BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

- Is a visa required to enter the country? A transit visa? Foreign entry requirements are available at https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en.html (If required, find out how it can be renewed while still in the country; if not required, what is the maximum allowable stay?)
- Is your passport valid within 6 months after returning to U.S.?
- Driver’s License (International driver’s license required?)
- Check on destination country’s custom restrictions
- Verification of required immunizations and your Immunization Record (give copies to your Emergency Contact and take a copy in your luggage)
- Develop a plan in case of illness or accident & have recommendations of doctors & hospitals
- Take a copy of passport, visa, health insurance card and credit cards (front and back) with you; also give a copy of these items to someone in the U.S.
- Make arrangements with your bank to be able to withdraw money overseas.
- Made arrangements for someone to collect your mail and to check your residence often.
- Take log-ins and passwords and note IPhone precautions while traveling (Appendices VI).

Please provide the PICN Admin Office (meaphelan@ucdavis.edu) with the following documents at least 48 hours before you depart on your trip:

--- Verification email that you have registered your trip at UCOP Away Site & received UC Travel Insurance Cards: https://ehs.ucop.edu/away/#/.
--- Your supervisor-approved official travel itinerary from BCD Travel/Connexxus (or from another travel agency).
--- Both your USA Emergency Contact & Foreign Emergency Contact: name, phone & email.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE:

- Upon arrival, register with the U.S. Embassy (in person or by phone).
Check List for PICN Travelers & Field Researchers
Going to a Foreign Country

Appendices:

Appendix I. Travel Preparation & Documents
Appendix II. Health
Appendix III. Safety
Appendix IV. Guidelines for Event Leaders, Postdocs, and Field Researchers
Appendix V. UC Davis Global Affairs Office Travel Resources
Appendix VI. OSAC Quick-Guide: Traveling with Your IPhone
Appendix VII. UC Davis Travel Clinic, in UCD Student Health Services Building-Occupational Health Services, & Forms
Appendix VIII. US Dept. of State Advisories: 1) Traveling with Medication; 2) Do’s and Don’ts of Photography; and 3) Pedestrian Safety & Traffic.
Appendix I. TRAVEL PREPARATION

_____ Within 48 hours of receiving your finalized travel itinerary:

A. Register your trip at UCOP Away Site: https://ehs.ucop.edu/away/#/ and receive your confirmation and UC Travel Insurance cards.
   --This allows for UCD Risk Management to know your location in case of an emergency or an adverse event requiring your evacuation.

B. Send an email to PICN Admin, Maureen: meaphelan@ucdavis.edu that includes:
   o Your supervisor-approved, official travel itinerary from BCD Travel (or from another travel agency).
   o Copy of the Confirmation Email from registering your trip and receiving your UC Travel Insurance cards & Worldcue Alerts.
   o Your Emergency contact name, phone, & email.
   o As soon as you receive it, please email Maureen:
     --Your Key Contact in the foreign country (i.e., email, phone, fax, address).
     --Your contact address & phone number in the destination foreign country.

_____ Travel Documents:

C. **Passport:** Is your passport valid traveling by air, land & sea? Will your passport be valid for at least within 6 months after returning to the U.S?

D. **Visas:** Is a visa required for you to enter the country? A transit visa? (If required, find out the maximum duration of visa offered, and, if necessary, how the visa can be renewed while still in the country; if not required, what is the maximum allowable stay?)

E. **Driving Overseas:** US Driver’s license and International Driving Permit (IDP) + insurance required in many countries (is an international driver’s license required?).
F. **Photocopies of Travel Documents:** Make photocopies of all of your travel documents in case of emergency, loss or theft. Leave a copy with your Emergency Contact, a relative at home, or the caretaker of your pet.

-Carry the other copy with you, stored separately from your originals:

- Passport ID page
- Foreign visa (if applicable)
- Itinerary
- Hotel confirmation
- Airline tickets
- Contact information (including cell phone numbers, if available) for local contacts
- Driver's license, if carrying on the trip
- Credit cards brought on the trip
- Traveler's check serial numbers.

### Appendix II. HEALTH

_____ Verification of required immunizations and your Immunization Record (give copies to your Emergency Contact and take a copy in your luggage)


_____ UC Davis UCD Safety Services Travel Program, Occupational Health Services Travel Clinic: Provides pre-trip consultations, vaccinations, and anti-malarial drugs free for faculty and staff.

→Make an appointment with Cowell Student Health Center: 930 Orchard Rd, Davis, CA 95616 | Phone:(530) 752-2300, or your family doctor and find out what immunizations are required.

*It is the sole responsibility of the Traveler to have the proper immunizations and verification of required immunizations. PICN Admin does not keep track of each traveler’s immunization requirements and records.*

_____ Proof of your personal medical insurance coverage, in case of a health emergency.

- Take your doctor’s contact information with you.

_____ Develop a plan in case of illness or accident (i.e., have recommendations of good doctors and hospitals); have a conversation with foreign country key contact and share this with someone who can carry it out in case you cannot.

- Have the contact information of the nearest US Embassy or Consulate (personnel available for emergency assistance 24 hours /7 days a week).

- US Dept. of State Country Specific Information Pages: [http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country.html)

- In case of an emergency at home, family may reach you through: Office of Overseas Citizens Services who can relay messages to consular officers in the country where you are: **1-888-407-4747** or after hours: **202-647-5225.**
### Medications:
- As appropriate, notify local collaborators and/or field staff of specific health conditions for which you might require assistance (i.e., allergies for which you carry an Epi pen, diabetes, asthma, etc.).
- Pack enough medications to last your entire trip, including some extra in case you are unexpectedly delayed.
- Carry your medications in their original labeled containers, and pack them in your carry-on bag since checked baggage is occasionally lost or delayed.
- Get a letter from your physician in case you are questioned about your carry-on medication; some countries have strict restrictions on bringing prescription or even non-prescription medications into the country without proper medical documentation.
- Ask your pharmacy or physician for the generic equivalent name of your prescriptions in case you need to purchase additional medication abroad.

### Jetlag:
To help avoid or minimize jetlag in a different time zone: www.jetlagrooster.com

### Appendix III. SAFETY

- Upon arrival, register with the U.S. Embassy in-country especially if you are relocating to that country, or are in-country longer than 14 days.
- For shorter-term trips: Enroll in the US State Dept. **STEP (Smart Traveler Enrollment Program)** to receive up to date security and safety announcements. Enrolling will make it easier for the embassy or consulate to contact you in the event of an emergency.
  - [https://step.state.gov/step](https://step.state.gov/step)

#### A. Cultural Customs, Airport Customs Restrictions & Luggage Security
- Research differences in culture, e.g.: gift-giving; tipping; greeting people, etc.
- Check on the destination country’s airport customs restrictions re: your baggage items. Pack accordingly so you are not carrying any banned items, substances or perceived weapons.
- Pack light so you have a free hand, keep your ID, tickets & vital documents where you can see and touch them at all times.
- Cover your luggage tags to avoid showing your identity and nationality.
- Make a list of the significant contents of each suitcase.
- Place your name, address & contact phone numbers & a copy of your itinerary inside your luggage.
- Lock your luggage & keep it from any stranger’s access at all times.
- If traveling by air, make sure you have details and contact information of your ground transportation worked out ahead of time.

#### B. Money
- Notify your bank & financial institutions of the dates you will be overseas and destinations. Make arrangements with your bank to be able to withdraw money.
- Notify your debit and credit card services companies of the dates you will be overseas and your destinations.
Pay bills that will come due while you are gone; note bank account balances and the lines of credit available on your credit cards.

Check and understand the exchange rate before you travel.

Check foreign per diem rates:  https://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp and note that PICN Travelers often use a lower per diem rate. Please check with your supervisor.

Carry the minimum amount of cash necessary on your person and travel with a few hundred dollars split up between your wallet, carry-on and luggage. Consider using major credit cards instead when possible. Make sure they are accepted at your destination before departing on your trip.

-Some ATM cards might be useless in foreign countries. Use credit rather than debit cards where possible, since illegal charges are easier to waive or recover with credit cards. Consider carrying a reserve of USD (or possibly euros, depending on the destination country) as a backup, hidden in luggage (in multiple places as needed).

Be discreet and have your money organized, i.e., do not flash large amounts of money when paying a bill. Do not keep your wallet in your back pocket.

C. Online Password and Mail

Take log-ins and passwords and note IPhone precautions while traveling (see OSAC Quick Guide on page 10, below). Note that some accounts, like Gmail, require 2-step verification when logging in from a new location. Your phone may not text or work in a foreign country. You can download verification codes from Google in advance.

Make arrangements for someone to collect or forward your mail, pick up newspapers and leaflets from your door and check your residence daily.

Post Travel

Complete PICN Travel Reimbursement Form & attach receipts (see “How To” instructions on PICN Smartsite /talk to Maureen Phelan); submit to meaphelan@ucdavis.edu within 7 business days of returning home.
Appendix IV. GUIDELINES FOR EVENT LEADERS, POSTDOCS & FIELD RESEARCHERS:

UCD Travel & Event Planning Guidelines

NOTE: Applicability of each item is based on the particular event or travel.

GETTING STARTED

- As a program is developed, identify the known risks and give attention to the means of addressing them.
- Review and approve the composition of the field team in field research activities and accommodations that may be necessary at the site.
- Assess the need for first-aid supplies and expertise, as appropriate.
- Determine the appropriate clothing, personal equipment, and field equipment to support the research (if applicable to the activity).
- Review arrangements for transportation before, during, and after returning from the event location, as appropriate.
- Consider availability of appropriate food, supplies, and accommodations on-site and during travel to and from the site.
- Consider mandatory safety training in specific areas of risk applicable to the event. Many classes are available on campus, e.g., Wilderness First Aid taught by Outdoor Adventures.
- Consider whether the researcher requires a vehicle with 4WD. Please see http://www.fleet.ucdavis.edu for rates and information.
- Review PPM 370-20 with respect to Volunteer employees.
- Contact Risk Management Services for assistance in planning, as needed.

ORIENTATION ACTIVITIES

- Provide information in writing and in person (via an orientation) prior to departure to the study area on the character of distinctive known risks and dangers.
- Advise participants to seek medical guidance and information from their health care provider regarding health and immunization needs and other preventive measures appropriate to the areas to be visited.
- Advise participants to contact their health care plan regarding medical coverage while in a foreign country to familiarize themselves with out-of-area coverage provisions, exclusions, and claims-filing procedures.
- Discuss leadership responsibilities, if applicable.
- Review, prior to departure, the tasks and responsibilities assigned to participants.
- Remind participants to exercise personal judgment in order to avoid harm in situations of apparent danger.
- Provide copies of UCD Policy & Procedure Manual Section 370-05 to participants.
- Review notice requirements of Section 370-05 in the event of a catastrophic event or loss.
o Provide participants with applicable campus emergency contact phone numbers and emails.

o Advise participants of Websites that provide safety guidelines for foreign travel and study abroad, listed at the end of these guidelines.

o Regularly check the protocol outlined by the U.S. Dept. of State (http://www.state.gov) and follow recommendations contained therein in the event of a catastrophe or emergency while traveling.

FORMS

o For mandatory activities and events that represent a substantial risk of injury or loss, obtain a signed Waiver and Release (Mandatory form) (Risk Management Forms) from all participants, except UC employees who are participating in the course and scope of their employment.

o For elective or voluntary activities and events, obtain a signed Waiver and Release (Elective/Voluntary form) (Waivers) from all participants, except UC employees who are participating in the course and scope of their employment.

o The department should keep the signed waiver forms for a minimum of 3 years after the date of the return trip or completion of the program. If minors are participants, a parent or guardian must sign the form, and the length of time to maintain the form should be kept for 2 years beyond the minor's 18th birthday. The waivers may be stored electronically, without keeping the hard-copy.

o Obtain a completed Off-Campus Event Emergency Information form from each participant if the event will last 24 hours or more in duration. The completed forms should be kept in the department file for easy access by administrative staff, and the event leader is advised to carry copies of the forms while traveling in case of an emergency.

o Obtain Health Care Treatment Waiver forms.

o Establish an emergency contingency plan and provide this information to the participants. The department should keep a copy of this plan in the event of an emergency. See Travel Emergency Contingency Plan form at

INSURANCE PROGRAMS

o Provide any information available prior to departure about travel insurance (Foreign Travel Accident and Illness Insurance) availability. See UC Traveler Insurance Program. This program does not take the place of health insurance.

o For domestic travel associated with University-scheduled, sponsored, and supervised activities, notify registered students that Student Off-Campus Trip Insurance may provide limited emergency medical care coverage while away from campus in excess of health insurance coverage. See Section 370-10 for scope of coverage and instructions for the student when filing a claim. This program does not take the place of health insurance.

OTHER REFERENCES:


1. Section 270-05, Exhibit A, Standards of Conduct.

2. Section 290-50, Protective Clothing and Equipment.
3. Section 300-30, University-Owned Vehicles.
4. Section 350-10, Procurement Authority.
5. Section 370-05, Student Off-Campus Events, Programs, and Travel.
6. Section 370-10, Student Off-Campus Insurance.
7. Section 380-12, Sexual Harassment.

B. Website References:

2. NAFSA Guidelines
   b. Promoting Health and Safety in Study Abroad, http://nafsa.org/uploadedFiles/responsible_study_abroad_2.pdf?n=4131
3. Risk Management link to Travel Intelligence On-Line. Contact Risk Management Services since membership is required for access to this site.
Appendix V. UCD Global Affairs Office Travel Resources

http://globalaffairs.ucdavis.edu/travel/resources.html

University of California Resources

UC Office of the President - Travel Assistance

UC GO: University of California Global Operations

UCGO provides information and resources in support of global health research across the UC system

UC Davis Resources

Language Courses

Language Courses: UC Davis Extension

Language Courses: Davis Adult and Community Education

College, School, Department Safety and Emergency Guidelines

UC Davis Study Abroad: Health and Safety Information

UC-wide Education Abroad Program (UCEAP): Emergency Information

UC Davis Internship and Career Center: Pre-Departure Handbook

UC Davis Internship and Career Center: Safe Travel Abroad: Special Considerations for American Students Traveling Abroad

School of Veterinary Medicine: International Travel Resources for Faculty, Staff, Students

Other Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – (www.cdc.gov/travel) “Travelers’ Health” provides information relating to health information for specific destinations, vaccination recommendations, references and resources, and much more.

U. S. Department of State (www.state.gov/travel) - The Dept. of State “Travel and Living Abroad” webpage provides a plethora of information about global safety issues for travelers, as well as information about passports, visas, adoption, living abroad, marriage and divorce overseas, just to name a few topics. Most importantly, the site provides travelers with travel warnings, travel tips and other consular information.

- Each Country Page has “Local Laws & Special Circumstances” that includes “Women Travelers” and “LGBT Rights” and information on accessibility for disabled travelers.
- Page for LGBT: http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/go/lgbt.html
World Health Organization (WHO) (www.who.int/about/en/) – WHO is the United Nations’ specialized agency for health, established in 1948. Its website contains up-to-date information on health topics from around the world providing travelers with much needed information about safe food and water, diseases, insect and arthropod protection, travel medicine clinics, traveling with children and pets, as well as updates on influenza activity and other outbreaks.

Safety

iJET's Female Traveler Security Awareness Recorded Webinar

Destination Information

The World Factbook (CIA)

Communication

AT &T International Dialing Guide

Money

OANDA Currency Converter

ATM Locator Worldwide (Visa and MasterCard)

WorldClock: http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/

.................................................................................................................................
Appendix VI. UCD Global Affairs Office Travel Resources
Appendix VII. UC Davis Travel Clinic, in UCD Student Health Services Building-Occupational Health Services, & Forms:

http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/article/travel-program

Appendix VIII. US Dept. of State Advisories (see following pages):

1) Traveling with Medication

2) Do’s and Don’ts of Photography

3) Pedestrian Safety & Traffic
   - Watch Your Step
   - Surviving a Protest
Traveling with Medication

The following is based on open-source reporting.

April 4, 2015

Summary

In packing for a trip overseas of any duration, some travelers must consider how to handle health conditions that require medication. While most over-the-counter medication can be taken across national boundaries, some cannot. Most prescription drugs, particularly habit-forming and narcotics, require additional consideration.

Commonly prescribed medications in the United States could be unlicensed or controlled substances in other countries. Failing to follow specific guidance may result in confiscation, which could impact medical treatment, or stiff penalties, including imprisonment on charges for drug trafficking, with no available recourse from the U.S. government. Countries have different rules and regulations about the types of medicine allowed to be brought into the country and the maximum amount the traveler can bring. Please be sure to check Travel.state.gov before you start your trip.

Case Studies

On February 20, 2015, a U.S. citizen was arrested and incarcerated in Nagoya, Japan, for shipping a three-month supply of prescription Adderall from South Korea to Japan. Adderall, an amphetamine, is illegal in Japan, as is Ritalin; both are stimulants used widely in the U.S. to counteract ADHD. The citizen also ran afoul for repackaging her prescription from the original container, in an alleged attempt to maintain privacy and avoid stigmatization from her disorder. She was released after 18 days and heavy U.S. legislative- and diplomatic-level lobbying. For information on bringing medication into Japan, please visit the Japanese Consulate in Seattle or the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Many countries require a license prior to arrival.

The UAE has strict narcotics laws that have landed many travelers in prison: “Up to three months’ supply of a prescription item can be brought into the country by a visitor and 12 months’ supply by a resident if they can produce a doctor’s letter or a copy of the original prescription. Narcotic items can only be brought into the UAE in exceptional cases with prior permission from the director of medicine and pharmacy control...Visitors should contact the Ministry of Health drug control department to check whether their medication is on the controlled list, and needs prior permission for importation.”

Having as little as three grams of morphine in Singapore is sufficient for a death sentence. Similarly, drug offense convictions result in the death penalty in Turkey, Egypt, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand. Malaysia, Singapore, Iran, and Saudi Arabia can impose judicially-sanctioned caning, flogging, lashing, or whipping for drug offenses.

Notably, often Catholic-majority countries have conservative laws regarding oral contraceptives and devices, making them either illegal or very difficult to procure. Some countries will allow a three-month supply of oral contraception; others allow six months. In less-developed countries, access to such medications may be more difficult.

Also, traveling with an epi-Pen, which gives a dose of epinephrine (an adrenaline hormone), to counteract a severe allergic reaction may also be problematic. An OSAC staff member had difficulty in Paris finding a pharmacy that would fill an epi-Pen prescription and had to special order one to arrive at her next
international destination. Careful consideration should be taken for groups of travelers who maintain a collective first aid kit that includes an epi-Pen not prescribed to one individual, particularly if an administrator has not been trained to use the device. Ideally, only those to whom the device has been prescribed should self-administer in case of an emergency; otherwise local laws may interpret use as unlawful.

On average, though, penalties for a drug offense include lengthy prison terms (including death or life sentences) in local jails, heavy fines, and deportation.

Many international regulations for controlled drugs can be found through the International Narcotics Control Board website. Further, Annex II and Annex III list narcotic and psychotropic drugs that generally would require a traveler to provide a certificate of need. If the country is not listed on this resource, the traveler should contact the country’s embassy in U.S.

Pre-Departure Guidance

Travelers should not assume that medications approved in the U.S. are approved in another country. At least two months before departure, the traveler should consult with the treating physician about specific medications and obtain a list of comparable, generic names, including their dosage and composition, in case there is a need for a refill if the medication is licensed.

Travelers should clarify whether their insurance plan will cover the cost of doctor’s visit(s) and medication prescribed and/or filled overseas. The traveler may need supplemental insurance coverage prior to departure.

Travelers should plan to travel with “requisite medical documentation,” which includes a letter (translated into the host language and certified if appropriate) from the prescribing doctor with his/her contact information/credentials, the diagnosis, the treatment, and the medication regimen, including need for needles/syringes. The name on the prescription, container, and traveler's passport must match.

If medications contain narcotics, some countries will require an application to the local Narcotics Control Division for permission prior to entry. Some countries consider amphetamines illegal; if the traveler’s local U.S. doctor cannot make a switch before departure, the traveler will need to request permission in advanced from the local country food and drug administration.

When planning to bring medications – especially in any sizable volume, if allowed by the country, and when they are psychotropics -- overseas, it is advisable to notify the RSO or medical officer at the closest U.S. embassy or consulate ahead of time so that the appropriate parties are aware should there be an issue upon arrival at Customs.

For travelers with chronic illness or with compromised immune systems, the CDC advises travelers to discuss travel plans with the treating physician and consider if the condition is sufficiently stable, if the traveler is sufficiently fit for travel, and if the destination has adequate medical resources to handle an emergency.

Keep documentation of any valid prescriptions or doctor’s notes, as they are required for all medication upon re-entering the U.S.

Packing and Transport

Medications should be packed in original containers with the traveler's name on it (different medications cannot be combined in one container to save space), in a clear bag in a carry-on bag since checked baggage is occasionally lost or delayed.
Third parties should not carry prescription medications designated for another person, particularly if the medication contains controlled substances (i.e. a parent resupplying meds during an abroad program). Medications should not be mailed. The U.S. Postal Services restricts mailing medications, and the local customs authorities may stop the package. Both means of acquiring medication refills can be considered drug trafficking.

Travelers should not travel with more than personal-use quantities. Generally, this means no more than a 90-day supply (in some countries 30 days), provided the U.S. doctor can prescribe the whole amount and the insurance carrier will approve the quantity.

**In-Country Guidance**

When traveling abroad, travelers are subject to the laws of the country of destination. Ignorance -- willful or otherwise -- to local laws about medication legalities is insufficient when it comes to criminal charges, and violating local laws has serious repercussions.

Although travelers should always travel with an original prescription from their U.S. treating physician, many pharmacies in other countries will only fill prescriptions written in that country. Many local pharmacies will not dispense drugs without a prescription from a doctor licensed to practice in the country. If the traveler needs a refill while abroad, a local doctor must be seen to get a similar prescription that a local pharmacy will fill. It will be critical to have a letter from a U.S. doctor during this appointment explaining the diagnosis, treatment, and medication regimen. In some cases, the local physician will need to confirm the traveler’s diagnosis before issuing a prescription. Travelers should be leery of counterfeit medication in some countries.

Some medicines need to be kept at room temperature (below 25ºC) or refrigerated. If traveling to a warm, humid country, the traveler should get advice from a pharmacist or doctor about storing the medicine.

In cases of severe allergy or anaphylaxis, the traveler should wear a medical identification bracelet or necklace and carry a note from their U.S. physician. When possible, notify airline attendants of the condition to help avoid allergy triggers. The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Alliance can offer additional guidance for international travel.

**For Further Information**

The Department of State Consular Affairs maintains the “Your Health Abroad” website with various guidance and considerations for medical emergencies.

Travelers may call TSA Cares, a help line to assist travelers with medical conditions, toll free at 1-855-787-2227. TSA Cares help line are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 11 p.m. Eastern Time and weekends and holidays 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. Eastern Time. Calls should be placed at least 72 hours before travel.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also offers guidance for traveling with medication.

For additional information on health and pandemics, please contact OSAC’s Health and Disease Analyst. For country-specific concerns, please reach out to the appropriate regional analyst.
March 19, 2015

Summary

Just about everyone has a camera at his or her immediate disposal through a smartphone. It is not uncommon to want to immortalize certain individuals, experiences, sites, or scenery, especially when traveling abroad. However, individuals to be photographed might have religious or animist/indigenous beliefs that photographs steal the soul (particularly of children) or disrespect the spiritual world; gender roles may make photography difficult, precluding women from being photographed; and security apparatus (police and military) generally do not want to be photographed. Some people simply want to be paid for being photographed. However, foreign laws and customs governing what is permissible to photograph can vary vastly from U.S. norms.

Dos & Don’ts for Photography Abroad

Behavior that might be deemed inappropriate includes: lewd or lascivious acts, kissing, drinking alcohol, and immodest skin exposure. Edifices that might be deemed sensitive might include: government buildings, voting centers and processes, embassies, military facilities and vehicles (including airplanes), religious structures, and palaces. Scenery might include: war zones, sacred grounds, archeological sites, and tribal artifacts.

The use of the “selfie stick,” a telescoping rod to take photographs of oneself from approximately one meter’s distance, is banned in many locations, to include museums and art galleries, particularly in Europe.

Villagers in rural areas are sometimes suspicious of strangers, especially if they are not prone to seeing many people from outside their own community or country. There have been several incidents of violence in rural areas of Kenya, for instance, against Kenyan and foreign adults suspected of stealing children. Be aware that close contact with children, including taking their pictures or giving them gifts, can be viewed with deep alarm in some cultures, and may provoke panic and/or violence.

In some cases, anti-photography laws exist but are generally not pursued. For example, photographing the Eiffel Tower in Paris at night is technically a copyright infringement and, thus, illegal. Or, in Romania and Bulgaria, public buildings can be photographed, but those images cannot be sold. Further, in March 2014, Hungary made taking a photograph of people illegal unless everyone included has given permission; however, vagaries in the civil code leave room for interpretation.

Case Studies in 2014 and 2015

In mid-March 2015, OSAC staff members visited Turkmenistan and were told not to photograph government buildings, which are rarely clearly identified as such but are numerous in Ashgabat. After photographing carcasses in a meat market, they were approached and told not to do so again. The staff members left the stall but were overtly surveilled and followed by two men for some time.

Also in mid-March, Thailand made posting specific ‘selfies’ online, a trend common with female tourists, illegal under the Computer Crime Act, punishable by five years of jail time and a 100,000 baht (U.S.$3,035) fine.
In early March, two U.S. citizens carved their names into Rome’s Coliseum walls and then photographed themselves and their act of vandalism. The two were arrested for aggravated damage and may face fines and jail time. The Coliseum has signage in English and Italian that defacing the structure is prohibited.

In early February 2015, U.S. sisters were arrested and deported from Cambodia for taking inappropriate photographs of themselves in the Preah Khan Angkor temple, a World Heritage site. They were charged with "indecent trafficking of pornography and exposing sexual organs." The sisters were sentenced to a six-month suspended prison term, fined the equivalent of U.S.$315, and banned from the country for four years.

In October 2014, a U.S. citizen was arrested in the United Arab Emirates and charged with taking pictures of a restricted area. He was held in the al-Wathba prison, charged, fined the equivalent of U.S.$135, and released after 29 days incarceration. The U.S. citizen was to speak at a conference and then travel on to Malaysia. However, as in many cases, the detention was allegedly not communicated to the Embassy or to his contacts, and only after the U.S. citizen did not appear in Malaysia days later did his friends become concerned and begin searching for him.

Impact to Private Sector

Depending on what country is involved, visitors who violate local law or custom can be detained for lengthy periods, charged stiff fines, and/or be declared persona non grata. Not knowing local laws and customs is not excusable in the eyes of the court or police. Further, photographic documentation of illegal activities can be used in most judicial trials, as was the case when a fish poacher photographed himself with an illegal weapon in Wales, U.K. Prisons overseas are not kept to U.S. standards, and prolonged detainment under such conditions may lead to biological and psychological maladies. Further, should a detained individual be representing a corporate entity, an arrest could cause unwanted business tensions. The notoriety that would likely come, at least online if not in mainstream media, may be damaging personally, making future academic or professional pursuits challenging. For example, in March 2014, four U.S. citizens were arrested for ‘streaking’ at Machu Picchu in Peru, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. They were photographed by other tourists, and these and other ‘streaking’ photographs and videos have circulated online. Peruvian Ministry of Culture authorities are increasing surveillance measures, requiring guides and specific routes, and cracking down on a behavior that tarnishes the ancient citadel.

Guidance

In tourist destinations, including museums or galleries, and near diplomatic buildings signs will often be posted if photography is not allowed. These signs generally have a traditional camera, or increasingly an image of a cell phone, with a red circle and single diagonal line (see right image). However, in other cases, there is no signage or it is unclear. A similar sign may restrict flash photography (see left image) or videography. When traveling overseas, it is always a good idea to ask an individual directly if he or she is agreeable to being photographed or to ask the authorities if photography is permitted in the area. Perusing OSAC Crime and Safety Reports is a best practice, as they often include information on photography.

For Further Information

For additional information on global diseases and pandemic outbreaks, please contact OSAC’s Health and Disease Analyst. For country-specific concerns, please contact the appropriate regional analyst.

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.
The following report is based on open source reporting.

January 10, 2014

Introduction

When preparing an employee for international travel or an overseas assignment, a number of safety preparations must be undertaken. The employee will likely receive a briefing on the crime situation, the level of political violence, and the presence of any extremists groups in and around the area of travel and how those issues may affect the working environment. However, there are other, less emphasized aspects of security that can be just as important. One of these is an understanding of a country’s traffic situation and what it means for pedestrians.

Travelers might find vehicle transportation in a foreign country a daunting prospect. Obtaining a license might be difficult or simply not practical for short-term travelers, and driving can be intimidating when you know neither the official nor the unofficial rules of the road. Taxis are generally an option, but they might not always be the best or safest option, especially in areas with major traffic congestion or during major events. Walking, then, becomes a likelihood, if not a necessity.

Mind the Gap

According to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO) analyzing traffic accidents in 2010, pedestrians accounted for 22 percent of traffic deaths, totaling 270,000 fatalities worldwide. By contrast, 13,200 people globally died that same year from terrorist attacks. For the period from June 2012 to June 2013, at least 18 U.S. citizen pedestrians were killed in traffic accidents abroad (a slight decrease from the year prior). This represented approximately two percent of reported non-natural U.S. citizen deaths abroad.

There are a number of contributing factors to help explain these statistics. In the decade from 2002 to 2012, there was a 43 percent worldwide increase in the number of motorized vehicles produced per year. Rapid motorization without the accompanying road safety strategies and land use planning can be a recipe for disaster. For example, new multi-lane roads are often built to cut through communities without provision of safe routes and crossings for pedestrians. Speeding and drunk driving are also contributing factors.
factors. Laws for both are improving in many countries, but it often takes time for behavior and enforcement to follow suit.

Danger for pedestrians is more acute in developing nations. There, the rules of the road are not always clearly spelled out and, if they are, may be ignored with impunity. Red lights, for example, are often treated as suggestions to stop instead of mandates. In China, for example, vehicular lanes and directional travel are taken as recommendation, not law; bicycles and mopeds follow no rules of the road; and pedestrians cross and walk in traffic at will. In some countries, knowing how to drive is not even a prerequisite to obtaining a driver’s license. Nigeria, for example, only recently made driving lessons and passing a formal test a requirement for obtaining a license. According to Vietnam’s Country Specific Information page, “traffic accidents, including those involving a pedestrian and a motorized vehicle, are the single greatest health and safety risk you will face in Vietnam.” Haiti’s Country Specific Information page describes its traffic situation as “chaotic” and states that sidewalks and crosswalks, like in many developing countries, are rare. And, many countries do not have standards or mandates for vehicular maintenance and safety.

Even in more developed countries, traffic accidents are common. For example, in former British colonies, traffic moves on the left. Even seasoned travelers have stepped into the road before checking to the right for oncoming traffic. Other countries have designated areas for non-motorized vehicles, like bicycles and scooters, that may be confusing for laymen pedestrians. And, right of way customs vary even within a country.

In countries where mopeds (and alike) are commonplace, associated petty crime can affect pedestrians. It is not uncommon for a passenger on a moped to grab unsecured bags/purses from unsuspecting or distracted pedestrians while the driver then weaves through traffic to get away.

**Walking a Smart Line**

For organizations with personnel permanently in-country, it would be a good idea to map out regular walking paths, with the easiest roads to cross safely clearly highlighted. On an individual level, pedestrians should exercise good judgment any time they cross a street. On roads with steady, but slow streams of traffic, such as in Vietnam, it is important to walk slowly but with purpose. Hesitating or stepping back can confuse a driver or make him less likely to slow down or stop. Some countries also have crossing guards or dedicated pedestrian passageways that help people navigate difficult streets. If they do, find them and use them. In Germany, for example, pedestrians may only cross streets at designated crossing areas or face fines. Finally, an understanding that the traffic situation will be vastly different from the United States is a helpful tip in and of itself.

**Additional Tips for Staying Safe**

The following best practices for pedestrians are provided by the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration but can be applied in most countries:
**For Further Information**

Please direct any questions regarding this report to OSAC’s [Cross Regional Analyst](https://www.osac.gov).
The following report is based on open source reporting.

August 7, 2014

Introduction

Travelers are regularly cautioned about protest activity when visiting a foreign country. The U.S. Department of State, for example, consistently encourages citizens to “avoid all demonstrations, since even peaceful gatherings can quickly turn violent” – a phrase common to many Consular messages. However, a deeper understanding of what motivates protest activity, and who or what the intended targets are, can be useful tools for educating travelers.

The Nature of a Protest

According to a 2013 report by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, a German non-profit organization that promotes democracy and political education, the global number of protests has increased every year from 2006 (59) through the first half of 2013 (112). [Note: these were protests covered in online news media. The countries analyzed represent 92 percent of the world’s population] While protests take place throughout the world, where they occur is not always a good indicator of how they will proceed. A country with a peaceful tradition of rallying can experience violence, while another with a more acrimonious style can experience no incidents at all. For example, in Cambodia, generally known for a peaceful tradition, demonstrators and police have recently come to blows over anti-government sentiment as well as a demand for a higher minimum wage among garment workers. In South Africa, known as the “protest capital of the world” and where violence is not a rarity, most demonstrations end peacefully and without incident. Demonstrations can also take place in countries not known for having any protest tradition at all, such as in Iran during the 2009 Green Movement, or in Egypt, Syria, Tunisia, and Libya during the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings.

By their nature, protests also attract attention. They can be exciting events, and for a foreigner, provide an up-close look at a country’s political landscape. But the advice to avoid them is not dispensed arbitrarily. An overzealous demonstrator can incite a crowd; individuals with ulterior motives can infiltrate an otherwise peaceful rally; a heavy-handed police response can provoke an aggressive reaction from gatherers. When this happens, onlookers can pay the price. This past May, a bystander was killed by a stray bullet during an anti-government protest in Istanbul, Turkey. Authorities in southern China acknowledged that police “may have accidentally injured…bystanders” during an April protest against a chemical plant in Guangdong province. During Egyptian riots in June 2013, an American college student was stabbed to death as he took photographs of the unfolding violence. What starts as simple curiosity can easily turn into a fight to stay out of harm’s way.

Surviving a Protest

Protests by Region – 2006-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High-income Region</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America/Caribbean</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia/Pacific</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East/North Africa</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe/Central Asia</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Total</td>
<td>843</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data provided by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
* As of July 2013

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.
Indicators Can Help

There are indicators, however, that can be helpful to any traveler when assessing the probability for protests, and how they will play out. Anti-government protests, for instance, may not be as likely to target foreigners as they would police officers or nearby property (although the death of the American student referenced above shows this is not always true). Destroying property can be a way of not only displaying intense dissatisfaction with conditions in the country, but also attempting to undermine the government. This was the case in Thailand in 2010, when anti-government protesters targeted not only government buildings, but also commercial facilities. The same was true for 2010 anti-government/austerity protests in Greece. In both cases, foreigners were not directly targeted, and in Thailand, they were actually greeted warmly if they happened to pass by the event.

A protest against another country, on the other hand, might not result in widespread violence, but particular people and properties could be vulnerable. This past May, anti-Chinese protests in Vietnam targeted what were perceived to be Chinese-affiliated companies and factories following a maritime dispute between the two countries. In July, anti-Israeli protests in Germany and France led to the attack of synagogues and Jewish businesses in those countries.

There are also a number of issues that seem to bring protesters to the street regardless of location. For example, citizens accustomed to government subsidies (fuel, transportation, etc.) can quickly mobilize if their entitlements are threatened in any way; violent clashes in the streets of Jakarta in 2013 following a reduction of fuel subsidies are a prime example. The suspicion of electoral fraud is another key catalyst, as was evident during protests in Russia following disputed 2011 legislative elections. Another major indicator pertains to infringements--real or perceived--on basic democratic rights. Residents of Hong Kong, for example, regularly take to the streets to demand greater democratic freedom.

The Likeliest Scenario

More than likely, the biggest impact to travelers during a demonstration will be transportation difficulties, including blocked roads, crowded public transportation, and congested traffic. A lot of protests advertise in advance where and when they will take place, which makes a traveler’s job of planning to get around them easier. Even for the ones that do not, it should become pretty clear what area(s) to avoid as numbers amass. Social media can be a great tool for collecting information; organizers and participants are likely to tweet about the event or post pictures to Facebook, Instagram, or a popular local social network (such as VKontakte in Russia). During past protests, OSAC constituents have allowed employees to work remotely or even take the day off when demonstration activity encroaches on work sites or precludes safe commuting. Over periods of sustained protest activity, employers have deferred travel, and in some cases, removed personnel from the city or country entirely. Each organization is responsible for its own plan, but understanding the fundamentals is a good start to making one.

Additional Information

For recent OSAC analysis on other regional protests, please see the below reports:

Middle East Conflict Fuels Europe Protests
Haiti Opposition Protests
Northern Ireland Orangemen Parade Volatility
Royal Thai Army Invokes Martial Law
May Day

For Further Information

Please direct any questions regarding this report to OSAC’s Cross Regional Analyst.

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.