

Be especially respectful of temples, mosques, churches, synagogues and other religious sites. Many of these areas are off-limits to foreigners or people who are not members of that faith. Ask permission first if you would like to take photographs of religious artifacts or buildings.

Not everybody likes to have his or her picture taken. Local people may resent you for taking their photograph or they may demand money for the picture after it has been taken. Always ask first.

Never take photographs of military facilities, a harbour where naval vessels are docked or industrial installations such as oil refineries. You may lose your film and your camera, and could even come under suspicion of espionage.

Take Precautions

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

Do not flash large amounts of money or expensive jewellery in public. Use money belts and cases with concealed sections for valuables. Dress appropriately.

Leave a copy of your itinerary with someone at home so that they can contact you in case of an emergency. Phone home occasionally, 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.

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

Never transport any parcel that isn't yours across a border.

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

Crime and Punishment

More than 1,200 Canadians are currently imprisoned abroad for various offenses — 60 per cent of those are in the United States.

The laws and customs of countries around the world can be very different from those in Canada. Ignorance of laws is no defence.

While in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws and regulations. Your Canadian citizenship offers no immunity. Canadian consular staff abroad must also follow the rules of the host country. If you do find yourself in trouble, they can help you find a lawyer, contact your family and friends, and ensure you receive fair treatment **according to the standards of that country.** However, they cannot pull any strings to reduce your sentence or fine.

Judicial Process

Never assume that the legal system of the country you're visiting is the same as at home. "Innocent until proven guilty" isn't a universally recognized idea. In some countries,