

SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR FINNISH VOLUNTEERS!

Made by Meeri Zetterman and Atte Nikander

BEGINNING THOUGHTS

Congratulations! You have been selected to take part on this incredible project. You had already taken the first steps towards your journey and you must have some questions. I know i did, so to help you, i created this little guide to help you navigate bit better in the vital first weeks/months of your project.

BEFORE DEPARTURE TO THE PROJECT



BEFORE DEPARTURE

1. Departure training
(hyria)
2. Kela
3. Ulkoministeriö/travelin
g notice
4. Health care!
5. Packing
6. Post office
7. Cellphone
8. Tickets and the journey

DEPARTURE TRAINING (HYRIA)

Departure training is held with your sending organization. It normally takes couple of afternoon meetings to cover the basics and give you time to ask some the questions you have.

In the training you will also meet your new working partner and do exercises such as future letter and picture card picking!

Pro tip: write down your questions as you go, the pressure in the moment can make you forget

KELA

One of the most important things before departure is to get your kela stuff in order, such as European health insurance card. if you don't already have it, get it now!

Also you should inform kela and employment office (TE-toimisto) of your departure and returning days. I would suggest going there in person so you get every document correctly and the process wont be too long.

ULKOMINISTERIÖ / TRAVELING NOTICE

Another important thing after kela is to fill out the traveling notice to the Ulkoministeriö. The notice is easy to fill out. They will be in contact with you if something happens (lockdown, flood, terrorism etc) and they can help you get safely back to Finland if needed.

Also in their website you can find where your nearest embassy is in case of lost/ severely damaged passport for example.

HEALTHCARE BEFORE DEPARTURE

I would personally suggest getting a doctor's appointment for a checkup and a dentist appointment to check your dental health. Healthcare is not super expensive in Italy and it's covered by European health insurance and Cigna, but just to make sure.

In case you have medication that you need on a daily basis, you need to get that sorted out in Finland. I would suggest contacting your primary healthcare worker and your pharmacy to get proof of the costs etc.

Pro tip: when traveling with medication, ask for the pharmacy for international medical records.

PACKING AND EARTHLY BELONGINGS

Your moving abroad for a year. You must be wondering what to do with all the stuff that has accumulated over the years , especially if you have been living on your own for a while.

You have at least 3 options to choose from:

1. Get a storage unit and pay for the year
2. Ask a relative/friend/close person to keep the
3. Sell/donate everything you don't need and just pack essentials

POST OFFICE AND TENANTS

In case you have been living alone and you decide to move from the apartment , you need to inform the tenant and your local postal service to fix your Address.

I highly recommend either switching your mail to your parents/relatives/loved one's address over taking post restante because you need someone to take care of your mail while your gone.

CELLPHONE NUMBER ETC

If you wish to keep your finnish phone number while your gone, i suggest that you switch to the cheapest option available to keep your costs down and at the same keeping your old number. In italy you can have a prepaid type of phone number for ~10€ a month.

Pro tip: pay your bills on time! Its hard to get stuff working from italy.

TICKETS AND THE JOURNEY

Tickets: you will be given ~150€ for plane/bus/train/boat tickets Finland-italy-finland.

You will pay the tickets first and then you will be repaid the money after arrival and showing physical copy of the tickets (preferably) . Same goes to the return tickets.

Journey: from Finland its easier to go from helsinki-milan or Helsinki-rome.

Also for cheaper tickets, it would be beneficial to buy tickets early.

I would suggest taking straight flights so there is less chances of something going wrong.

Enjoy your trip!

ARRIVAL TO ITALY/FAENZA



GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT FAENZA

Faenza is an Italian city and comune located in province of ravenna, Emilia Romagna.

Population: 58 863

Post code : 48018 Faenza

Nearby towns/cities: Bologna, Ravenna, Rimini, Firenze

Known for its ceramics

LIFE AND WORK IN FAENZA

1. Housing
2. Office
3. ludoteca
4. Informagiovani
5. Doposcuola
6. Transportation
7. Green go bus
8. Hospital
9. Pharmacy
10. Stores
11. Library
12. Activities
13. Parks /outside places

HOUSING FOR VOLUNTEERS

There are currently 3 options for volunteers housing. Contamination lab, casa europa and a newcomer without a name yet.

You will be living with roommates either way, which means shared kitchens and other common spaces.

If you have problems with your roommate or living with someone, let Elisa or someone

OFFICE VIA MINARDI

You will most likely have some days working on office via Minardi. Your job includes: social media, writing blog posts , working on your personal project and also if there is a group meeting, its commonly in the office too.

In the office you can also get in contact with other volunteers you may not see every day (from different projects)

LUDOTECA

Ludoteca is a place where kids will go to play, do activities and socialize with other kids. The kids are in a wide range of ages from 3 to up to 12.

Your days will include mostly play with the kids, arranging activities, serving snacks, preparation for future activities , helping out and cleaning.

Don't worry, even if your inexperienced, you will get the hang of it !

INFORMAGIOVANI

Informagiovani =youth information center.

In the informagiovani you will do quite a lot of the same activities as in the office Minardi. Exception is the youth cards and attending to some events and hosting workshops.

You will usually also spend time together with your work buddy from Finland as you may have different schedules

DOPOSCUOLA

Doposcuola = after school.

After school is a place of work where kids go after their school ends to do their homework and our job is to help with it, especially with English.

Before homework they have an activity and it changes by days “theme” and you will be assisting it

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM FAENZA

Faenza has a train station and a bus station. Both very much reachable from the piazza del popolo. Fortunately faenza is located relatively near some big cities. There is quite good schedule which means you can potentially arrive even after midnight from for example bologna.

You can buy tickets from trenitalia app for trains.

Nearest cities are Forlì, Bologna and ravenna. All less than an hour away!

GREEN GO BUS

Green go bus is a free bus that operates within faenza. It has two lines

a) from teatro masini to parco bucci.

B) piazza del popolo -filanda shopping center

remember: bus doesn't go on sundays!

HOSPITAL

Hospital in faenza is located near doposcuola and ludoteca. If you have a need to go in a non emergency, inform your mentor or someone. They will assist you on getting an appointment.

If its an emergency and you need urgent care, call 112 and inform people in your organization.

Adress:

PHARMACY

Pharmacy works a lot like in Finland. Only different thing here is that the pharmacies seems to go in a rotation (fact check)

Nearest pharmacies are located very near to piazza del popolo. 4 of them you can see from the piazza so its not hard to find.

If your nervous about the language barrier, try to use google translate. In general , you should be fine

FOOD STORES IN FAENZA

In faenza there is multiple shops on your near area. The furthest being shopping center Filanda (conad) .

Food stores are quite similar to Finland . Only probably surprising things are how they store milk and there is not much premade meals. Pre-made meals here are more like home cooked.

Food is also cheaper in many aspects

Store chains: lidl, Aldi and conad

LIBRARY

Faenza has one library in piazza nenni (?). You can loan books and spend time there studying.

Library is a quiet place and with good weather you can also stay in the “court yard”.

Ask for information on how to get the library card!

PARCO BUCCI

Faenza has a lot of park areas but not one is more known as parco bucci. Home full of migrating birds, fishes, chickens, peacocks , turkeys , bunnies and many many more. The park is full of life and very near a good bus stop. If life gets hectic i suggest you go there for an evening stroll. The park opens at 7.30 and park closes around 21.00 so keep that in mind.

Enjoy

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Elisa: +39 389 844 3025

Ina: +370 601 40404