



Vacation Checklist: Traveling Abroad

Office of Neighborhood Involvement Crime Prevention Program • portlandoregon.gov/oni/cp • Spring 2016

When you plan for a trip abroad, there are a number of security measures to consider. The vacation checklist below will help you plan for your trip.

Research the political conditions or other factors that may make your destination an unsafe location to visit at travel.state.gov . It is advisable to only travel to those countries that have a U.S. consular office so that there is an agency to assist you in the event of an emergency.	
Familiarize yourself with the local customs and laws of the country you are visiting. If you are arrested, notify the nearest US Embassy or Consulate.	
Consider enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program that notifies the U.S. consular office in the country where you are traveling that you will be there. They can send you alerts about issues in that country and help you connect with family and friends in the event of an emergency. The link is step.state.gov/step .	
Make two sets of copies of your passport, itinerary, airline tickets, drivers license and credit cards. Leave one set with family or friends, and bring the other one with you, storing them separately from the originals. While you are out of the hotel, store them in a secure safe. This will also be helpful if your passport or information is stolen.	
Carry a letter from a physician noting your prescriptions and medical condition. Also, check with the consular office to ensure that the medications you are taking are not illegal in that country.	
Arrange with your cellular carrier to expand your coverage to include data and phone service abroad. Your Smartphone is a valuable tool to use in an emergency.	
Learn how to contact the police and emergency service in the country you are visiting.	
Project confidence and be aware of your environment while you are out in public.	
Don't leave electronics unattended while out in public.	
Purchase a travel pouch that can be camouflaged under clothes such as a neck pouch or waist wallet to store valuables such as a passport, cash and credit cards.	
Carry your wallet in a pocket inside a jacket or a front pocket.	
Carry a purse or bag close to the body in front of you, and make sure to place it in your lap at a restaurant, not over the back of your chair.	

Limit the valuables that you bring with you on the trip. This includes leaving unneeded debit and credit cards, expensive jewelry, social security cards or other cards at home.	
When out in public, be alert to your environment. A lot of scams happen by distracting the victim before pick-pocketing or other crime occurs.	
While in public, do not bring an excessive amount of cash with you. Dressing inconspicuously with minimal, if any, jewelry is a good plan.	
Don't leave your luggage unattended at the airport or hotel lobby. If you check baggage into hotel storage, ask for a receipt.	
Don't leave valuables in your hotel room when you are absent. Use the hotel safe. If you deposit any valuables with the front desk, ask for a receipt to document what you leave there.	
If you are withdrawing funds from an ATM, chose one that is located at a reputable bank.	
When you are in your room, lock the door, use the chain lock and use the door peephole to identify people who knock at your door. Use a high quality traveler's door lock or a wedge that may include an alarm when security is questionable.	
If you are not expecting a visitor, you can contact the front desk to verify that the individuals at the door are hotel staff.	
Consider leaving the Do Not Disturb sign on your door so that the rooms appear occupied when you leave.	
Only use the services of reputable taxi companies.	
Make sure that you pick up a map in every city you travel in case you can't access GPS data on your phone.	
Before you leave for vacation, check out our "Vacation Checklist: Prepare Your Home" to create an appearance of occupancy while you are out at portlandoregon.gov/oni/cpAdvice .	

City of Portland's Crime Prevention Program

Ask for the Crime Prevention Program Coordinator for your Portland Neighborhood at 503-823-4064 or onicpa@portlandoregon.gov.

www.portlandoregon.gov/oni/cp