



BASS

David Santos

Rules of the Road

I'm sitting in a hotel room in Cologne, Germany, thinking about what I can pass on to you, my fellow musicians, who may be reading this magazine in search of inspiration and knowledge. I am currently touring Europe with John Fogerty as special guest on the Tina Turner 24/7 tour. The hotel accommodations have been quite nice on this tour. This particular room has a certain European ambiance.

The article you're about to read will cover life on the road on a world tour. It will include a few helpful hints designed to make life out here a little easier. Remember that life on the road is filled with many things other than music, and one must be prepared for them. I'll do my best to stop you from making the same mistakes that I have made through the years while touring the world.

Rule #1: I would like to remind all of you world-touring giggers out there that the power coming out of the wall outlets is different in foreign countries. Never plug an electric device like a Walkman, speak-

Rule #2: Bring a laundry bag. Doing your laundry in hotels can be unbelievably expensive. I recommend asking the concierge in the lobby where the nearest fluff 'n' fold is located. Get good directions and ask for a map. If you forget to pack a laundry bag, you can usually find a plastic bag in the closet or one of the drawers in your room. Sometimes you may have to make use of a pillowcase.

Rule #3: Always bring the name, address and phone number of your hotel with you when venturing out on your own in a foreign country. Ask the concierge for a map and mark the location of the hotel in ink. Make sure you bring enough local currency with you to be able to pay a cabdriver to get you back to the hotel in case you get lost.

Rule #4: If you've been provided drinks in the dressing room at the gig, scarf a few for your hotel room. It's a drag to be thirsty and have to pay mini-bar prices later.

Rule #5: Keep a credit card with you for emergencies. If you lose your local money or run out, you can whip out the card.

Rule #6: Ask someone who would know—i.e. a local who speaks English, or a hotel employee—what would be an appropriate tip to leave a waiter, caddy or bartender in the country that you're in. Americans usually overtip when traveling abroad. Believe it or not you don't always have to tip, but it's a nice gesture when you leave a little something anyway.

Rule #7: Change your money at the airport when you arrive for a better exchange rate. If you don't have time, go to a bank later. If you don't have time for a bank, change it at the front desk. Hotels typically offer the lowest exchange rate but it's easy when you're in a hurry.

Rule #8: Don't forget to put the "Do Not Disturb" sign on the door when you need to sleep late. Inevitably the housekeepers will wake you the first time you forget.

Rule #9: When you have an early call, don't rely on the hotel. Pack a small alarm clock that you know always works and use it as well as a hotel wake-up call.

Rule #10: Always bus your own dishes in catering.

Rule #11: Pick a forward bunk on the bus, away from the back lounge where the insomniacs are watching movies and making noise all night long and try and get some rest on this trip! You won't regret it.

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ers, a shaver, etc. into the wall socket in your hotel room without first finding out what the current is. U.S. current is 110/120 VAC (volts). The current in this hotel in Germany is 220/240 VAC. If you plug your U.S. "road stereo" into the wall in a hotel room in Germany you will fry it, unless you bring along your trusty voltage converter, which converts foreign electricity to U.S. current. You will also need plug adapters because the plugs are different in every country, too. Radio Shack makes a great, all-in-one voltage converter with interchangeable plug adapters built right into the back of it. They cover Europe, The Middle East, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, The Philippines and Thailand. Simply plug the converter into the wall and plug your appliance into the converter and you're in business. I bring two of these with me just in case I lose one or I need more than one outlet.

David Santos has held down the low end for artists from Billy Joel to Tommy James and is currently touring with John Fogerty.