

## GOVERNMENT WEBSITES

### Country Information Web Sites

Many countries provide information for their citizens traveling abroad. Here are some government web sites where you can find current information.

**Department of Foreign Affairs & International Trade (DFAIT).** This is where Canadian citizens go for updated information about various countries and DFAIT services. Information includes country information, current issues, emergency contact information, and a list of Canadian government offices abroad. The "travel assistance" section provides information to help you plan a safe trip.

[http://www.voyage.gc.ca/consular\\_home-en.asp](http://www.voyage.gc.ca/consular_home-en.asp)

\*visa requirements are under the "Travel Reports" section.

\*\*There are links to various DFAIT travel publications, including:  
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/world/embassies/menu-en.asp>

\*\*\*Includes a "calendar of world events" so you can plan your trips around famous festivals & celebrations.  
<http://webapps.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/internationalcalendar/main-en.asp?Pg=W>

**United States Department of State.** For travel advisories, this is an American government site that provides up-to-date information about risks in traveling to specific countries, and it also provides

general information.  
<http://travel.state.gov>

### Infoplease Countries of the World.

Provides information on countries, capital cities, maps, and other general information. Great for planning trips, and for homework help too!

<http://www.infoplease.com/countries.html>



**Foreign & Commonwealth Office (UK).** This is the British government web site that provides travel risk information on various countries, including a risk assessment, travel advice and places to avoid travel.

\*The information listed on this web site is *for British nationals only*. The visa information, policies & procedures are for British citizens.

Web site: <http://www.fco.gov.uk>  
Their web site for travelers is:  
[www.fco.gov.uk/travel](http://www.fco.gov.uk/travel)

**Australian Government Information & Services.** Under "find information by topic", choose the "travel" option.  
Web site: <http://www.australia.gov.au/>

### **Travelbug web site: Travel Help for Young Australians**

This comprehensive web site offers sound tips and advice for any young traveler, not only Aussies. The travel checklist and packing checklist are particularly useful.

Web site: <http://www.travelbug.gov.au/>

## **A WORD ABOUT HOSTELS...**

If you're traveling and want to meet like-minded people, hostels are the perfect place! There are hostels in every corner of the globe; just be sure to check they're registered with Hostelling International, or the Youth Hostel Association – *this is for your protection*. The web sites include a global weather site, so you can plan activities with fewer surprises.

Generally, phone ahead or book online, to reserve a hostel bed in a dormitory (the cheaper way to go). It's a great way to meet other travelers, exchange information, and expand your horizons.

**Hostelling International.** This is the comprehensive web site for the Hostelling International organization. Information is categorized into residents of Canada, U.S., EU and other countries.

<http://www.hostelz.com/hi.php>

\*Their web site includes a "Get Ready Checklist" that gives general information about preparing for travel to other countries.

<http://www.hihostels.ca/English/checklist.html>

**Youth Hostel Association: Backpacker Essentials.** This site includes contact information for hostels around the world, from France to Japan to Australia.

[http://www.backpackeressentials.com.au/November2004/international/yha\\_bytes/index.cfm](http://www.backpackeressentials.com.au/November2004/international/yha_bytes/index.cfm)



P.S.: Remember to contact family at home – no matter how much they support you, they still worry!