# Travelling safely overseas

## What to do before you travel and during your travel

A text-only Easy Read version

How to use this document

We are Smartraveller.

We are the Australian Government’s travel advice service.

We wrote this document.

We wrote some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is also a list of these words on page [12](#_Word_list).

You can ask someone you trust for support to:

* read this document
* find more information.

This is an Easy Read summary of information on our website.

It only includes the most important ideas.

You can find more information on our website.

[www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au)

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## What to do before you travel

### Learn about the country you will travel to

You can use our website to learn about the country you will travel to.

[www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations)

You can also use our website to learn about:

* the risks in the country and how to stay safe
* the country’s laws.

[www.smartraveller.gov.au/before-you-go](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/before-you-go)

It’s important to keep up to date on travel advice before you travel.

You can find out how to stay up to date on travel advice on page **11**.

If you are a **dual national**, you should find out if this affects your travel.

A dual national is someone who belongs to more than one country.

Whether you're a dual national depends on the laws of Australia and the other country.

### Organise your travel documents

You need to make sure you can use your passport to travel.

Check the expiry date on your passport.

You might need a new passport to travel with if it will expire in 6 months or less.

It can take a long time to get your new passport.

So it’s important to organise this as soon as you can.

You might need a **visa** to travel to some countries.

A visa is a document that says you can go to another country for a certain amount of time.

You will need to have the right documents with you when you travel.

For example, you might need documents if you’re travelling with children.

You might also need documents to say you can drive a vehicle in the country you’re travelling to.

You should get **travel** **insurance** before you travel overseas.

Travel insurance is when you pay money to a company to help cover the costs if something bad happens while you travel.

### Organise your money

You should make sure you have different ways to pay for things when you travel.

For example, different cards.

You can also change your cash for Australia into cash for the country you will travel to.

For example, you can change Australian dollars into United States dollars.

You should keep the cards and cash in different bags in case you lose one of the bags.

Theft is a problem in many countries.

It’s safer to only carry a small amount of cash on you.

Travelling outside of Australia can affect some support payments you get from the government.

You can find out more about travel and these support payments on the Services Australia website.

[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/payments-while-outside-australia](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/payments-while-outside-australia)

### Tell people where you’re going

You should tell your bank when you’re travelling.

You can ask your bank about using your cards overseas.

You should share a copy of your travel plans with friends and family members.

You should organise a way to keep in contact with your friends and family when you are overseas.

For example, using social media or email.

You can also set up your phone so you can use it overseas.

This might be through your phone provider in Australia.

Or you can use an **eSIM**.

An eSIM is a digital SIM card built into your phone.

It helps you use your phone in another country.

For example, to make calls or use mobile data.

You should also let your family know about times when you might not be able to contact them.

This might be because the time in your city at home is different to the time in the city you will travel to.

For example, 10 am in Sydney can be 8 pm in New York.

### Think about what you’re packing

You need to make sure what you pack won’t put anyone in danger.

For example, something sharp like scissors.

You can download the ‘Can I pack that?’ app.

This app can help you:

* work out what you can and can’t pack
* learn how to pack items safely.

You can learn more about packing for a flight on the TravelSECURE website.

[www.homeaffairs.gov.au/travelsecure](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/travelsecure)

### Plan for your health and flight

You should visit your doctor at least 6 weeks before you travel.

They can tell you about:

* health risks in different countries
* **vaccines** you might need.

A vaccine is medicine a health professional gives you to help your body fight off diseases and stay healthy.

You can ask your doctor for a letter that says you are ok to travel in case your airline asks for this.

You should check if you can take your medicine to the country you’re travelling to.

If you can take your medicine, you should also bring:

* copies of your prescription
* a letter from your doctor.

You will need a letter from your doctor if you have to take needles on the plane for your medicine.

If you have disability, you can contact your airline to find out about their services.

For example, seats that can support people with disability.

You should also check with your airline what supports you can bring on the plane.

### Make a plan in case things go wrong

You should take photocopies of your important documents with you.

For example, your passport and visa.

You should also give photocopies of these documents to someone you trust.

You should make sure you know what to do if there’s a **crisis** where you are overseas.

A crisis is a dangerous situation that can affect many people.

For example:

* a flood
* a group of people putting others at risk.

You can find out more about what to do in a crisis on our website.

[www.smartraveller.gov.au/while-youre-away/crisis-or-emergency](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/while-youre-away/crisis-or-emergency)

You should have contact information for people and services that can help you.

For example, local emergency services.

You should keep this contact information in places other than your phone.

You can visit our website to find out who to contact in an emergency for the country you’re travelling to.

[www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations)

You should also read the Consular Services Charter.

It explains how the Australian Government can help you overseas.

[www.smartraveller.gov.au/charter](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/charter)

## What to do during your travel

### Follow the law in each country

You must follow the law in each country you visit.

These laws can be different in each place.

Police in the country you’re visiting might put you in jail if you break the law.

And you might not be able to come home.

The Australian Government can’t get you out of jail if you break the law in another country.

The Consular Services Charter explains how the Australian Government may and may not be able to support you.

## When something goes wrong

### What to do

You might need help during your travel when something goes wrong.

For example, you might need help if:

* your passport is damaged and you need a new one
* you or a family member gets really sick
* you experience a serious crime.

For example, if someone steals something from you.

You can find information on what to do when something goes wrong on our website.

[www.smartraveller.gov.au/while-youre-away/when-things-go-wrong](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/while-youre-away/when-things-go-wrong)

### Who to contact

You can get support from the Australian Government through an Australian **embassy**.

An embassy is an office in another country where you can get support from your home country.

You can find your closest embassy online.

[www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/our-locations/missions/our-embassies- and-consulates-overseas](http://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/our-locations/missions/our-embassies-and-consulates-overseas)

You can also contact the Consular Emergency Centre.

They support Australian people living or travelling overseas with emergencies.

You can call us from Australia.

**1300 555 135**

You can call the Consular Emergency Centre from overseas.

**+61 2 6261 3305**

You can also contact your travel insurance company if something bad happened.

For example, if you were robbed.

You can visit our website for more contact information.

[www.smartraveller.gov.au/contact-us](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/contact-us)

## How to stay up to date on travel advice

You can sign up to get free travel advice updates sent to your email.

[subscription.smartraveller.gov.au/subscribe](https://subscription.smartraveller.gov.au/subscribe/)

You can follow us on Facebook.

[www.facebook.com/smartraveller](http://www.facebook.com/smartraveller)

You can follow us on Instagram.

[www.instagram.com/smartraveller](http://www.instagram.com/smartraveller)

You can follow us on X.

[@smartraveller](https://x.com/Smartraveller)

X used to be called Twitter.

## Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.

Crisis

A crisis is a dangerous situation that can affect many people.

For example:

* a flood
* a group of people putting others at risk.

Dual national

A dual national is someone who belongs to more than one country.

Whether you're a dual national depends on the laws of Australia and the other country.

Embassy

An embassy is an office in another country where you can get support from your home country.

eSIM

An eSIM is a digital SIM card built into your phone.

It helps you use your phone in another country.

For example, to make calls or use mobile data.

Travel insurance

Travel insurance is when you pay money to a company to help cover the costs if something bad happens while you travel.

Vaccine

A vaccine is medicine a health professional gives you to help your body fight off diseases and stay healthy.

Visa

A visa is a document that says you can go to another country for a certain amount of time.

The Information Access Group created this text-only Easy Read document. For any enquiries, please visit [www.informationaccessgroup.com](http://www.informationaccessgroup.com). Quote job number 6142.