

International Travel

We are excited that you are planning an international trip and we hope you will have a wonderful experience! International travel is exciting and rewarding, but it can also be a bit daunting. This document includes resources and suggestions that will help you prepare and make your more experience enjoyable and as safe as possible.

Health and Safety

- Keeping students, faculty and staff as safe as possible while on international travel is a top priority for the university. There are many resources available for you to review at <http://www.sdsmt.edu/Academics/Study-Abroad/Preparing-Travels/Health-and-Safety/>.
- Global Scholar Online Course (<https://globalscholar.us/>)– the Health and Safety section is **REQUIRED** for students planning international travel through a university program. We strongly recommend that faculty and staff also take this helpful course. Please contact the Ivanhoe International Center to get registered.

Travel Insurance

- South Dakota Board of Regents policy **REQUIRES** students, faculty, and staff to have international travel insurance when participating in a university-affiliated international activity. The cost for students is very reasonable and insurance is required by many governments. Contact the Ivanhoe International Center at international@sdsmt.edu for more information.

General Travel Tips

Important information including credit cards, medicine, cell phones and more. All of these sites are useful.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/go/checklist.html>

<http://www.travelzoo.com/blog/20-tips-before-traveling-internationally/>

<https://www.ricksteves.com/travel-tips>

<http://www.travelandleisure.com/blogs/12-tips-to-make-international-travel-easier>

Passport/Visa

- Is your passport valid for at least six months beyond the date of your planned return to the U.S.? Some countries will not allow you to enter if it is not. It is recommended that you renew your passport if it is expiring within the next nine months. Start the process early to avoid any conflicts with your travel plans.
- Do you need a visa to enter the country you are visiting? Some require a visa if you are traveling for education or business, but not for tourism. Every country has different visa requirements, so check their web site. **START EARLY** – the process can take several weeks. Foreign consular offices in the US are available on the Office of Protocol site at <https://www.state.gov/subjects/foreign-consular-offices-in-the-u-s/>.

Travel Arrangements/Accommodations

- If you travel internationally on a regular basis, you are probably comfortable making your own hotel and transportation arrangements in your country of destination. If you don't, you may have a travel agent make arrangements for you. If you want to do it on your own, there are numerous travel sites that can provide many options. It is often less expensive to make local transportation arrangements after you arrive, and there are usually many options.

- Choosing a hotel in a safe location should be a priority. If attending a conference, hotel arrangements are usually made in advance. If you are going for individual professional purposes, ask for recommendations from the people you are meeting.
- If you are using local transportation, ask people you are meeting for recommendations. If public transportation is safe, check the local web site. Google Translate usually does a pretty good job of translating sites. It is often a literal translation, so the grammar may be a bit different. If you choose to make a purchase before you depart, please see the section on general travel tips.
- Travel resources on our web site at <https://www.sdsmt.edu/Academics/Study-Aboard/Preparing-Travels/Travel-Information/>.

Travel Apps for your phone

We have a number of travel apps that have been recommended by faculty, staff, and students. Most are free. A list is available on the South Dakota Mines Travel Information page above.

US State Department

[Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#)

Free service that allows U.S. citizens traveling or living abroad to enroll with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Benefits of enrolling in STEP:

- Receive the latest safety and security information for your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans.
- Help the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.
- Help family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.

Stay Informed

When you enroll in STEP, you will automatically receive the most current information we have about your destination country, including:

- Security and Emergency Message updates from the U.S. Embassy
- [Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts](#)

Travel Alerts

The US State Department publishes travel warning and alerts for various countries. You are not prohibited from going to those countries, but a thorough review of safety issues is required. Visit their web site at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>.