



Information Checklist for Mission Trips: What You Need to Know Before You Go

General Country Information

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/index.htm>

U.S. State Department Country Background Notes provides general information about the population, demographics, politics and more of every nation.

www.AlertNet.org

AlertNet.org is a website tied to the global news organization Reuters. It “focuses its resources on covering fast-moving humanitarian emergencies and on the early warning of future emergencies,” according to the website. It is a great source of current, often real-time information on countries and regions of the world. It also has an extensive collection of archived materials.

<http://travel.state.gov>

The U.S. State Department maintains an international travel section. In addition to general country information, it also has entry and exit requirements, travel updates, safety suggestions, and more.

Safety and Security

www.osac.gov

The Overseas Security Advisory Council is a government-sponsored site where you can search security related news by region or country. They also have an extensive online library of reports covering topics such as food security, evacuation planning, financial scams, and much more.

<https://travelregistration.state.gov>

Travel registration for U.S. citizens traveling abroad. While this is not an information site, it does allow the U.S. government to contact you with information in the event of an emergency. If there is a disaster or unrest, you may have limited access to vital information. Government officials can get information to you and even assist in evacuation if necessary.

Health

www.who.int/countries/en

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It assesses health trends and provides technical assistance to countries that need it. The WHO's website includes an international travel and health section with a number of resources beneficial to missionary and humanitarian travelers.

www.cdc.gov/travel

The Centers for Disease Control provides travel-related health information on most nations of the world. They also provide a list of recommended vaccinations.

Travel

www.tsa.gov

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration provides security screening at the nation's airports. Look at the "What to Know Before You Go" section for the latest changes in the screening process and what you are allowed to carry on the plane.

Luggage--Airline(s) Website

Be sure to check the luggage restrictions on the websites for each airline that you will be flying. Different airlines have different allowances. You may depart on one airline without a problem but then find that your returning airline considers your bag overweight and stick you with a fee.

Transfer Airports

If you are changing planes or have a long-layover at a particular airport, check out that airport's website before you fly. Also, you will find a number of articles on various major airports at www.MinistryTravel.com/blog.

www.weather.com

Check the weather for your destination city on this site provided by the Weather Channel. It includes international cities as well cities across the U.S.