

International FAQ

Your travel agent will check with the country's embassy or consulate that you plan to visit to find out which documents are required to enter the country. The foreign country's embassy or consulate can also provide information on what you are allowed to bring into the country.

What documents, identification, and paperwork does a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident typically need to travel internationally? Make 2 copies of your passport. Leave one at home in a place that someone you trust can get to and carry the other copy, not in the same place as the passport itself. Take the copy with you on excursions and leave the original in the safe provided in the hotel.

www.travel.state.gov

Are there cultural differences I should expect when traveling outside the U.S.? Yes! Cultural differences vary from country to country and regionally within each country. While your Tour Guides will assist in engaging you and your family in some of the more banal differences such as drinking coffee after dessert, or calling everyone your mate in Australia, following is a list that may be more material in making your destination choice.

Please be cognizant of cultural differences that include but are not limited to:

- Late-night adult content is often on some television stations earlier in the evening.
- Topless sunbathing is quite common in Europe – especially in Mediterranean countries
- Public advertising (television, billboards, street posters) may include nudity
- English is not necessarily as widely spoken as some would believe. While most front-desk hotel staff speak English, restaurant servers, drivers and porters will often speak limited English. Generally, English is more widely spoken in the more heavily-tourist locales. Regardless, your Tour Guides and local experts can assist in most situations.

Am I required to have an International Driving Permit in foreign countries? Although many countries do not recognize U.S. driver's licenses, most countries accept an international driving permit (IDP). Ask your travel agent for the list of countries.

What are the benefits of carrying an International Driving Permit on my next overseas trip? International Driving Permits function as an official translation of your U.S. driver's license into 10 foreign languages. It also serves as an additional source of identification. The IDP is recognized in over 150 countries today.

Who is eligible for an International Driving Permit? In order to be eligible for an International Driving Permit, you must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid drivers license. Your permit must be obtained in the country that issued your drivers license. For your permit, contact your nearest AAA office.

What health precautions should I take in preparation for and during travel abroad?

Consult your doctor about any immunizations or booster shots you might need well in advance of your vacation.

- Have medical and dental checkups prior to departure.
- Ask your travel agent for information about medical facilities on your cruise ship or in cities you plan to visit. Do this well in advance of your trip, especially if you have an existing medical condition.
- If you have an existing medical condition, have your physician write a letter explaining the condition, treatment or procedures for you to follow and carry it with you at all times.
- If you have any pre-existing conditions check into supplemental travel insurance for this specific policy. Basic policies do not cover pre-existing conditions.
- Pack an extra pair of prescription eyeglasses and/or contact lenses, and prescription medications. Take a copy of your prescriptions.

If I have a medical condition, do I need to advise before I book the trip or go on tour? Yes. It is imperative that you advise your Travel Agent if you have a medical condition at time of booking. A waiver must be completed and signed by the passenger and received by your travel group. Your waiver must be assessed and approved before payment can be made on any reservation.

Two more things to keep in mind when traveling internationally:

Passports/Visas: U.S. Citizens will need valid passports in order to leave and enter the United States. Non U.S. Citizens will need valid passports and sometimes visas, as well as any other travel documentation required by the governments of the countries on the itinerary. For visas/inoculations, please check with your Travel Agent, government agencies, embassies or consulates, your physician local health department or the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Traveler's Health website to determine travel and health documentary requirements.

Health: All guests must ensure that they are medically and physically fit for travel. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) provide guidelines as to which vaccinations are required in each country. In many cases inoculations are recommended but in some circumstances they are required. We recommend that you check with your health care professional or a Travel Medicine Specialist certified by the WHO for guidance. Other informational resources can be accessed at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Traveler's Health website or toll free at 1-877-FYI-TRIP, and the World Health Organization website.