Traveling Tips

As the weather is getting warmer and travel is getting easier, many of us are looking forward to traveling. I, for one, have never traveled much and find it to be stressful. Here are a few helpful tips that can make traveling less stressful.

Real ID

Beginning May 7, 2025, Real ID-compliant driver's licenses will be required to fly domestically. It can take time to get a Real ID, so start early. (Passports could be used also).

Passport Renewal

The State Department has begun a process to allow eligible applicants to renew their passports online. You can check if you qualify by going to the State Department's website. Go to travel.state.gov and click on the U.S. Passports tab. Be proactive about renewing your passport because some countries require your passport to be valid for at least six months _after_ your departure date.

Medications and Health Records

Bring all medications needed in your carry-on bag and bring documentation of pre-existing medical conditions as well as your doctor's and other emergency contact numbers. Having plans for medical emergencies can also be very helpful and ensure you and your family's safety.

International Cell Service

Contact your carrier to ensure that you will be able to stay connected to family and friends when traveling internationally. Also, ask for special plans to save money and international charges. Stay updated about weather and other events.

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

The State Department has a program that is very helpful when travelling abroad called the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). STEP notifies its users of Travel Advisories and Alerts to your email address so that you know about any dangerous situations. Users are able to specify alerts for their travel destination. You can create an account by going to travel.state.gov and clicking on the International Travel tab.

Creating a travel plan can make it easier to ensure that you are doing all these things and are prepared for any unanticipated emergencies so you can stay safe.