



## **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SECURITY TIPS & CHECKLIST**

### **CHECK U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT SECURITY UPDATES: BEFORE AND DURING YOUR TRIP.**

Regularly access State Department travel warnings and security updates while traveling abroad so that you can avoid any hotspots or areas with potential risks.

In addition to STEP, register at [www.osac.gov](http://www.osac.gov) to follow the Overseas Security Advisory Council on twitter: [@OSACState](https://twitter.com/OSACState). Tweets provide current information regarding the safety and security-related information, public announcements, travel advisories, significant anniversary dates, terrorist group profiles, country crime/safety reports, special topic/foreign press reports, etc.

### **SECURE PASSPORT, ALL TRAVEL DOCUMENTS.**

Keep your identification, travel document, international passport secured. Maintain paper copies and photographs that you can access on your phone of the following: driver's license, passport, birth certificate, immunization record, credit card(s).

### **LIMIT YOUR DISCUSSIONS WHEN TRAVELING: DO NOT DISCLOSE PRIVATE LIFE / TRAVEL ITINERARY.**

It is normal to converse with a fellow passenger -- especially if it is a long journey. Because you may be sitting next to a person who may seek to do you harm, it is important that you do not discuss your private life or travel plans.

### **MINIMIZE THE CASH YOU CARRY.**

Determine the amount of cash you may need for emergency needs (transportation, food, etc.) and then use credit cards as much as possible. Notify your credit card company's fraud department of what countries you will be visiting and on what dates. This way, they won't think your card is stolen and shut it off just when you need it the most. Be mindful of any countries you might be changing planes in

### **DO NOT WALK/TRAVEL ALONE.**

Always walk with a partner or in groups to maximize your personal security while abroad.

### **USE EXTREME CAUTION WHEN USING CABS/CAR SERVICES.**

Where possible seek the assistance of your team, hotel or apartment staff to identify a driver or car service.

### **KEEP YOUR PASSPORT & VISA WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES.**

To avoid embarrassment by police or security officials and more importantly to maximize your personal safety, remember to always travel with valid identification: international passport with valid visa, for example.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA: BE CAREFUL OF WHAT YOU TWEET, POST, ETC.**

Limit status updates, geotags on pictures and other kinds of information you share on any social media platform while traveling. Note though that in an emergency, updating your status may be an effective way of communicating with family and friends.

### **RESPECT: INTERNATIONAL LAW, CULTURES AND CUSTOMS.**

Most people traveling internationally expect differences, but they do not necessarily know what differences to expect. It is important to know the law of the country and to demonstrate respect for its culture when visiting.

## **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & YOUR ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

### **DO NOT LEAVE ELECTRONIC DEVICES UNATTENDED.**

Never store valuables or electronics in your checked luggage. Report stolen devices to the US embassy or consulate.

### **ANTIVIRUS AND OTHER SOFTWARE UPDATES.**

Make sure your antivirus, security patches, and firewall are enabled and current. Updates should be done before you leave because you may receive a fake security update that ultimately seeks to install malware or spyware on your computer when connecting to a local network in a country overseas.

### **WI-FI / THE INTERNET: THERE ARE NO EXPECTATIONS OF PRIVACY.**

Many countries overseas do not have the same privacy protections for electronic communications. Be mindful that any cell phone conversation, email or internet browsing may be intercepted by local private or governmental entities. Avoid Wi-Fi if possible. Where possible use a VPN connection before you log into any websites or access sensitive data. Beware of “phishing” scams referencing local attractions and businesses.