

Before You Depart – Travel Tips



- **Travel with all important documents and identification**
 - Driver's license, passport, vaccination card, travel insurance cards
 - Take along a copy of your passport page and take a picture of it on your phone in the event your passport is lost or stolen. Leaving a copy with a family member/friend or with us is recommended as well. It can be faxed to you if necessary.
 - Have your personal car insurance contact information or credit card's insurance information if you are renting a vehicle and using your personal insurance for coverage.
- **Leave contact information** for your family members in case of an emergency.
- **Call your credit card company** and advise when and where you will be traveling so your credit card use is not denied.
- **Renting a vehicle:**
 - Check with your insurance company to see if you are covered and who to contact while traveling in the event of an accident.
 - Credit card companies may cover damage to vehicles you are renting. You will have to confirm coverage and if it is primary or secondary coverage and also who to contact in the event of an accident.
 - Car rental companies will expect for you to pay for damages immediately and you will have to handle the claim with your insurance company or Credit Card Company when you return home.
 - If you damage a rental vehicle, car rental companies are allowed to charge you for days their vehicle is being repaired and unable to be rented.
- **Frequent flyer rewards programs**
 - Please give us your frequent flyer numbers when making your reservation. Airlines do not automatically put your number into your reservation. You will need to give the airline this information every time.
 - If you do not have a frequent flyer number and would like one, please ask us how you can get one. We can help you set up your account.
- **Airline Check-in** – You must check-in online within 24 hours of departure of your flights. You can print your boarding passes or receive them at the airport. If flights are overbooked, some airlines will deny you boarding based on when you checked in.
 - Most airports require you to check-in either 90 – 120 minutes prior to departure of your flights within the U.S. and check-in at least 3 hours prior to departure for any international flights.

Additional Tips for Travel

- If you have a pacemaker or artificial appendage, you need to make a TSA agent aware before they start the screening process. Also avoid wearing clothing, jewelry, and accessories that contain metal as they will set off metal detectors.
- **You can travel with portable, nonperishable foods.** Foods such as granola bars, trail mix, nuts, dried fruits, and cereal can all be brought through the security check point. Absolutely no beverages can be brought through security, but can be purchased once inside the airport terminal.
- While packing, **think of the climate you are going to** and determine if you need to pack sunscreen or insect repellent. You will also want to determine the type of clothing to pack while considering the type of weather of your destination.
- **Pack a first aid kit and Tylenol or IB Profen.** Take along any other over-the-counter medication that you normally would take as you may not find them at your destination or they could cost more.

- **Help prevent ear pain while flying** by swallowing, opening your jaw, or yawning during take-off and landing. Also eating chewy candies or chewing on gum as well as drinking fluids will aid in ear pain. If traveling with an infant make sure to wake them up during take-offs and landings as ear pain can be worse for them while sleeping. You can also give them a bottle during take-off and landing.
- **Travel with smaller bills for tipping** – for example; taxi/transportation drivers, concierge, and housekeeping. Some countries accept U.S. dollars, however, your change will be given in local currency.

International Travel

- **Register with the U.S. Embassy in your destination travel.** Go to travel.state.gov and enroll at the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program/Embassy location.
- Make sure that your **passports have at least 6 months validity beyond return date.**
- It is your responsibility to **reconfirm and travel with proper documentation** which will include a passport and perhaps a visa. Go to travel.state.gov to see what the requirements for the country you are traveling to.
- **Check your health coverage** to see if you will be covered where you are traveling. Some countries require proof of insurance when arriving or could face denial of entry.
- Some countries have **restrictions on bringing food into their country.** Check with the destination you are traveling to see what their specific restrictions are.
- Some countries require you to fill out a **tourist card** in flight and present to customs. Travel with a pen so that you can complete the form on the plane. You will also need to know the exact amount of money you are carrying on your person. Exact change amount is required.
- Please know that while in another country you are **subject to their laws and regulations.**

COVID-19 Tips for Travel

- **Face Masks** are required within all airports and on all airplanes. Check with airline to see what types of face masks they require, as some airlines require surgical masks to be worn.
- **The U.S. State Department Website** is a valuable resource for country-specific COVID protocols. The site has information on more than 200 countries listing whether it recommends U.S. citizen's travel to a country, resources and restrictions within the country, information about the embassy, what it will take to return to the U.S. after your trip, and more.
- **Also check the destination country's COVID website.** Since protocols are ever-changing, you'll also want to confirm restrictions on your destination country's website with a site updated by them.
 - You may be required to quarantine, get tested, bring proof of vaccination, complete a digital passenger locator form, wear a mask in certain places, or even subject to a curfew.
- **Contact your lodging, any tours and transfer services.** If you have already booked lodging/accommodations or any tours and transfer services, reach out to the vendor to see what their COVID requirements are.
- **Get a PCR COVID test even if it's not required.** Just to be prepared for everything. Even if the country is not requiring a test within 72 hours, go ahead and get one just in case.
- **Get vaccinated.** Many countries are now requiring proof of vaccination to enter their country. Also, many restaurants, event venues, shopping centers, and parks within the U.S. require proof of vaccination to enter their facility.
- **Multi-Country trips are not recommended** at this time, as there may be different COVID protocols for each country.

