



THE EURO



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THE EURO:

YOUR GUIDE TO MAKING CHANGE THE EUROPEAN WAY

Beginning on January 1, 2002, the euro began making its way into everyone's hands—including visitors to Europe. The euro is the result of the most significant monetary reform since the Roman Empire and is regarded as a key component of European political integration. For travelers, this means no more standing in line to exchange German marks into French francs. And with only one exchange rate to remember, you'll be able to bargain until the price is right all over the continent.

Participating Countries

Austria	Ireland
Belgium	Italy
Finland	Luxembourg
France	The Netherlands
Germany	Portugal
Greece	Spain

Nonparticipating Countries

Denmark
Norway
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom

GETTING TO KNOW THE EURO

The euro has the same value in all European Union member countries, just like the dollar has the same value in every state here. There are seven euro denomination notes: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500. In addition, there are eight coins: the 1 and 2 euro, as well as the 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cent denominations. Every coin has two sides—a common side showing the value of the coin and a national side showing an image specifically chosen by the country that issued it. The monarchies often have a picture of their reigning monarch, while other countries usually display their national symbols. But not to worry—no matter what appears on the national side of your coin, a euro is good in any participating country. For example, a euro coin sporting the image of the Spanish king would be good in Spain as well as across the continent.

GETTING YOUR FINANCES IN ORDER

If you're planning to visit Europe anytime soon, exchange your dollars for euros, unless, of course, you're visiting any of the non-participating countries. Rates are constantly changing, so be sure to check www.exchangerate.com for the most up-to-date information. And when it comes to ATMs and credit cards, your dollars will be converted to euros or the appropriate currency for that country.