

U.S. TRAVELER'S POCKET GUIDE



Know Before You Go International Travel Regulations



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Before Your Trip	2
Booking Your Tickets	2
Each Country is Different	2
Documents You Will Need	5
Traveling with Children	8
Shopping Abroad	
Duty Free, Gifts, Household Items	10
Duty Free Shops	10
Gifts	10
Sending vs. Carrying Gifts and Other Items	11
Household Items/Effects	12
Prohibited and Restricted Items	15
Common Prohibited Items	15
What to Expect When You Return	17
Complete the CBP Declaration Form	17
Paying Duties	19
Your CBP Interview	21
U.S. Travelers' Top Ten Travel Tips	22

BEFORE YOUR TRIP

Booking Your Tickets

Match Names on Tickets and Documents

Purchase your travel tickets in the exact same name that appears on your passport or official ID. Ensure that all travel documents match that name precisely.

If the names don't match, your travel carrier or the Transportation Security Administration may require additional documents to verify your identity before allowing you to board.

Each Country is Different

Learn the required travel documents for each country you will visit. Find out about specific travel warnings, U.S. import restrictions, and other rules that apply to the countries on your itinerary by visiting www.travel.state.gov.

Find the latest on making your return to the United States problem free—go to www.cbp.gov/travel.

Trusted Traveler Programs

CBP Trusted Traveler programs speed clearance into the U.S. for pre-approved members.

While the programs are designed for frequent international travelers, all U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents may apply. Applicants provide personal background and biometric information, such as digital fingerprints.

Global Entry serves travelers at the largest U.S. airports. The application costs \$100 and membership is for five years. Go to www.globalentry.gov.

SENTRI is for U.S./Mexico travelers at land-border crossings. A SENTRI membership costs \$122.25 and membership is valid for five years. Go to www.senti.gov.

NEXUS is a joint program of CBP and the Canada Border Services Agency for U.S./Canada border crossings. The application costs \$50 and membership is valid for five years. Go to www.nexus.gov.

PASSPORT



BOARDING

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Visas

Départ /
Sorties

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FRANÇAISE
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Documents You Will Need

Carry—do not pack—all travel documents.

- All U.S. citizens need U.S. passport books if re-entering by air. Land and sea border crossings accept additional travel documents, such as U.S. Passport cards and Trusted Traveler cards. For details, go to www.cbp.gov/travel. Child travelers have additional options—see the Traveling with Children section.
- Green card (Form I-551), or document for lawful permanent residents, or advance parole (Form I-512) if your Form I-551 is pending.
- A visa or other entry document for the countries you will visit.
- Receipts or registration (CBP Form 4457) for new electronics, such as a camera or laptop, that you are taking abroad. (Only suggested if the goods are less than six months old.)
- Proof of rabies vaccinations for dogs traveling abroad. Check the requirements for other pets at www.aphis.usda.gov.

- Valid license for driving overseas and for use as a second form of photo ID.
- Permits and/or certificates if bringing restricted animal or plant products—go to www.aphis.usda.gov.



- Medications in their original packages. Bring only the amount of medication you will need. Prescription medicines have to be under the traveler's name.
- Envelope to hold the receipts of your purchases abroad.



Traveling with Children

When U.S. citizen children under the age of 16 arrive by land or sea from Canada or Mexico they may present an original or copy of their birth certificate, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or a Naturalization Certificate.

Unless the child is accompanied by both parents, the child must have a notarized letter from the other parent or signed by both parents stating, “I acknowledge that my son/daughter is traveling outside the country with [the name of the adult] with my permission.”

Groups of Children: U.S. citizen children under the age of 19 arriving by land or sea from Canada or Mexico and traveling with a school group, religious group, social or cultural organization or sports team, may present an original or copy of their birth certificate, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or a Naturalization Certificate.

The group should have a letter on organizational letterhead with:

- The name of the group and supervising adult(s).
- The names of the children on the trip and their primary address, phone number, date and place of birth, and name of at least one parent or legal guardian for each child.
- A written and signed statement of the supervising adult certifying that he or she has parental or legal guardian consent for each child.



SHOPPING ABROAD: DUTY FREE, GIFTS, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Duty Free Shops

Goods purchased in a duty free shop are not automatically free of duty upon your return to the U.S. Personal exemptions—or the value of goods that do not require the traveler to pay duty will be \$200, \$800 or \$1,600 depending on the countries visited. At every level, you may include only very limited amounts of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products in your duty free personal exemption.

Gifts

- All items you receive as gifts while abroad and items you buy to give as gifts must be declared.
- Gifts may be included in the value of your duty free personal exemption.
- Gifts for business or commercial purposes may not be included in your duty free personal exemption.

- Gifts worth more than \$5 that contain alcohol, tobacco products and perfume containing alcohol may not be included as gifts in your duty free personal exemption.

Do not gift wrap items you carry or send into the U.S.; they may need to be unwrapped during inspection.

Sending vs. Carrying Gifts and Other Items

- Gifts worth up to \$100 may be sent—free of duty and tax—to U.S. friends and relatives if one person does not receive more than \$100 worth of gifts in one day. If the gifts are sent from Guam, American Samoa or the U.S. Virgin Islands, the duty and tax-free gift amount rises to \$200.
- Alcohol and tobacco products may not be sent duty free as gifts.
- Gifts sent home do not have to be declared on CBP Declaration Form 6059B or to the CBP officer when returning to the U.S.

Mark the outside packaging of gifts sent home with:

- “Unsolicited Gift;” if sending gifts for more than one person in the package, add “Consolidated Gift Package”
- The total value of the consolidated package
- Recipients’ names
- To be duty free, each item may not exceed \$100. The traveler must list the nature and value of the gifts being mailed.

If sending new items for personal use, similarly mark the package with the nature and value of the items. Duty will be waived if the value is \$200 or less. If more, duty may be assessed by the parcel carrier.

Household Items/Effects

Items used in your household abroad are duty free if:

- You used them for at least one year while abroad.
- They are not intended for anyone else or for sale.

- Clothing, jewelry, photography equipment, electronics and vehicles are personal effects and cannot be brought or mailed duty free as household effects. Duty is usually waived on personal effects more than a year old. You must pay duty for all vehicles.
- Whether purchased or received as gifts, prohibited items may never, by law, enter the U.S. While they may seem innocent, the banned products can pose risks to human, animal or plant health. Also, the prohibited item(s) may break U.S. trade laws.
- Be cautious when buying from street vendors. If the merchandise is counterfeit (a fake) or unsafe, you may have to surrender it to CBP officers upon your return home.

Virtually all foreign made medications are prohibited from being brought into the U.S. For more information on Coverage of Personal Importations please visit:
<http://www.fda.gov/iceci/compliancemanuals/regulatoryproceduresmanual/ucm179266.htm>

PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED ITEMS

Common Prohibited Items

- Meat—fresh or processed, such as sausage or jerky
- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Plants or plant material, live or dried, such as seeds, straw and leaves
- Handicrafts made with plant or animal materials, such as:
 - Feathers
 - Dried plants, straw, reeds, grape vines
 - Animal horns or bones
 - Soil
 - Wood attached to bark
 - Cut flowers
 - Dried, processed, baked or canned products with meat, eggs or milk as an ingredient from certain countries. See a list at www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_disease_status.shtml

- Soft cheeses
- Ivory, tortoiseshell, coral and all items made from parts of endangered species
- Animal skins, bones, horns, feathers and products or trophies made from these. For specific information, go to www.fws.gov/permits/
- Seeds or bulbs unless accompanied by phytosanitary certification from the country of origin
- Live animals, including birds, insects and snails
- Eggs, egg products, and decorated egg shells (Faberge eggs are unrestricted)
- Before departing on your trip, check the latest information for the full list of prohibited and restricted items on the U.S. Department of the Treasury Cuba Sanctions website, as well as other related government resources.

If you want to buy an item, but are concerned about clearing customs, check the full list of prohibited and restricted items at www.cbp.gov/travel, or call the CBP attaché at the U.S. Embassy, or contact the CBP INFO Center at 877-227-5511. If calling within the U.S. call 202-325-8000.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU RETURN

Complete the CBP Declaration Form 6059B

You have several entry options once you return from your trip. All travelers must complete a CBP Declaration Form 6059B itemizing all purchased merchandise and agricultural products.

Here are your options:

- a. Complete a paper form that may be obtained at the port of entry or on the flight or cruise
- b. Complete the online form at a Global Entry kiosk (Only preapproved Global Entry members are allowed to use these kiosks.)
- c. Complete the online form at an Automated Passport Control kiosk.

Keeping all your purchase receipts handy in an envelope in your carry-on bag will ease this process. If warranted, the CBP officer will calculate the duties to pay on your newly acquired goods.



Paying Duties

Personal exemptions that do not require the traveler to pay duty will be \$200, \$800 or \$1,600 depending on the countries you visited.

The duty-free exemptions (\$200, \$800, or \$1,600) apply if:

- The items are for your personal or household use or intended to be given as gifts.
- Merchandise is in your possession, that is, it accompanies you when you return to the U.S. Items to be sent later may not be included in your duty-free exemption. (Exceptions apply for goods sent from Guam or the U.S. Virgin Islands.)
- Merchandise is declared to CBP. If you do not declare something that should have been declared, you risk forfeiting the item. If in doubt, declare it.
- You are returning from an overseas stay of at least 48 hours. This time limit does not apply if you are returning from Mexico or from the U.S. Virgin Islands.

- You have not used all of your exemption allowance, or used any part of it, in the past 30 days. For example, if you go to England and bring back \$150 worth of items, you must wait another 30 days before you are allowed another exemption.
- The items are not prohibited or restricted as discussed in the section on Prohibited and Restricted Items. Before departing on your trip, check the latest information for the full list of prohibited and restricted items on the U.S. Department of the Treasury Cuba Sanctions website, as well as other related government resources.

Duty free exemption limits depend on the country or countries you visit and the length of stay. Some countries reduced duty exemption rates. Learn which rates apply to the goods you purchase on your trip—go to www.cbp.gov/travel and click on Know Before You Go, or call the CBP attaché at the country's U.S. Embassy.

Your CBP Interview

To keep our borders secure and our nation safe, CBP must inspect everyone who arrives at a U.S. port of entry. The CBP officers are authorized to ask you questions about your trip and your personal background, including:

- Your citizenship
- The nature of your trip
- Anything you are bringing back to the U.S. that you did not have when you left.

Officers have legal authority to search you, your baggage or your vehicle. If asked to, place your opened baggage on the exam station. After the exam, you will be asked to repack and close your baggage.

CBP pledges to treat you courteously and professionally. If at any point you are unhappy with your treatment, ask to speak to a CBP supervisor. You may also call the CBP INFO Center at 877-227-5511. If calling within the U.S., call 202-325-8000 or go to www.cbp.gov and click on Questions/Comments.

U.S. TRAVELERS' TOP TEN TRAVEL TIPS

1. Take all the travel documents required for the countries you are visiting, as well as identification for your U.S. re-entry. U.S. citizens need passports to re-enter the country by air. Go to www.travel.state.gov for destination information.
2. Declare everything you bring in from abroad, even if you bought it in a duty free shop.
3. Be cautious when buying something from street vendors. The merchandise may be counterfeit and/or unsafe and you may have to surrender it when you return home.
4. Items bought abroad for personal use or as gifts are eligible for duty exemptions. If you are bringing them back for resale, they are not eligible for duty exemption.
5. Be aware of U.S.-prohibited merchandise, such as ivory, tortoiseshell products, and counterfeit items.



6. Many foreign-made medications are not approved for U.S. use and are not permitted in the country. When traveling abroad, bring only the medication you will need. Make sure the medication is in the original container.
7. Travels to and from Cuba — Before departing on your trip, check the latest information for the full list of prohibited and restricted items on the U.S. Department of the Treasury Cuba Sanctions website, as well as other related government resources.
8. Before bringing food to the U.S., please check the list of prohibited items. All live animals, birds and bird products may be restricted, quarantined or require certification.
9. CBP officers can inspect you and your belongings without a warrant to enforce U.S. laws.
10. For more information, read the CBP brochure, “Know Before You Go.” Request printed copies or view it online at www.cbp.gov/travel.



U.S. Customs and Border Protection



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