

Lost luggage, theft of your purse or wallet, or flight cancellations can happen to you. These annoyances may cause major disruptions when they take place in a foreign country. Consider purchasing a travel insurance package that will compensate you for such inconveniences.

### Travelling by Car?

Keep in mind that each country has its own driving regulations. You may be required to obtain an international driver's licence or additional insurance. Be sure to learn the local rules of the road before you get behind the wheel. In some countries, the driver may be detained and questioned by police even though only a minor accident has occurred. Country-specific insurance must be purchased for travel by car to Mexico and Central America. This is usually available at border crossings. For specific information on driving in the United States and Mexico, consult the booklets *Crossing the 49th* and *México: ¿Qué pasa?*, published by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

### Money Matters

Canadian currency and traveller's cheques in Canadian dollars are not always widely accepted. Before you leave Canada, consult a bank or a foreign currency agent to find out the

most appropriate currency to carry. Traveller's cheques in the appropriate currency or in U.S. dollars are often the safest and most convenient option. It is also a good idea to have a small amount of the local money on hand when you first arrive, unless the importation of local currency is a crime. There may be restrictions on taking money into and out of the country. Check with the foreign embassy or consulate in Canada or with your travel agent about currency regulations in the country you plan to visit.

Do not rely exclusively on bank machine cards or credit cards. They are not necessarily honoured internationally.

### Canadian Taxation Status

If you are living or travelling abroad but maintain residential ties in Canada, you are usually considered a factual resident of Canada for taxation purposes. However, there may be other factors involved, and so to avoid surprises review your situation with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency before you leave. The publication *Canadian Residents Abroad* provides excellent information.

The International Tax Services Office processes income tax returns for non-residents and deemed residents

of Canada, including Canadians posted overseas. It also provides general assistance by telephone, correspondence and counter service, and looks after all non-resident tax withholding accounts.

### Avoiding Customs Difficulties

Before travelling abroad with valuable items, you can take advantage of a free identification procedure at any Canadian Customs office. This service is available for items that have serial numbers or other unique markings. Alternatively, if you request it, Customs can apply a sticker to any item to give it a serial number.

Jewellery often has significant value and can be difficult to identify. To make it easier to re-enter the country with jewellery, contact your nearest Customs office to find out the steps to take before your departure.

### Transport of Dangerous Goods

Passengers are not permitted to transport dangerous goods on board an aircraft, in carry-on or checked baggage. Dangerous goods are articles or substances that are capable of posing a risk to health, life, property or the environment when they are transported. Before travelling to any destination, consult Transport Canada's Web

site to find out what you can and cannot transport.

### Women Travelling Solo

The booklet *Her Own Way: Advice for the Woman Traveller*, published by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, provides information specifically for women travellers. There are also books that cover the concerns of women travellers and offer helpful travel tips. Check with your local bookstore or library, or search the Internet before you go.

### Travelling with or by Children

If you or your partner are travelling to another country with your child and there is a possibility that a custody dispute might develop, you should talk to a lawyer before the child leaves home. A special publication, *International Child Abductions: A Manual for Parents*, is available from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

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 the country's embassy or consulate in Canada before you travel. If you have custody questions, contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's