

Adventure travelers. During the focus groups with young people (i.e. aged 18 to 29), many participants related the experience of their first trip (without parents) to a destination outside North America. When asked to describe their behaviour and information needs in preparing for the trip, they framed their responses in relation to their attitudes and trip motivations. Most young people said that, at the time, they were traveling for the adventure and, as such, did not conduct extensive research on the culture and history of their destination. One person

explained that, *"You learn a lot by talking to people over there. That's part of the adventure."* Another said, *"Half the fun is finding out stuff while you're there."*

While some young people take the time to research the histories and cultures of the countries they will visit, others explained that the purpose of their trip is to explore new areas of the world and that they would prefer to learn by experience. As such, they do very little advance preparation and *"just go"*.

Many young people were more interested in basic information to help them travel from one country to another. They might contact foreign embassies in Canada to determine any visa requirements for different countries. If traveling by bicycle or camping, they might also seek information on camp sites, required clothing. Very few took the time to research the culture or local laws in advance. As a result, there were more cultural-related incidents reported in these groups than in the groups with older travelers. The following are examples of some of the incidents encountered by young people while traveling:

- One participant reported an incident where she was stoned by residents in Israel while walking through a religious area wearing inappropriate clothing.
- Several female participants recounted incidents where they were harassed by men in Muslim countries due to the manner in which they were dressed.
- One male traveler unknowingly insulted a local resident and was threatened with physical violence.

Relatively few participants said that they investigated the personal risk of traveling to certain destinations in advance of their trip. Some participants went so far as to say that prior knowledge of personal risk would not have deterred them from traveling to a certain region. *"If I'd checked (for personal risk) before going and they warned me, I would have gone anyway."*

Experience travelers. Most participants in the middle age category were motivated to travel as a learning experience. In many cases, their desire to learn while traveling