

## CHECKLIST AND TIPS FOR SINGAPOREANS TRAVELLING OVERSEAS

### Checklist

#### Before you go...

- Ensure passports have at least six (6) months' validity.
- Check visa requirements for entry to your destination (country of visit).
- Have confirmed onward/return tickets.
- Check on health and vaccination requirements.
- Bring along adequate funds.
- Get full travel and medical insurance to cover illness, injury and loss of money, baggage, tickets, etc.
- Bring along your doctor's prescription if you have to carry medication or drugs. You may need to show this at the customs checkpoint.
- Apply for Exit Permit, if necessary.
- Find out more about the country you intend to visit, particularly any cultural sensitivities.
- Carry photocopies of your identity card and passport data page, credit cards and note down travel cheque numbers, if any
- Obtain address and contact numbers of the nearest Singapore Mission.
- Leave a copy of your itinerary with your family/friends and inform them of where you are going and how you may be contacted.

### Safeguarding your Identification Documents and Funds

- Ψ Ensure that your passport is in good condition (e.g. lamination is intact, pages are not torn or missing) before departure. A passport, which appears to have been tampered with, could cause you a great deal of inconvenience at a foreign airport, including refusal of entry.
- Ψ Take all necessary precautions to safeguard your passport, NRIC and other identification documents, travel tickets, money, travellers' cheques, credit cards and insurance documents. As a safeguard try not to carry these items together. There is a risk of being left entirely without identification and funds in case of theft or loss.

### At Immigration Checkpoint of Foreign Country

- Ψ For Entry into and Departure from a foreign country, always check before leaving the checkpoint to ensure that your passport is stamped if it is a requirement. This is to safeguard you from breaching the host country's immigration laws.

## Customs Regulations

- Ψ Be familiar with the local customs regulations. In some countries, there are stringent requirements for the entry of food and agricultural products.

## Currency Regulations

- Ψ Check up on local currency regulations. The country you are visiting might require a currency declaration upon arrival and departure. (These countries include US, India, Russia, Algeria and Georgia.) In some countries it might be prudent to declare all items of value, including cash, on arrival. Ensure that the customs declaration forms are stamped and keep them safely until you leave the country.

## Illegal Drugs and Narcotics

- Ψ To deter drug abuse and drug trafficking, most countries impose severe penalties for possession or trafficking of even small amounts of illegal drugs. Be very careful if you are asked by a stranger to convey or transport any parcel, however small, especially across a border. Should such parcels contain illegal drugs, you risk being found guilty of possession, smuggling or trafficking in drugs. You should also never leave your belongings unattended or under the "care" of any stranger.

### **While you are there...**

- Obey the laws and respect local customs of the country you are visiting.
- Take special care of your passport and other documents of identification and keep them in a safe place, preferably separate from the rest of your luggage.
- Don't carry too much cash or other valuables.
- Never leave your belongings unattended.
- Always take care of personal safety and security.
- Beware of the food and drinks you consume in areas where hygiene standards are low.
- Check visa requirements for entry to your destination (country of visit).
- If you drive, be sure that you have an International Driving Permit.
- Make sure you know the local rules of the road.
- Ensure that you, your passengers and the vehicle are covered by insurance.
- Read the small print on the car hire agreements before you sign.
- Stay in touch with your family in Singapore and inform them of any change in your itinerary or contact details.
- Have confirmed onward/return tickets.
- Check on health and vaccination requirements.
- Bring along adequate funds.

## Personal Safety and Security

- Ψ Care should be taken to avoid isolated, unfamiliar places or places with a high incidence of crime.
- Ψ Do not carry too much cash or other valuables, especially expensive jewellery, as they may draw unwelcome attention.
- Ψ In case of disturbance or unrest, you should exercise caution and prudence at all times, and avoid large gatherings and demonstrations. Monitor media reports closely. Should the media report that the situation is deteriorating, you are advised to leave the destination as soon as possible. You may also wish to check with the nearest Singapore Mission on the situation.

## Local Laws

- Ψ You are subject to the local laws in the country you are visiting and have to abide by them. Persons who have violated the local laws cannot expect the Singapore Overseas Mission to intervene in the judicial process or bail them out of jail. Long delays in the judicial process are not uncommon in certain countries.

## Consular Assistance

- Ψ **What Singapore Embassies/Consulates can do...** the Singapore Embassy/Consulate can:
  - assist you if you have lost your Singapore passport, but you would first have to report the loss to the local police and furnish the Mission with a copy of the police report;
  - contact next-of-kin in the event of an accident/sickness/death and render necessary advice/assistance;
  - notify the next-of-kin in the event of arrest and try to ensure that due process under the local laws of the foreign country is accorded;
  - contact your relatives or friends and request them to send you funds for any necessary emergency expenses;
  - help you during emergencies in a foreign country, such as in cases of natural disasters or civil unrest;
  - assist you to obtain a list of officially registered local translation services where this is available.
- Ψ **What Singapore Embassies/Consulates cannot do.....** the Singapore Embassy/Consulate:
  - cannot pay your medical, hospital, legal, accommodation and other bills/expenses, provide loans or cash your cheques;
  - cannot assist you to find a job, obtain a work permit or residential status in a foreign country
  - cannot make travel arrangements (e.g. visa applications/extensions, hotel accommodation) on your behalf;
  - cannot act as your guarantor or sponsor for whatever purpose (e.g. to apply for a visa);
  - cannot intervene or act as an intermediary in disputes which are of a civil nature;
  - cannot provide legal advice;

- cannot ignore local laws if you are charged with an offence, or intervene in the judicial process of a foreign country;
- cannot post bail or pay fines on your behalf;
- cannot provide translation, mail forwarding, telephone fax/telex or other personal services.

### **Access to Consular Assistance**

- Ψ Singaporeans in distress have access to consular assistance during and after regular office hours. In an emergency, you can contact the Singapore Overseas Mission nearest to you. Outside office hours, our Mission's answering machine will, in most cases, provide the pager number/handphone number of the Duty Officer whom you can contact. If there is no Singapore Mission nearby, you can contact the Duty Office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore:

MFA Tel: (65) 63798000 (Main Line)  
Duty Office Tel: (65) 63798800

### **MFA Consular Homepage**

- Ψ Please log on to <http://www.mfa.gov.sg/consular> if you require more information on our consular services.

***HAVE A GOOD TRIP!***

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