your FEI entry. Many competitions request bedding orders prior to arrival.

HORSE MANAGEMENT

Ice is not as prevalent in the UK and Europe as at U.S. competitions. Likely 1 bag will be provided per horse. If you need additional bags plan to source them for yourself as well as storage. At Team competitions, a freezer may be provided by USEF. You can buy gel packs or reusable bags to make your own ice cubes.

Grain: Depending on the trip and your length of stay. You can work with KER, or your grain company, to determine which grain overseas most resembles what your horse is receiving in the U.S. options.

- You can take up to a few bags per horse, the flight companies recommend putting it in the bottom of your trunks to avoid searched at the landing airport.
- Bring enough grain over to be able to transition your horse as soon as possible
- The hay in EU typically looks pretty dodgy, however, it is good – horses eat it well. With advanced notice, you can easily source straight timothy, alfalfa and grass hay.
- If feeding haylage when abroad then you should switch at

least a month prior to departure – BE CAREFUL OF FEEDING STRAIGHT HAYLAGE once you arrive in EU. It takes time for horses to process it, even if they have eaten it before.

Supplements: Switch to a company based in Europe prior to departure or pack small packets to be able to transition your horse as soon as possible.

INSURANCE, MEDICATION, MORE PAPERWORK



HEALTH INSURANCE

Make sure that your health insurance covers you while you are abroad and what you need to do if something happens while abroad.

- Vets and farriers
- Have these lined up prior to your departure – have notes from them to pass onto your EU vet and farrier.
- There are many medications that are not easily found in EU – i.e., SMZs
- Know that it is technically not legal to give your horses an injection in EU or England. If you are giving your horse



something IM or IV, just be aware who is around.

MEDICINES FOR HUMAN

- Be aware, over the counter meds in other countries may have different ingredients and contain FEI banned substances... Read the labels carefully
- Consult your doctor on a plan for your long term medications- birth control, etc.

VISAS

- If you plan to spend more than six months abroad, start the Visa process at least six months prior to your anticipated departure

PACKING TIPS

Blankets: Make sure to pack layers: waterproof is a necessity; don't rely on Team USA gear when packing. You can't send a suitcase with the horses unless you are a traveling groom.

Packing in trunks is better than a duffel because they are waterproof. What should you put in your airplane bag:

- extra halter and leadrope
- carrots
- baling twine
- scissors
- duct tape
- water bucket
- breathable sheet with no leg or belly strap
- any medications- i.e. Gastro Guard
- mini first aid kit
- have a vet draw a dose of Banamine or Dormosodan
- 4-5 pre-made up baggies of meals
- bring a full haynet and bale of hay

Don't be afraid to ask questions but be confident that you know your horse!