

Introduction

Canadians love to travel. Each year we make more than 100 million trips abroad for both business and pleasure. The vast majority of these excursions go off without a hitch.

But unfortunately all trips do not come with a hassle-free guarantee. Accidents, illnesses, legal problems and linguistic and cultural difficulties do occur.

Most problems are minor and you can usually solve them yourself. But if you run into more serious obstacles, our Canadian missions are there to assist you.

If you are sick, in trouble or have lost your passport, our missions will do all they can to smooth your way.

Bon Voyage, But... will help you plan ahead. Read it before you book your next business trip or vacation abroad. And pack it in your luggage – it is a handy reference book of travel tips, important telephone numbers and addresses of Canadian missions around the world.

Before You Go

Preparation is the key to a successful trip. By doing your homework before you leave, you minimize the chances of something going wrong.

Be Prepared

Before you board that airplane or train, take time to learn about the political, cultural and economic environment of your destination. Learn at least a few key phrases in the country's language. Even a modest command of the local language will go a long way.

When you are travelling, the laws of the country you are visiting apply to you too. **Never** assume that, because you are a Canadian citizen, you are immune to foreign laws.

Some countries experience ongoing wars, insurgencies or sporadic unrest. Find out if your destination is known to be dangerous. Check with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) before you leave.

Travel Reports providing information on safety and security conditions, health issues and entry and visa requirements for over 215 travel destinations can be accessed from the Travel section of the DFAIT Web site (<http://www.dfaits-maecti.gc.ca>), by phone at 1-800-267-6788 (in Canada) or (613) 944-6788, or by fax at 1-800-575-2500 (in Canada) or (613) 944-2500. This information is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

If you require assistance abroad, contact the nearest Canadian mission. Addresses and telephone numbers are listed at the end of this booklet.

When travelling abroad, you may wish to use *Canada Direct*, an automated long-distance access service that allows you to call home to Canada or to other countries using the Canadian telecommunications network. Simply dial the access number for the country you are in and follow the voice prompts. If required, a bilingual Canadian operator is always available to assist you. For a list of *Canada Direct* access numbers, call 1-800-561-8868 (in Canada). The list of numbers is also available at the end of this booklet.

While you are abroad, tune in to Radio Canada International (RCI) for the latest news. You can also receive RCI broadcasts via the Internet (<http://www.rcinet.ca>). RCI also broadcasts messages from the Canadian government during emergency situations. You can obtain a schedule of the times and frequency of broadcasts to different parts of the world from the RCI Web site or by calling the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation at (514) 597-7555.

Is Your Passport in Order?

Your passport is the best proof of your Canadian citizenship. You and all family members should have a valid passport if you plan to travel outside Canada. If you have any questions about passports, check the Passport Office Web site (<http://www.ppt.gc.ca>) or call 1-800-567-6868. Locally you can

A Canadian passport remains at all times the property of the Government of Canada and may be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. Selling a passport or permitting any other individual or agency to use the passport may lead to criminal prosecution and is cause for revocation of the passport and refusal of future passport services.