



Holiday Travel: Precautions and Emergency Situations

As we anticipate the upcoming holidays, we also must consider the issues that can arise with traveling. The holiday season is the busiest travel time of the year, and many people even go overseas to celebrate with loved ones. However, when one must travel overseas and thus has to use their passport, there are a variety of issues that can come up that can turn your holiday getaway into a holiday disaster.

[Call-to-Action Link](#)

Losing Your Passport While Abroad

For those traveling overseas, losing your passport while in another country seems like a nightmare. However, it is a rather common occurrence that can be scary for American tourists, largely because you typically need that passport to re-enter the United States. Don't panic- here is what you can do should you lose your passport while in another country.

- **Contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate:** There are US embassies in nearly every country. The first step towards solving such a serious issue is to locate and contact the nearest one.
- **Obtain a replacement passport:** A US Embassy should be able to provide you with a replacement passport in time for your departure back to the US. However, you will still be required to file the same forms, provide citizenship info, and pay fees for the new passport.

[Link to Additional Resource](#)



Cruise Ships: Knowing Your Legal Rights
Laws and jurisdiction in regards to cruise ships are rather complicated, and even though your odds of being involved in an accident, injury, or crime while on a cruise ship are slim, knowing your legal rights is the proper way to ensure smooth sailing if you choose to celebrate the holidays on the high seas.

- Lawsuits regarding incidents occurring on cruise ships are typically filed in courts in specific jurisdictions chosen by the cruise line and specified in the cruise passenger ticket. Most of

TRAVELLING ABROAD?

Here Are 6 Travel Risks You May Not Be Aware Of



LUGGAGE TROUBLES



Your luggage is exposed to all sorts of risks while in transit such as delay, theft, risk of lost and damage due to mishandling.

FLIGHT ISSUES



Overbooked flight, flight delay, missed departure and flight cancellation could mean being stranded in airport for hours.

SICKNESS & INJURIES



Being exposed to new germs, bugs, unfamiliar environments and taking part in adventurous activities increase your risk of sickness and injuries.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS



While engrossed in the beauty of the foreign lands, it is easy to lose sight of your personal belongings such as mobile phone, camera and backpack.

STOLEN MONEY



The inexperienced travellers often fall prey to pickpockets, thieves and the seasoned scammers.

TRIP CANCELLATION



Trip cancellation could mean a huge loss in money spent on flight tickets, accommodations, car rental, booked tours and excursions.

So what can you do to minimize your risks?

Sources:
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www.ibanding.com/5-tips-on-how-to-keep-your-personal-belongings-safe-during-on-your-next-holiday

An infographic by: 

the major cruise lines (such as Carnival, Royal Caribbean, and Norwegian) are under the jurisdiction of the Federal Court in Miami (US District Court for the Southern District of Florida). However, for Princess, the jurisdiction is California, and for Holland America it is in Washington State.

- Federal law allows cruise lines to shorten the statute of limitations within which passengers are allowed to file lawsuits for personal injury to one year from the date of the occurrence from the normal three year maritime personal injury statute of limitations. This makes it extremely important for any injury or crime to be reported as soon as possible.
- Once a cruise ship sails more than 24 miles off of the coast of any given country, it is considered to be in international waters. This means that the laws governing crimes on the ship are determined by the flag that the ship is sailing under. Cruise lines often flag their ships in countries where laws are less strict. Crimes which occur outside of the U.S. in international waters require cooperation from all countries involved.
- A good rule of thumb while on board a cruise ship is to refrain from any behavior that would have negative consequences on land. Better safe than sorry!

Becoming Injured or Ill Overseas

Although it is certainly not a pleasant thought, there is always the possibility of getting injured while on a trip to a foreign country. Every country in the world has a unique healthcare system, and what will happen if you get injured or ill overseas can vary greatly. Below are some tips on how to handle such a scenario.

- **Car accidents abroad:** Although car accidents that occur in the US are pretty standard, abroad car accident liability can work differently. Some car insurances or the coverage purchased for a rental car will cover any injuries. Whether or not you can sue another driver for damage depends on that particular country's law, and thus it may be necessary to consult a personal injury attorney to find out.
- **Surgery abroad:** The term "medical tourism" refers to people who travel overseas to receive medical care that is cheaper or of better quality than the medical care in their own country. Sometimes, Americans will travel to another country to have surgery that is restricted or banned in the US, with perhaps one of the the most recent and common ones being a procedure that permanently changes

your eye color that has become quite popular as a result of many celebrities traveling to Africa to get this procedure because it is not legal in the United States. Just as with car accidents, medical malpractice claims vary from country to country or sometimes may not exist at all. Therefore, it is extremely important to be wary about traveling to another country to receive a medical procedure.

- **If Injured Abroad, Can You Sue?:** Fortunately for tourists, many foreign countries have also developed statutes and legal protections for injured parties to receive compensation for injuries. However, those legal systems can vary from country to country. Thus, while you can generally sue in you are injured abroad, selecting the right court and lawsuit should be left up to an attorney who is familiar with that country's injury cases.
- **Can I Sue For a Foreign Wrongful Death?:** Although it is a nightmare of a situation, there are cases in which a family member or loved one can be killed abroad. If this occurs, you may be able to file a wrongful death claim. Depending on who is responsible for the death, you may even be able to file that claim in the United States. Based on the circumstances, parties may have sufficient ties to the country you traveled to that they can be sued in a U.S. court.
- **Can You Get Worker's Comp for Getting Hurt on Vacation?:** Though unlikely, work can occasionally intrude on our vacation time. If it intrudes to the point of injury, you might be able to get workers' compensation for an injury that occurs while on vacation. The key to this is whether or not the injury is work related. If you are injured while on a business trip to another country or while performing a work function while on a vacation in another country, it might be a good idea to contact HR about a workers' compensation claim. Personal injury liability laws in other countries are often complicated and navigating a foreign legal system can be difficult. If you become injured while abroad, you should contact a personal injury attorney near you.

The Law Office of Sital J. Shah, Esq. is happy to help with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your holiday trips, whether you are celebrating here at home, overseas, or on the sea. We wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season and New Year!



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