
OTHER INFORMATION

Motoring Abroad

Operating a vehicle abroad, whether you take it from Canada or rent it locally, often entails procedures and requirements quite different from those in Canada. International Driver's permits, carnet de passage and additional vehicle insurance may be necessary. Check with your local automobile club or with the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) for details.

Currencies

Before leaving Canada, consult a bank or a foreign currency agent about the most appropriate form in which to carry your funds. In some countries, Canadian currency and traveller's cheques in Canadian dollars are not accepted by all establishments. It is often convenient to obtain in advance small amounts of the different currencies you will need on arrival in each country, except, of course, where the importation of local currency is a crime.

Some countries have currency regulations and require a currency declaration upon arrival. Many countries insist that currency exchange be carried out at officially designated banking institutions at approved rates of exchange. The authorities may consider any other type of currency exchange to be black-marketeering, an offence often punishable by confiscation, severe fine and lengthy jail sentence. Check with the foreign missions in Canada or with your travel agent about currency regulations in countries you intend to visit.

Keep a separate record of your traveller's cheques and credit cards. In the event of loss or theft, they can be cancelled and replaced.

TRAVELLING TO THE UNITED STATES

Canadians make about 50 million trips each year to the United States, often for the day or for trips of longer duration. We sometimes forget that we are actually going

to another country when we visit our neighbour to the south. Despite our close relationship, the United States has different laws and customs, which travellers should know before they leave home.

Customs – Zero Tolerance

The 'United States' Zero Tolerance Policy imposes severe penalties for the possession of even a small amount of illegal drugs. U.S. Customs have confiscated thousands of motor vehicles since the implementation of this policy in 1988.

If you take prescription drugs, always keep them in their original container. Carry only a reasonable amount necessary for the length of your stay and do not forget your prescriptions. Some over-the-counter drugs readily available in Canada require a prescription in the United States. U.S. Customs can confiscate your car if you are in possession of such drugs without a prescription. Check with your pharmacist before leaving Canada.

Immigration

You must be able to prove your Canadian citizenship when you are in the United States. Always carry your Canadian passport, or your citizenship certificate or your birth certificate. A driver's licence is not proof of your Canadian citizenship. American air carriers will not allow you to board unless you have proof of your Canadian citizenship. Failure to prove your citizenship, attempted illegal entry or taking employment in the United States without authorization from the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (USINS) could result in penalties ranging from the impounding of your vehicle to detention. Detention centres can be very far from the Canadian border. Lengthy processing delays can ensue before you are allowed to return to Canada.

The USINS may seize the vehicles of those trying to bring inadmissible individuals into the United States or trying to enter the U.S. after having been refused admission at another port-of-entry.

Any country can bar certain persons from entering its territory. The U.S. immigration law excludes, among others, persons with past criminal convictions. This includes past