

## BON VOYAGE, BUT...

Canadians love to travel. Each year we make more than 90 million trips abroad for both business and pleasure. The vast majority of these excursions go off without a hitch.

But unfortunately all trips don't come with a hassle-free guarantee. Accidents, illnesses, legal problems and linguistic and cultural difficulties do occur.

Most problems are minor and you can usually solve them yourself. But if you run into more serious obstacles, our Canadian missions are there to assist you.

If you're sick, in trouble or have lost your passport, our missions will do all they can to smooth your way.

*Bon Voyage, But...* will help you plan ahead. Read it before you book your next business trip or vacation abroad. And pack it in your luggage — it's a handy reference book of travel tips, important phone numbers and addresses of Canadian missions around the world. A companion publication, *Crossing the 49th*, gives Canadian travellers specific information about travel to the United States. For more information on ordering this **free booklet** and others, turn to page 31.

## PART ONE: BEFORE YOU GO

Preparation is the key to a successful trip. By doing your homework before you leave, you minimize your chances of something going wrong.

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**Learn About Your Destination**


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Before you board that airplane or train, take the time to learn about the political, cultural and economic environment of your destination. Learn at least a few key phrases in the country's language. Even a modest command of the local language will go a long way.

When you're travelling, the laws of the country you're visiting apply to you too. **Never** assume that because you're a Canadian citizen you're immune to foreign laws.

Some countries experience ongoing wars, insurgencies or sporadic unrest. Find out if your destination is known to be dangerous. Check with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade before you leave:

- ❖ Call the Department's Consular Affairs Bureau in Ottawa at **1-800-267-6788** (in Canada only) or **(613) 944-6788** (if you're in Ottawa or abroad) for travel information reports. These reports will give you background information on security and political conditions, health conditions and entry requirements (e.g. if you need a visa) for foreign countries. Information is no further than your fingertips seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If you would like to receive information by fax, dial **1-800-575-2500** and follow the instructions. In Ottawa, call **(613) 944-2500**.
- ❖ You can also find this information on the Internet. Our World Wide Web address is: **<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>**
- ❖ If you're abroad, contact the nearest Canadian mission. Addresses and telephone numbers are listed at the end of this booklet.