

# Best Practices for Safe Traveling

Although traveling internationally can be a hassle, advanced preparation can improve your safety while you are abroad. Researching what to do, who to contact, and where to go in case an emergency arises will save valuable time. Below is a list of additional best practices for safe travel.

One important thing to remember is that you are subject to the laws of the country you are visiting. Be aware of these local laws and customs and avoid any areas considered potentially dangerous or hostile to US travelers.

## KEY POINTS

- Register for international travel alerts & warnings.
- Arrive at airports early to account for delays.
- Report any suspicious activity you see.
- Contact the nearest embassy or consulate in an emergency.

## BEFORE YOUR TRIP

Stay informed. Register for updates from the airline you're traveling with or check the US Department of State travel website<sup>1</sup> for international travel alerts and warnings.

Register international travel plans with the Bureau of Consular Affairs Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)<sup>2</sup> - this helps them locate you in the event of a disaster or other emergency.

Leave a copy of travel documents and your ID with family or friends at home. Keep photocopies with you, separate from the originals, and scan them to your My Prepara page on your portal.

Make a list of emergency phone numbers to take with you, including your company's emergency contact information and details of US embassies and consulates. Also, print, fill out and take with you the Family Communications Card located on your portal.

1. <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html>

2. <https://step.state.gov/step/>

## AIR TRAVEL

Arrive at the airport in plenty of time. Security checks may slow the check-in and boarding processes; arrive up to three hours early for international flights to leave time for transfers.

Avoid traveling at peak times whenever possible. Not only will security be tighter when there are fewer people to screen, but terrorists want to cause the most significant disruption possible.

Try to leave the airport as quickly as possible when you have landed. If you're meeting someone, organize a meeting place away from the airport.

Travel through larger US airport hubs that have more sophisticated security devices.

Develop an alternative transportation plan in case your plane is cancelled.

Be vigilant – report anything that looks suspicious to airport authorities or your flight crew.

## INTERNATIONAL TIPS

Stay aware of your surroundings at all times.

Stay in well-established hotels when possible, which tend to have better security.

Take only registered taxis with official identification.

If you are ill or injured, contact the nearest US embassy or consulate for a list of local physician and medical facilities.

Report any suspicious activity to local police and the nearest US embassy or consulate.

If you run into legal difficulty, contact a consular official immediately.

For further information on maintaining a culture of preparedness, contact one of our experts, or visit our resources for more helpful materials.

With an end-to-end solution, such as Agility Recovery, businesses can recover **4 times faster** than with no BCM solution.