



avoiding travel mistakes

Taking some simple precautions before you travel is one way to ensure that your travel experiences are memorable for the right reasons.

Below are some handy hints & tips to point you in the right direction:

- ~ Make sure the agency you purchase your holiday through is a licensed travel agent and a member of the Travel Compensation Fund (TCF). The TCF provides compensation to travellers affected by the financial collapse of a participating travel agency business. It covers all states except the Northern Territory, which has its own insurance scheme. The TCF's web site at www.tcf.org.au gives a list of participating travel agencies.
- ~ Make sure you get a statement of all the costs involved down to various taxes including airport tax.
- ~ Establish an email address to keep in touch with family and friends and/or activate global roaming on your mobile phone.
- ~ If you are taking a laptop, back-up and wipe all personal and financial information from your hard drive. Consider investing in a checkpoint-friendly laptop bag for airport security checks so you don't have to take your laptop out of its bag before its scanned. You might also want to investigate the value of an anti-theft system.
- ~ Visit the Australian Government's travel advisory and consular assistance service at www.smartraveller.gov.au.

It has lots of good advice for travellers on how to be safe and prepared including:

- ~ Check that medications you want to take are legal in the countries you'll be visiting (contact the relevant embassy or high commission)
- ~ Get the latest travel advice for your destination or receive a regular bulletin
- ~ Register your travel and contact details online before you travel at www.smartraveller.gov.au, or at the local Australian embassy, high commission or consulate once you arrive
- ~ Leave a copy of your travel itinerary and contact details with family or friends.

Obtain an International Driving Permit (IDP) if you plan to drive overseas. An IDP must be carried with your valid Australian driver's license and is issued by the Australian Automobile Association – contact details can be found at www.smartraveller.gov.au.

Happy travelling!

Further information can also be found at www.ipac.com.au/lifedirections.