



Tips for Travelling with Children

When travelling with children, you will see the world through their awestruck eyes. Keep in mind that you will be travelling at your children's pace, not your own. Here are some essential travel tips:

- **Ensure that each child has a valid Canadian passport** and supporting identification. Check with the embassy or consulate of each destination country regarding additional entry requirements.
- **Obtain a certified letter authorizing travel**, signed and dated by the absent lawful parent (if the child is travelling with one parent) or by both parents (if the child is travelling alone or with a guardian). 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. See our publication *International Child Abductions: A Manual for Parents*.
- **Never leave a young child unattended** and keep some form of identification in the child's pocket in case you are separated.
- **Arrange in advance for the airline to escort 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.
- **Use an approved child safety seat for infants** 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.

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

If you or your partner are travelling to another country with your child and there is a possibility that a custody dispute might develop, be sure to talk to a lawyer before the child leaves home. Our publication *International Child Abductions: A Manual for Parents* contains further information.

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 Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada's Consular Case Management Division at 1-800-387-3124 (in Canada) or 613-943-1055.

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

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 on January 23, 2007. For detailed information, see "New U.S. Entry Requirements" on page 10 as well as our Country Travel Reports.



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. Attempting to enter as a same-sex married couple may result in refusal by local officials. In addition, homosexual activity is a criminal offence in certain countries. Consult our Country Travel Reports or the destination country's embassy or consulate in Canada for specific information.

Dual Citizenship

Canadian law permits a Canadian to have more than one nationality. However, your Canadian citizenship may not be recognized in the country of your second citizenship, and authorities of that country may prevent Canada from providing you with consular assistance. This situation is especially likely if you do not