



Tips for Travelling with Children

- **Keep in mind that you will be travelling at your children's pace,** not your own.
- **All children require a valid Canadian passport** and supporting identification. Check with the embassy or consulate of each destination country regarding additional entry requirements.
- **It is strongly recommended that children travelling alone or with one parent carry a consent letter** for each trip abroad. It is advisable to have the consent letter certified, stamped, or sealed by an official with the authority to administer an oath or solemn declaration, so that the validity of the letter will not be questioned. See www.voyage.gc.ca/alt/letter.asp for a sample consent letter.
- **Seek advice from a lawyer** if a custody dispute might develop while the child is abroad. Custody arrangements in Canada may not be recognized in some countries. For details, see our publication *International Child Abductions: A Manual for Parents*.
- **Keep some form of identification in the child's pocket** in case you are separated.
- **Some airlines will escort and supervise an unaccompanied child** from check-in through arrival. Airlines require a parent or guardian to stay at the airport until the flight has departed. The person greeting the child at the destination must have appropriate identification and authorization.
- **Infants are required to sit in an approved child safety seat when travelling by air.** Carry a bottle or pacifier to make the child more comfortable and to equalize ear pressure.
- **Bring an adequate supply of baby products** and vital medications plus a doctor's note detailing their purposes.

For more information, see www.voyage.gc.ca/alt/child.asp.

Your child custody arrangements in Canada may not be recognized in another country. In extreme cases, you or your child may not be allowed to leave that country. Check your status with that country's embassy or consulate in Canada before you travel. If you have custody questions, contact our Consular Case Management Division at **1-800-387-3124** (in Canada) or **613-943-1055**.

For further details, see our fact sheet *Tips for Travelling with Children* on the facing page.

Women Travelling Solo

Our booklet entitled *Her Own Way: A Woman's Guide to Safe and Successful Travel* provides information especially for females, including those who travel alone.

Travel with a Same-Sex Spouse

Although same-sex marriages are legal in Canada, they are not recognized in many countries, apart from Belgium, the Netherlands, South

Africa, Spain, and the U.S. state of Massachusetts. Same-sex civil unions are more widely recognized, for example, in Denmark, France, Iceland, and the United Kingdom. Attempting to enter another country as a same-sex married couple may result in refusal by local officials. In addition, homosexual activity is a criminal offence in certain countries and could result in a prison or death sentence. Consult our Country Travel Reports or the destination country's embassy or consulate in Canada for specific information.

Dual Citizenship

You are permitted by Canadian law to have more than one nationality. However, your Canadian citizenship may not be recognized in the country of your second citizenship, where authorities may prevent Canada from providing you with consular assistance. This situation is especially likely if you do not use your Canadian passport to enter the second country.

If you are considered a national of another country, you may be compelled to do military service, required to pay taxes, or subject to increased scrutiny by immigration and security officials. Dual citizenship can also cause problems in a third country if there is confusion over which citizenship you used to gain entry. To avoid unpleasant surprises, confirm whether you, your spouse, or any other family member is a citizen of another country.

TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

You should carry a valid Canadian passport for all visits to the United States and Mexico. The United States introduced new entry requirements in January 2007. For detailed information, see "New U.S. Entry Requirements" on page 10 as well as our Country Travel Reports.