

Travel Alert and Safety Tips

As students, faculty and staff make arrangements to travel abroad during the holidays, staying abreast of international affairs remains a vital first step in planning. In order to assist our students and employees in their travel plans, the following safety tips are advised.

1. Make sure you have a signed, valid passport and visas, if required. Before you go on your trip, fill-out the emergency information page of your passport.
2. Read the Consular Information Sheets, which can be found on the U.S. Department of State website (listed below). Consular Information Sheets provide up-to-date travel information on every country in the world. The Consular Information Sheets are a wealth of information, covering topics such as entry regulations, crime and security situations, as well as the location of the U.S. Embassy, consulates and consular agencies.
3. Leave copies of your itinerary, passport data page and visas with family members at home, so that you can be contacted in case of an emergency. If you have not informed your family of your travel plans, it is strongly advised that you leave itinerary information with a close friend who can reach you or your family.
4. Make sure you have insurance that will cover your emergency medical needs while you are visiting another country.
5. Do your homework; familiarize yourself with local laws and customs of the countries you are visiting. You are subject to the laws of the country you are visiting.
6. While abroad, avoid using illicit drugs or drinking excessive amounts of alcoholic beverages and associating with people who do. Do not become a target for thieves by carrying excessive cash or wearing expensive jewelry. Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
7. Do not leave your luggage unattended in public areas and never accept packages from strangers.
8. Make copies of your passport data page and visas; keep them with you, but separate from the originals, at all times.
9. In today's world climate, avoid demonstrations and other situations that may become unruly or where anti- American sentiments may be expressed.

More detailed safety tips can be found on the U.S. Department of State website:
www.travel.state.gov