

USEFUL TIPS & SUGGESTIONS
Planning a Trip? Avoid Identity Theft!



Make copies of sensitive documents

Copy your passport, visas, driver's license, credit cards, etc. Leave a duplicate with a trusted friend or family member.

Sign your passport and visas

Make certain these documents are signed and the dates are current and valid.

Pharmaceutical needs

Transport prescriptions in original containers. Carry doctor's letters explaining the legitimacy of the medicine — why they are in your possession.

Travel advisories

The website <http://travel.state.gov> provides abundant information: local consulate contacts, travel warnings, and issues ranging from crime and political instability to remote road conditions.

U.S. State Department registration

Register at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. This site determines a traveler's whereabouts and serves as a communication platform in the event of an emergency.

Limited documents containing personal information

Do not take your Social Security card. Avoid excess credit cards. Leave other forms of identification if you intend to take your driver's license.

Emergency consulate phone number

Keep the consulate or embassy number handy. These safe havens will assist US travelers with emergency problems: a lost passport, medical issues, or legal entanglements.

Promptly file police reports of theft

Immediately report theft to the local police. Ask for a copy of the *Police Report*, even if you do not understand the language in which it is printed.

Avoid excesses

Avoid excessive jewelry. Use your hotel safe to store valuables. Do not leave your safe unlocked, and carefully guard the access code.

Calling card

Purchase a calling card effective in the country you are visiting. Note important access numbers such as the country code for the United States.

Notify your credit card company

Notify your credit card company of your impending trip and use of the card abroad. This will help override suspicious-foreign-activity fraud filters. Remember: **DO NOT EXCEED YOUR CARD LIMIT**. Some countries have strict laws concerning such issues, which can be considered a form of theft.

Prior to departure, determine if you are entitled to medical coverage outside the U.S. Identify medical service options in the countries you plan to visit.