

## COMING HOME

### DEPARTURE TAX

Some countries impose a departure tax or service fee at the airport or point of departure. Before leaving, make sure you set aside enough money in local funds to pay this tax. See the Country Travel Reports on our website for more information.

### CANADA BORDER SERVICES AGENCY—PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS

If you have been away from Canada for 24 hours or more, your personal exemption (the value of goods you can bring back to Canada without paying duties and taxes) is C\$50, not including alcohol and tobacco products. **The goods must be with you when you arrive at the border.**

If the goods are worth more than C\$50, you cannot claim this personal exemption and must pay **full duties and taxes on all goods** brought in.

If you have been away from Canada for 48 hours or more, you may bring back goods worth up to C\$400 without paying duties and taxes. **The goods must be with you when you arrive at the border.** They can include alcoholic beverages and tobacco products as follows: up to 1.14 litres (40 oz.) of liquor or 1.5 litres (52 oz.) of wine; a total of 1.14 litres of wine and liquor; or 24 x 355 ml (12 oz.) cans or bottles (maximum 8.5 litres) of beer or ale. Note that provincial age restrictions apply to liquor. As for tobacco, you may bring back up to 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars or cigarillos, 200 tobacco sticks, and 200 grams (7 oz.) of manufactured tobacco, if you are 18 years of age or older.



## DRUGS AND TRAVEL: DO'S AND DON'T'S



To make the most of your travels and avoid drug-related problems abroad, keep in mind the following advice:

### DO...

- **Find out if your prescription medications are legal** in the countries you plan to visit. Keep all medications in their original, labelled containers. Carry a note from your doctor clearly explaining the reasons for your prescriptions. If syringes are needed, have a medical certificate stating their use.
- **Pack your luggage yourself** and never leave it unattended.
- **Keep an eye on your children's backpacks, toys, and stuffed animals.** Someone could secretly slip drugs inside.
- **Choose your travel companions wisely.** Never cross a border with a hitchhiker or as a hitchhiker. If your fellow travellers happen to be carrying, using, or selling illegal drugs, you could be found guilty by association.
- **Find out if certain areas are unsafe** by inquiring with local authorities, a travel agent, or hotel staff. You could suddenly find yourself in the wrong place at the wrong time. Always have an up-to-date map with you.

### DON'T...

- **Be fooled into smuggling drugs** in exchange for money or a free vacation. Many Canadians are currently serving drug-related sentences abroad, often in deplorable conditions. In some countries, drug convictions carry the death penalty.
- **Carry parcels, gifts, or luggage for other people** across borders or through customs under any circumstances.
- **Give in to the temptation to use drugs.** While illegal drugs are readily available and openly used in many countries, the fact remains: they *are* dangerous and illegal. Involvement with narcotics could put your health at risk and jeopardize your whole future.

For more information, consult the "Drugs and Travel" section of our website at [www.travel.gc.ca/drugs](http://www.travel.gc.ca/drugs).