



- ❖ To reduce your long distance costs when you're travelling, you may wish to use *Canada Direct*, an operator-assisted service that allows you to place calls to Canada or to other countries via a bilingual Canadian operator. Simply dial the *Canada Direct* access number for the country you are in and you will receive immediate assistance. For a list of all the *Canada Direct* access numbers, call **1-800-561-8868** (toll-free in Canada).

While you are travelling, tune into Radio Canada International. It gives you the latest news, and also broadcasts messages from the Canadian government during emergency situations.

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### **Make Sure Your Passport is in Order**

Your passport is the best proof of your Canadian citizenship. You and your family need valid passports to travel to most countries. Often, your passport may be required for financial or legal transactions. Even if a passport is not needed, for instance when you're travelling to the United States, it is a good idea to take it with you anyway. It is a very valuable piece of identification. If you have any questions about passports, call **1-800-567-6868**. Locally you can call: in Toronto, **973-3251**; in Ottawa-Hull, **994-3500**; in Vancouver, **775-6250**; or in Montreal, **283-2152**.

Applications for Canadian passports may be obtained at passport offices, post offices and some travel agencies. Allow at least three weeks for delivery.

If your passport is due to expire within the next six months, check with your destination's embassy or consulate in Canada to find out their rules and restrictions regarding passport validity and expiration. Some countries might not let you enter if your passport is only a few months away from expiring.



**Make a photocopy of your passport's identification page and keep it separate from the original when you travel. For added security, leave a photocopy with a friend or a relative at home. These simple steps may speed the replacement process if you lose your passport.**

If your passport is lost or stolen while you are travelling, contact the nearest Canadian mission immediately to get a replacement. Also report the loss to the local police. Before a new passport can be issued, you must complete an application form, produce written evidence of your Canadian citizenship (e.g. a birth or citizenship certificate), present new photographs and pay the full fee.

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### **Do You Need A Visa?**

You need a visa to travel to certain countries. Check with your travel agent or with the country's embassy or consulate in Canada to determine the requirements. Apply for visas well in advance of your trip.

When you arrive at your destination, be prepared to prove that you have enough money to support yourself during your stay.

Be aware of the rules and restrictions governing visas and your length of stay. This knowledge can save you both time and money.

Some countries will only allow you to enter if you can prove you will be leaving too — be prepared to show your return or onward ticket, or any visas you might have that will show that you plan to visit another country.

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### **Charter Flights**

Before you book a charter flight to your destination, check out both the travel agency's and the charter company's credentials with either the Better Business Bureau or a local consumer advisory organization.