

A Traveller's Checklist

- ✓ Information on your destination country
- ✓ Itinerary and budget
- ✓ Health and travel insurance
- ✓ Passport: check expiry date, make copies
- ✓ Visas
- ✓ Dual citizenship: is it an issue?
- ✓ Vaccinations, medication, prescriptions, medical certificate, supplies
- ✓ Children: ensure they have their own passport, make custody arrangements, obtain certified documentation, etc.
- ✓ Bringing back goods: receipts for purchases, special arrangements for food, animals, plants, etc.

Don't forget to pack this booklet. It could help you more than you can imagine.

Some countries experience ongoing wars, insurgencies or sporadic unrest. Find out if your destination is known to be dangerous. Consult the Country Travel Reports, the weekly Travel Bulletin and the Current Issues section on our Web site for up-to-date information on safety and security conditions, health issues, and entry and visa requirements for 225 travel destinations. This information is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

To be prepared in case you get in trouble abroad, find out before you go where the nearest Canadian government office is located. Addresses and telephone numbers are listed at the end of this booklet. The on-line version of this booklet also contains e-mail and Web addresses.

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. For *Canada Direct* access numbers, see the list at the end of this booklet.

While you are abroad, tune in to Radio Canada International (RCI) or consult the RCI Web site for the latest news. RCI also broadcasts messages from the Canadian government during emergency situations. Check with RCI to obtain a schedule of the times and frequency of broadcasts to different parts of the world.

Your Passport

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. Passport applications are available on-line and at passport offices, post office outlets and Canadian government offices abroad.

Important Changes

Following the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, enhanced security measures were instituted for passport application and renewal procedures. Here are a few important changes:

April 2002: A new passport document for higher security

Using the latest digital imaging and security tools available, the new Canadian passport will continue to be among the most secure, advanced passport documents in the world. Previously issued passports will remain valid until their expiry date. (Check with the Passport Office Web site for more information.)

A passport for everyone

Effective December 11, 2001, Canadian children must have their own passport. The practice of adding a child's name to a parent's passport is no longer permitted. This new security measure is also intended to help protect children

and combat child slavery and prostitution. (More information on children's issues is available in the Publications section of our Web site.) However, if you hold a valid Canadian passport issued before December 11, 2001, that bears the name of your child, the passport will remain valid for both you and your child until it expires. Before any travel by a child, contact the embassy or consulate of the countries the child will be visiting to inquire about entry requirements.

Extended processing time

Due to thorough screening procedures, the processing period for passport applicants in Canada has been extended to 10 days for in-person applications. The processing period for mail-in applications has been extended to a minimum of 20 days. So plan to apply well before your departure.

Quebec birth certificates

Since November 26, 2001, birth certificates issued on or after January 1, 1994, by Le Directeur de l'état civil of Quebec, or a Canadian citizenship certificate, are the only acceptable identity documents as proof of Canadian citizenship for passport issuance for people born in Quebec. Baptismal certificates and municipal or civil documents are no longer acceptable.