

Mail Small Items

When you purchase small items, it is a good idea to mail them personally to your home or to carry them in your luggage. This will help prevent misdirected packages, no receipt of merchandise, or receipt of wrong merchandise. When you mail purchases, be sure to ask about insurance.

Items mailed home are not eligible for your \$400 personal exemption. If the item you are mailing home is less than \$200, duty will be waived. Be sure to write on the outside of the package that it contains goods for personal use.

Death Abroad

When a U.S. citizen dies abroad, the consular officer reports the death to the next of kin or legal representative and arranges to obtain from them the necessary funds for local burial or return of the body to the United States. Before you begin your trip, please complete in pencil the address page in the front of your passport. Please provide the name, address and telephone number of someone to be contacted in an emergency.



This Service Brought to you by:
U.S. Department of Transportation
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Washington, DC 20590

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Website: www.dot.org

Safe Traveling Tips

*By Land, by
air, or by sea.
Safety is our
first priority!*

ATM Cards

Fortunately for travelers, the number of ATM machines abroad has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years. Providing excellent interbank exchange rates, the machines dispense foreign money against American dollars. Most foreign machines are affiliated with the MasterCard/Cirrus system or the Visa/Plus system. Check with your bank to see what fees are charged for overseas transactions before leaving home. Most international ATM machines only accept four-digit PINs. If yours is longer than that, head to your local bank before leaving the country to have it changed.



Immigration and Customs

If a passport was required for your trip, have it ready when you go through Immigration and Customs. If you took other documents with you, such as an International Certificate of Vaccination, or a Customs certificate of registration for foreign-made personal articles, have them ready, also.

Guard Against Thieves

Coat pockets, handbags, and hip pockets are particularly susceptible to theft. Thieves will use all kinds of ploys to divert your attention just long enough to pick your pocket and grab your purse or wallet. These ploys include:

- Creating a disturbance
- Spilling something on your clothing
- Handing you a baby to hold!
- Asking you for directions or the time
- Pointing to something spilled on your clothing
- Distracting you by creating a disturbance.

A child or even a woman carrying a baby can be a pickpocket. Beware of groups of vagrant children who create a distraction while picking your pocket.

U.S. Customs Pre-Registration

It is a good idea to be informed about U.S. Customs regulations. Unless you have proof of prior possession such as a receipt, bill of sale, an insurance policy, or a jeweler's appraisal, The certificate of registration provided can expedite free entry of these items when you return to the U.S.

Return Transportation

You should confirm your return reservation twice, and at least 72 hours before your scheduled departure. Whenever possible, obtain a written confirmation. If you confirm your return reservation by phone, record the time, day, and the name of the agent who took your call. If your name does not appear on the reservations list, you have no recourse and may find yourself stranded.



Personal Belongings

Your personal belongings can be sent back to the United States duty-free if they are of U.S. origin and have not been altered or repaired while abroad. Personal belongings like worn clothing can be mailed home and will receive duty-free entry if you write the words "American Goods Returned" on the outside of the package.