

International Frequently Asked Questions

Getting Started

- [Do I need a passport for international travel?](#)
- [How do I get a U.S. passport?](#)
- [How long does it take to get my passport?](#)
- [Do I need a visa for international travel?](#)

Staying Connected

- [Will my electrical appliances \(ex. electric shavers, hair dryers, irons, chargers, etc\) work abroad?](#)
- [Will I be able to make calls with my cell phone while overseas?](#)
- [Can I get a cell phone for my trip?](#)
- [Will I be able to access the Internet with my laptop while overseas?](#)

Safety and Security

- [Do I need travel insurance?](#)
- [Do I need to have any vaccinations before going overseas?](#)
- [What if I get sick while traveling abroad?](#)

Dollars and Sense

- [How do I exchange my money?](#)
- [Will the residents in my destination speak English?](#)
- [What will the weather be like where I'm going?](#)
- [How long is the flight? What is the time difference?](#)

Things to Bring

- [International Travel Checklist](#)

Getting Started

Do I need a passport for international travel?

Yes. A passport establishes your identity and United States citizenship to anyone who needs to know. It also guarantees your admittance to the U.S. following an international trip. It is a requirement for any person traveling out of the country.

How do I get a U.S. passport?

[Click here](#) to download passport applications. This site includes new, renewal, amendment and replacement applications from the State Department web page (free of charge). You can also visit a local passport acceptance office and ask for a blank application or request one by mail. Read carefully the State Department's rules on downloaded passport applications. You will need to submit a certified copy of your birth certificate.

To obtain a passport you must have:

- Proof of citizenship. [Click here](#) to obtain a copy of your birth certificate.
- Proof of identity
- Two (2) color passport photos
- Social security number.
- Application & fees. [Click here](#) for information on passport application costs.

How long does it take to get my passport?

Passports can take up to 10 weeks to be process and returned. You should allow plenty of time before your expected travel date to receive your passport. If you need a passport immediately, the U.S. State Department can expedite the passport application. [Click here for more information on expedited passport requests.](#)

You are encouraged to send your renewal, amendment or application in by express courier service (such as FedEx or UPS) and include a pre-paid airbill to return the passport by express courier.

Do I need a visa for international travel?

A visa is a document that some countries require in addition to your passport, in order to travel within their borders. Many European and Caribbean countries do not require visas but it is best to check the [website](#). Visa requirements are different for all countries and can change over time, so be sure to check the status of your destination.

Staying Connected

Will my electrical appliances (ex. electric shavers, hair dryers, irons, chargers, etc) work abroad?

Not always. The outlets abroad may support a plug that looks different than the one used in the U.S. and may use a different voltage. Most U.S. outlets are 110V while most European outlets are 240V. Many non-U.S. electrical outlets have differently shaped plugs. To get the correct setup for your device, you should check the power standards of the [country of travel](#). Some devices only work on 110V (U.S. standard) and therefore need a transformer. You will want to check the documentation for your device to determine what you need.

If you plan on bringing electric shavers, hair dryers, irons, laptop/phone chargers or other electrical appliances, you should bring a small converter kit. These can be found at most hardware and electronic stores (i.e. Radio Shack). Do not forget to bring one, as the converter kits can be very expensive while abroad.

Will I be able to make calls with my cell phone while overseas?

Your coverage will depend on the service provider or carrier that you use and roaming charges can be high. If you have a personal cell phone, check with your provider on coverage issues. You will want to know whether your existing phone will work in your country of travel, and whether you will be able to get both voice (phone) and data (email/web) services.

- AT&T: widely available; [coverage page](#)
- T-Mobile: widely available; [coverage plan](#)
- Verizon:
 - limited coverage with most phones; [coverage plan](#)
 - widely available with global phones; [coverage plan](#)
- Nextel/Sprint: widely available with global phones; [coverage plan](#)

Can I get a cell phone for my trip?

If you would like to use a phone while overseas, and your carrier does not have a plan or coverage that is suitable for you, there are some other options.

- Rent a cell phone upon arrival at your destination
- Buy a disposable phone in the country of travel
- Purchase a compatible SIM card for your existing phone, in the country of travel

Make sure to review the capabilities, limits and charges of your new cell phone plan. If you use a phone other than your own, you will not have access to your address book, so you may wish to print out a copy before you leave.

Will I be able to access the Internet with my laptop while overseas?

Most laptops have both WIFI (802.11) and wired Ethernet ports that can be used in many hotels and convention centers around the world. Check your computer manual for basic instructions on configuring Windows XP, Windows ME and Apple Mac computers.

There are other alternatives if wireless and Ethernet service is not available, including cellular cards, WIFI hot spots and dial-up connections at your hotel.

Safety and Security

Do I need travel insurance?

Anthony Travel does not sell travel insurance, but it is recommended for all of our travelers. In the event that a situation arises that prohibits travel, travel insurance may offer protection that covers costs, insures travel and assists while you are abroad. You may choose to either purchase or decline the coverage offered. Before purchasing a policy, be sure to review all of the policy's exclusions to ensure that a specific policy is right for you and your particular trip.

Travel insurance can be booked through your individual health care provider. Anthony Travel recommends Travel Guard, which can be found by clicking [here](#) (enter the group number 45657010 when ordering). Be sure to purchase the program within 14 days of your initial trip deposit date in order to take advantage of the Pre-existing Conditions Waiver.

Do I need to have any vaccinations before going overseas?

Most developed countries do not require anything in addition to your routine vaccinations. If you are unsure or concerned about vaccinations needed for your travel destination, [click here](#) to learn more.

What if I get sick while traveling abroad?

Should you become ill while traveling, you will receive prompt and adequate care. Please note that you will be responsible for immediate expenses of any doctor or hospital visit, unless prior arrangements have been made. Contact your university or insurance carrier to determine your overseas coverage.

Dollars and Sense

How do I exchange my money?

You can exchange currency before your depart at some banks and currency exchange outlets. However, we recommend you wait until reaching your destination to exchange your money. There are several ways to do this:

The quickest and most convenient method is through ATM machines. ATM cards are widely accepted across Europe and generally give you the best exchange rate. ATM machines usually require a PIN number to identify your credit/debit card. You will need to contact your credit card company or bank in order to set up a PIN number if you do not already have one associated with your card. It is also recommended to contact your bank with specific questions regarding fees and eligibility.

Traveler's checks are also accepted at some places, but they may require more time to exchange. Many exchange outlets and banks will also accept U.S. cash dollars in exchange for the local currency. Please be aware that some places charge commission or adjust the exchange rate.

International exchange rates change on a daily basis. Be sure to write down the exact exchange rate of your destination before departure to ensure you get a similar rate.

Will the residents in my destination speak English?

Do not assume that you will be able to communicate with everyone you meet overseas. Some people know a little bit of English, some may not know any at all. It is always good to write down a few important words and phrases in the country's language before departure.

What will the weather be like where I'm going?

As with any place, the weather in your destination will vary depending on the time of year and time of day. Be sure to check an [official weather report](#) to get an idea of the current conditions. It's also beneficial to research the climate of your destination(s) during the time of year you expect to travel.

How long is the flight? What is the time difference?

Flights vary depending on distance, amount of stops and direction of travel. You can check with your airline reservations to find the exact time of departure and landing. Often times the airline can tell you the duration of your flight or trip. Remember, the departure and arrival times listed apply to the local time of the corresponding city. To learn more about international time zones, [click here](#).

Things to Bring

The clothes you need to pack will differ depending on your destination, the length of your trip, and the nature of the activities. Besides the basics, here are some things we recommend you bring for any international adventure:

International Travel Checklist

- Photocopy of your Passport (leave one copy at home)
- Camera with Memory Card
- Chargers: Phone, iPod, Camera, etc.
- Watch
- Electrical Converter/Adapter
- Comfortable Walking Shoes
- Bathing Suit
- Travel Size Toiletries
- Towel and Washcloth

And here are some things you will need depending on the weather, so be sure to check first!

- Light or Heavy Jacket
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Umbrella

Here are some additional things you may find useful:

- Small First-Aid Kit
- Laundry Bag (for dirty clothes)
- Journal and Pen
- Extra Batteries
- Ziplock baggies