
Other Insurance

Lost luggage, theft of your purse or wallet, or flight cancellations can happen to you. These annoyances can cause major disruptions when they take place in a foreign country. Think about 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 the police even though only material damages (such as a fender-bender) have 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, consult *Crossing the 49th* (see page 31 for details on ordering this booklet).

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's 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 in and out of the country. Check with the foreign embassies or consulates in Canada or with your travel agent about currency regulations in the countries you plan to visit.

Don't rely exclusively on banking machine cards or credit cards. They are not necessarily honoured internationally.

Women Travelling Solo

Unfortunately, a woman travelling alone can face additional problems, including sexual overtures. If you're travelling by yourself, either for business or pleasure, keep in mind the following precautions:

- ❖ Because women are often a target for street crime, be extra vigilant when you're out alone. Stay in well-lit, safe areas where there are other people.
- ❖ Dress appropriately and don't wear expensive jewellery or flash large sums of money.
- ❖ Make sure your hotel is sensitive to your needs. Ensure that no secondary room key will be given to **anyone**, even if they say they're travelling with you. If possible, book a room close to the elevator and ask the bellhop to check your room before you enter. Ensure that the locks on your windows and doors are working properly and that the lighting in your room and in the hallway is adequate. More and more hotels are recognizing the importance and clout of women travellers. Try to stay at hotels that are known for looking after your concerns.
- ❖ When out and about, be aware of your surroundings and situation at all times.

Her Own Way: Practical Tips & Advice for the Canadian Woman Traveller provides information for women travellers. See page 31 for how to order this booklet. There are also other books that cover the concerns of women travellers and that offer helpful travel tips. Check with your local bookstore or library **before** you go.

Travelling with Children

If you're travelling to another country with your child and there is a possibility of a custody dispute developing while you're away, you should talk to a lawyer before leaving home. A special publication, *International Child Abductions: A Manual*