

TRAVELLERS WITH DISABILITIES

Travellers with visual, hearing, mobility, or other impairments may have difficulty meeting their needs in certain countries. For information on such

matters as government services for disabled travellers, meeting special needs, parking privileges, and travelling with a service animal, see the "Frequently Asked Questions" section of our website.

TRAVEL IN EUROPE

The member states of the European Union (not including the United Kingdom and Ireland), along with Norway, Iceland, and Switzerland, make up the Schengen Area, which aims for common rules regarding visas, asylum rights, and controls at external borders.

Most of the land border controls of the nine countries that joined the Schengen Agreement in 2004 were removed in December 2007. These countries include the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia. Controls for embarkation at ports and airports for travel between these countries and all other Schengen states were removed in March 2008. It is expected that Bulgaria, Romania, and Cyprus will fully enter the Schengen Agreement by 2011. Switzerland removed land border controls with other Schengen states in December 2008, and port and airport controls were removed in March 2009.

In the Schengen Area, Canadian travellers do not need visas for short-term visits (up to 90 days), but some countries require you to register with local authorities within three working days of your arrival. It is important to get your passport stamped when entering the Schengen Area. The absence of an entry stamp from the initial Schengen port of entry could create difficulties during subsequent encounters with local police or other authorities throughout the Schengen Area.

It is important to confirm up-to-date entry requirements with the embassy or high commission of each destination country before departure from Canada. See our Travel Reports for country-specific information.

PROTECTING YOUR HEALTH

PROVIDED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA

The Public Health Agency of Canada strongly recommends that your travel plans include obtaining sound medical advice before travelling. Contact a travel medicine clinic or your physician at least **six weeks before departure** for an individual health assessment. Your physician will assess your need for vaccinations, preventive medication, and advice on precautions you can take to avoid disease while travelling. Be aware that some vaccinations and preventive medications can take a month or two to become effective.

VACCINATION, PREVENTIVE MEDICATION, AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES

International travel can expose you to infectious diseases not frequently seen in Canada. Based on your current health status, immunization history, and anticipated itinerary, a healthcare provider can assess your individual health risks and advise you on vaccination requirements, your need for preventive medication (e.g., for malaria), and personal protective measures.

Ensure that your routine immunizations—tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough (pertussis), polio, measles, mumps, and rubella—are up-to-date. Proof of yellow fever vaccination may be required to enter some countries.

If you are travelling with infants or small children, you may need to arrange an alternative or accelerated childhood immunization schedule for them. For further information, visit the Public Health Agency of Canada's Travel Health website at www.travelhealth.gc.ca.

AIDS

Some countries require proof of HIV testing. Have the test conducted and obtain the results before your trip.

MEDICATION

If you take medication, be sure to pack an extra supply in case you are away for longer than expected. Carry a duplicate of your original prescription, listing both the generic and trade names of the product, in case your medication is lost or stolen. If you wear glasses or contact lenses, having the prescription will make it easier to replace them if needed.

