



CHILE ASH CLOUD ILLUSTRATES BENEFIT OF TRAVEL INSURANCE

Washington, D.C.—June 15, 2011—The 6,000-mile long ash cloud caused by eruptions from Chile’s Puyehue-Cordon Caulle volcanic chain continues to affect travelers from Argentina to Australia. With airports in several countries closed, hundreds of flights have been cancelled in South America, Australia and New Zealand.

The [US Travel Insurance Association](#) advises that in situations such as the current volcanic ash cloud -- and the Iceland volcanic cloud that stranded thousands of travelers in April, 2010 -- travel insurance can help.

- Most travel insurance policies provide reimbursement up to a set amount for overnight accommodations and necessities if your trip is delayed or interrupted due to airport closure, or flight cancellation because of weather-related events.
- If you have a connecting flight and your checked baggage is delayed beyond a specified period of time, many travel insurance policies will reimburse for necessities purchased to tide you over.
- If you miss a cruise departure, or a tour, hotel or resort stay because of weather-caused flight delays or airport closures, travel insurance will typically reimburse the nonrefundable portion of your payments.
- If you need to reschedule your flight, find emergency hotel accommodations, or even notify folks back home, the 24 hour helpline that comes with most comprehensive travel insurance policies can assist you with these and other services.

Weather and natural conditions can be volatile and can affect travelers at any time. UStiA advises travelers to be prepared for unforeseen events that can play havoc with travel plans. The association also advises that travelers must purchase their policy prior to the natural or weather event in order to be covered. So it’s always wise to include travel insurance when making your original trip arrangements.

About UStiA

UStiA promotes fairness, integrity, and a commitment to excellence in the travel insurance industry. With a mission to educate the public on travel insurance while maintaining high industry standards, UStiA is a non-profit association of insurance carriers and allied businesses involved in the development, administration and marketing of travel insurance and assistance. Travel insurance and assistance services are available from travel agencies, airlines, tour operators, hotels and resorts, and insurance brokers, as well as through the Internet.

For more information, consumer advice on how to shop for travel insurance, and a listing of UStiA member companies, visit the UStiA website, www.ustia.org.

UStiA also sponsors www.TRIP.org (Travel Responsibly, Informed, and Protected), a consumer advocacy web site with helpful information including timely tips on travel, health, safety, and security.

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