

Six things to do before you travel

As a Travel Agent there are several things we advise our customers to do before they fly. It always astonishes me the numbers of people who travel unprepared for things to go wrong.

1. Download the airline APP on your phone. There is a lot of good information on airline APP's that will help you prepare for your flight. Such as baggage dimensions, seat selection, and pre-flight check-in. If there is a gate change or a flight delay, it will appear on the APP, sometimes before it is announced at the airport.
2. Put your contact information on the inside of your luggage. Air Tags are becoming very popular to track your luggage if it is lost, but we also recommend you put your name, address and phone number on a piece of paper on the inside of your luggage. If the luggage tag goes missing, it will help the airport know how to find you.
3. Print your itinerary and boarding pass. It's handy to have everything on your phone, but technology is not perfect. Having a back up hard copy means that you will never be pulled out of line because you can't pull up your boarding pass on your phone.
4. Know the address of the Canadian Consulate in the country you are visiting. If your passport is lost or stolen you will need to contact the Canadian Consulate where you are to get a temporary one to get home. It is always a good idea to carry the address and phone number of the Consulate in a foreign country.
5. Carry a photocopy of your passport. Carrying a copy of your passport is simply good for peace of mind. It has no value. It can't be used for identification. However, it does prove that you had a passport should yours be lost or stolen. It will provide valuable information to the Consulate in getting you a temporary passport.

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6. Buy Travel Insurance. You should never leave your home province without **Travel Medical** Insurance. It sounds like advice you've heard over and over, but you only have to use it once to realize it's the best purchase you have ever made. Also consider **Interruption insurance** that will cover costs should you get delayed, cancelled, or sick and incur additional expenses. It protects you until you are home again.

No one wants things to go wrong. But it's nice to know that if they do, you're prepared not just of yourself, but for those who travel with you.