

Guess who was detained at the border for drugs?



Prescription drugs and even some over-the-counter medications can be closely scrutinized by customs officials.

When travelling outside Canada, take along a copy of your prescription and ensure you carry all medicines in their original containers. If you use syringes, bring along a doctor's certificate proving they're for medical use.

For more information, visit our Web site at: www.voyage.gc.ca

Taking Precautions

The same rules apply abroad as at home, only more so. Foreigners are usually at greater risk than locals. In many countries, foreigners are specifically targeted. Don't wander into unknown areas — find out how safe they are first. Don't pick up hitchhikers or cross borders with people you have just met. Watch your luggage and make sure it's locked. **Never take anything, even an envelope, across a border for someone else.**

Don't display large amounts of money or expensive jewellery in public. Use a money belt or a case with concealed sections for valuables. Dress appropriately.

Leave a copy of your itinerary with someone at home so they can contact you in case of an emergency. Don't forget to telephone home, particularly if you have promised family members or friends that you would do so. We receive thousands of calls every year from worried family members or friends who have not received a promised call.

Keep a separate record of your traveller's cheques and credit cards. **Never carry your passport, travel tickets, identification documents, cash, credit cards**

and insurance papers together. If you do so, you risk being left with no identification or funds.

Use the safety deposit box at your hotel. Never leave valuables in your room.

Illegal Drugs

Drug use and trafficking are prohibited in all countries, even though drugs are readily available and openly used in some places. Most countries impose heavy fines and long prison sentences for possession and trafficking. For details, check the Drugs and Travel section of our Web site.

In some countries, possession of even small amounts of drugs carries the death penalty.

Never take any parcel that is not yours across a border.

Choose your travelling companions wisely. Never cross a border with a hitchhiker or as a hitchhiker. Although you may not be carrying anything illegal, your companions may be.

Crime and Punishment

More than 2,000 Canadians are currently imprisoned outside Canada for various offences.