

Money Abroad

Some people have asked us what we do for money whilst in Europe. This is what WE do it may not be the best but is an example for you to check out and choose your own methods.

Cash

We take a few Euros with us just to tide us over.

Most Debit Cards charge for withdrawing cash from an ATM abroad. There is one in particular we use that doesn't charge, gives the Mastercard rate and allows up to £300 a day equivalent in Euros. This is Starling Bank where we have a Current Account, worth having a look. I also believe Metro Bank offer a similar account.

We also use a Halifax Clarity Credit card to take cash from an ATM in Europe. There are no charges to do this and they use what I believe is the Inter Bank Rate which to us is the best exchange rate we can get. Halifax start charging interest from the time you make the withdrawal so we set up a weekly standing order from our Bank Account to cover this. The amount to be withdrawn and the amount to transfer we calculate in advance, as well as the dates to do this. For our month abroad last year we paid less than 6p in charges. We only use the Clarity card for cash withdrawals and not for credit. If you are sure of internet access and are happy with online banking you can of course make the transfer from your bank to the Credit card on each occasion you withdraw cash. You cannot transfer the money to the Clarity card before you leave as many cards do not let you have a large positive balance.

Credit Cards

We use Credit Cards in Europe, a Post Office Master Card and a Halifax Clarity Card. Neither card charges interest or a fee to use in Europe but do select to pay in Euros not Pounds and you will again get the best exchange rate.

Reminder, the Site does not take Credit Cards. We will be using our Halifax Clarity card at the ATM you pass on the way walking into town to get the Euros to pay the Site fee.

Again, we are not experts but it's what we have found works for us, but it's up to you obviously

To be on the safe side, you do need to let your Credit Card company know you are going abroad to ensure that they will work and not be caught by the fraud software for unusual transactions.