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

*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

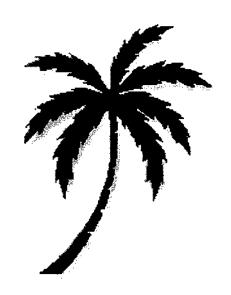
***Includes a "calendar of world events" so you can plan your trips around famous festivals & celebrations. http://webapps.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/internationalcalendar/main-en.asp?Pg=W

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.ht ml



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

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

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