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12 Travel Tips Every Student Should Know

If you are a student planning a trip overseas, here are some tips to help you with your trip. It should give you a good start to a safe and enjoyable trip abroad even though this is not at all inclusive.

You need to make sure that you have a signed and valid passport and visas if required. Before you go, you should also fill in the emergency information page of your passport. Copy or scan your passport and email it to yourself, leave a copy with family, and stick a copy in your wallet.

The Consular Information Sheets and Public Announcements or Travel Warnings, if applicable is what you should read for the countries that you plan to visit. Spending some time on the Internet doing a little research is a must. In your binder, keep important information, phone numbers, maps, and anything else that will make your trip smoother.

Register your trip with the embassy . You can do this online or upon arrival. Leave copies of your itinerary, passport data page and visas with family or friends at home, so that you can be contacted in case of an emergency. Inform your host program about of your whereabouts as well.

Make sure your immunizations are current for the country you are going to and don't forget to check with the CDC. Make sure you have insurance that will cover your emergency medical needs (including medical evacuation) while you are overseas.

Who wants to go to jail? Don't forget to study the local laws and customs of the countries to which you are traveling. Keep in mind that you are subject to the laws of the foreign country you are in. You would definitely want to avoid spending one minute in a Thai jail.

You are responsible for your belongings. Aside from traveling light, you should never accept packages from strangers and do not leave your luggage unattended in public areas. Being the innocent mule carrying drugs is something you would want to avoid.

Make sure you have studied the laws of the country you will visit. You should avoid drinking excessive amounts of alcoholic beverages, using illicit drugs, or associating with people who do. Keep in mind that the ACLU doesn't exist anywhere but America.

You should dress casually and even if you got it, don't flaunt it. Avoid wearing conspicuous clothing and expensive jewelry in order to avoid being a target for thieves and do not carry unnecessary credit cards and excessive amounts of cash.

Deal only with authorized agents when you exchange money to avoid violating local laws. Official currency exchanges and ATMs abound. It's better to use debit cards than use credit cards.

When overseas, avoid demonstrations and other situations that may become unruly or where anti-American sentiments may be expressed. Keep away from the embassy at these times.

Don't be a target for terrorists. You shouldn't wear your red, white, and blue t-shirt. You need to watch out for suspicious packages or people. You need to be alert at all times.

Check the latest travel rules and restrictions. If you have any medications, then you need to carry copies of your prescriptions.

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