

Tips for International Travel

Here are some tips to help you get ready to go abroad

Passport requirements

Some countries will deny entry if your passport expires in less than six months.

Don't forget: Passports are now required to travel to Canada and Mexico.

Check the U.S. State Department's website for visa and vaccination requirements.

Manage your funds

Before getting cash or using your cards internationally, find out if your bank charges foreign transaction fees.

If it's possible to do so, get a small amount of foreign currency before leaving; it's helpful in a pinch.

Chip technology has made it much easier to use credit and debit cards overseas but you'll need to create a PIN before travel.

Let your credit card company know you're traveling so your purchases are less likely to be flagged.

Prepare before you leave home

Create electronic versions of your passport and other important travel documents.

Write down the address and phone number of the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Confirm with your carrier that you will have service at your destination and that you won't be charged extra for use internationally.

Visit the CDC's travel website for any country-specific medical advice or warnings.

Plan and Pack

Chargers and plugs – assure you have the power adapters that can handle the proper voltage for your destination.

Get there early – check with the departure airport for recommended arrival times as processing and check-in can take longer for international trips.

Luggage – airline rules and fees are often different on international flights.

Carry-on bag – Pack medication and a change of clothes in your carry-on bag, just in case your luggage gets misplaced.

Have fun

Plan ahead – research your destination before you arrive to make the most of your time and possibly save money.

Have a plan B – Books, transit routes and apps for your smartphone can be helpful in a pinch.

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