

NETWORKING ALONG THE WAY

It is a good idea to connect with other women on the road. They will become your community and support system as you travel. However, while enjoying their company, be prudent about sharing important personal information with strangers.

As soon as you begin your journey, start plugging into the female network. Finding a good source may lead you to many others.

Carry referrals from women back home. Take advantage of the travel contacts they have made.

In larger cities, make a quick check of local directories under the headings "female," "woman" or "travel." You will likely find listings for women's organizations, craft collectives, bookstores and entrepreneurial councils.

Check with the Canadian embassy or consulate for listings of women's expatriate clubs and organizations. Members of these groups can be an excellent source of information and may even invite you to one of their cultural events.

In less populated places, the manager of your accommodations will probably know everyone in the village and be ready to provide advice and introductions.

If you cannot communicate in the local language, seek out female teenagers. Chances are they are studying English at school and will take pride in being your translator.