

Visas

Every country has the right to set entry requirements, limit the duration of a visit and, if it sees fit, deny admission to foreigners. Visas can be difficult and even impossible to get at some borders. Canadian missions cannot help you obtain a visa and cannot tell you which countries require one.

To avoid possible delays at the border, find out about visas and entry and exit permits from the missions in Canada of the countries which you plan to visit or from your travel agent. Ask whether your countries of destination require that your passport be valid for a minimum period. Visa applications require time to process and mail, so submit your request to the appropriate foreign mission well before you intend to leave. Some foreign missions impose extra delay if a visa is applied for outside of your country of residence.

Certain Arab and African states may refuse to admit you if your passport shows that you have travelled to Israel or to the Republic of South Africa. It may be possible to request that Israeli visas and entry and exit stamps be placed on a separate sheet.

On arrival in a foreign country, be prepared to prove that you have sufficient funds to support yourself during your intended stay and that you will be admitted to the next country on your itinerary. (For example, have a visa on hand for that country.) Many countries will grant entry only if you are in possession of return or onward tickets.

Several countries impose exit controls. You must thus complete formalities or produce certain documents before you are authorized to leave their territory. In some countries, you must register with local authorities if you are not staying at a recognized hotel. Otherwise, your departure may be delayed or you may be fined when you leave. If you have difficulty obtaining an exit permit, inform the nearest Canadian mission immediately.

Dual Nationality

Through birth, derivation from parents, marriage or naturalization you may be regarded by another country to be one of its citizens even though, under Canadian law,

you are a Canadian citizen. During a visit to the other country, you might be subject to certain local laws that apply to you because you are considered a citizen of that country. For example, you might be compelled to do military service, or pay special taxes. You may not even be allowed to leave.

It's up to you to determine if you, your spouse, or any other family member is also a citizen of another country and, if so, whether there could be difficulties during your stay.

If you are a dual national, Canadian authorities may not be able to help you in your country of other citizenship. Every country can decide who are its citizens and can enforce its laws within its boundaries. So before leaving for a country whose citizenship you may possess or may have possessed, verify your status with the diplomatic or consular mission of that country in Canada. Ask if there are any outstanding obligations you may be subject to upon arrival.

PRECAUTIONS

Medical Advice

Ask your doctor or community health centre about required or recommended vaccinations for each of the countries you intend to visit. Health regulations can change with little notice. You should reconfirm vaccination requirements just before departure and, if your trip is lengthy, during your travels.

Any allergies should be documented by a physician's report, as should the medical reasons preventing anyone from receiving any required vaccination.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has been reported in almost all countries. It is advisable to avoid behaviour that puts you at risk. Some countries have introduced AIDS testing for foreigners. The foreign mission concerned can provide information regarding conditions of entry.