

Do's and Don'ts

Do!

- Do pack your luggage yourself. Make sure it is locked and never leave it unattended.
- Do keep an eye on your children's backpacks, toys and stuffed animals. Someone could slip drugs inside without you knowing.
- Do choose your travelling companions carefully. If they turn out to be carrying, using or selling illegal drugs, you could be charged by association. Make sure they know where you stand on drugs *before you leave*.
- Do ask local authorities, a travel agent or hotel staff which areas are unsafe. You could be attacked or arrested if dealers are nearby and it's assumed you are carrying or selling drugs. Always have an up-to-date map with you.

Don't!

- Don't carry parcels, gifts or luggage for other people across borders or through customs – under any circumstances.
- Don't cross a border with a hitchhiker or as a hitchhiker: you could be found guilty by association. Separate beforehand and meet on the other side.
- Don't use drugs. Period. You can then be sure you won't be joining the significant number of Canadians currently serving drug-related sentences abroad.

Innocent Victim

I went on vacation with a girlfriend, Helen, to Venezuela. But we weren't enjoying our stay and we decided to continue our vacation in France, where a close friend of Helen lives. We couldn't get seats on the same flight, so I left one day before Helen with her gift to her friend: bookends in the shape of an elephant. When she asked me to add them to my

luggage, I jokingly said something about drugs being concealed in them. We both laughed.

Imagine my shock at Orly airport when officials told me I was under arrest for drug possession. Despite my plea of innocence, I was sentenced to five years in jail.