

# School Safety Tips: Foreign Travel

Before departing for an overseas trip, encourage your students to learn as much as possible about the countries in which they plan to travel. Research the people and their culture along with any problems the country may be experiencing that could affect your travel plans, such as civil unrest or anti-American protests.

Here are some important tips to keep in mind when traveling to a foreign county:

- Appropriate release forms should be obtained from all students long before the trip takes place.
- Prior to the trip, hold a mandatory attendance meeting of parents to answer questions, review trip concerns, and sign release forms.
- Make sure insurance coverage is in place to cover emergency medical needs while traveling overseas. It is essential that students have medical insurance and medical evacuation insurance that would cover a medical emergency abroad.
- Visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention [website](#) and educate yourself on any illness or outbreaks of concern for the countries you are visiting.
- Be sure all of your school travelers have a signed, valid passport and visas, if required.
- Students, trip chaperones, and group leaders should always fill in the emergency information page of their passport.
- All school travelers should make copies of their passport's data page and any visas. A copy should be kept on file with the school and with a chaperone during the trip. Students should keep a copy at home with their parents in the event that their passport is lost or stolen.
- All chaperones and group leaders must be aware of emergency procedures and communications. It is important to maintain a list of emergency phone numbers and to know where the closest medical facilities are and how to contact them.

- Avoid demonstrations, civil disturbances, and other situations that may become unruly or where anti-American sentiments may be expressed
- Clearly instruct students about the practices that are and are not allowed in the countries you are visiting.
- Keep in mind, when you are in a foreign country, you are subject to their laws. Become familiar with the basic laws and customs of the country you plan to visit before you travel.
- Know the location of the nearest United States embassy and consulate where you are traveling or staying. Or enroll in the State Department STEP program: <https://step.state.gov/step/>.
- Instruct everyone in your group to never leave luggage unattended in any public area.
- Instruct everyone in your group to never accept or transport packages from strangers.
- Do not become an easy target for thieves by wearing conspicuous clothing and expensive jewelry when traveling overseas.
- Instruct your group not to carry large amounts of cash or unnecessary credit cards.
- Instruct students that cash and other valuables should be carried in the front pockets of their pants.
- Female students should refrain from carrying purses that can be easily ripped away.

**Ted Hayes is a Senior Risk Manager at M3 Insurance, specializing in developing safety programs and risk management strategies for schools.**

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