



The General Council on
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International Travel Guidance for U.S. Travelers (Passports and Travel Documents)

As we continue to fulfill the Great Commission, it is important to remember that every country we travel to, from, or between may have different laws and requirements for entering, remaining in, and leaving that country. We must not only respect those laws but also prepare for them in advance.

The following are general guidelines for all international travel. As the Traveler, it is your responsibility to ensure you are aware of and prepared in advance to comply with the specific laws and regulations that may affect your trip. Below is a checklist for international travel that covers some of the basic steps to be completed in advance of the trip:

- ☐ Utilize the U.S. State Department search tool to help you understand the documentation you need for your travel:
 - [Learn About Your Destination \(state.gov\)](https://travel.state.gov)
- Use this resource to search by nation for information on passport validity, blank passport pages required, whether a tourist visa is required, vaccinations, currency restrictions for entry and for exit.
- ☐ Ensure you have the appropriate travel documents required by both the countries of departure and arrival.
- ☐ Check that your passport is valid for at least six (6) months beyond the length of the intended stay and has at least one blank visa page (more than one if a visa is required).
- ☐ Timing to obtain visas and passports can vary based on citizenship and residence of the Traveler, as well as the country of departure and arrival. Check to make sure you have sufficient processing time for any required documents.
- ☐ Ensure all required documents are valid for the entire stay and on-hand during travel. Before extending your stay, make sure your passport and visas will be valid for the extended period.
- ☐ Make sure the stated purpose of your entry matches what you will be doing on the trip. Do NOT deviate from the stated purpose of entry as approved by the host country (e.g., work must not be performed while in a country on a tourist or travel visa). Travel visas cannot be used for work purposes.
- ☐ Before departing, make sure you have all contact information for the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in the country of arrival.
- ☐ Ensure that your destination is not to a Sanctioned Country/Region. You may not be able to obtain travel insurance. If you determine that you are traveling to a Sanctioned Country/Region, you should have the approval of your organization before making the trip.