



For Immediate Release  
December 2, 2014

## **How to Safeguard your Passport**

Each year more than 300,000 passports are reported lost or stolen by U.S. citizens, according to State Department statistics. Noting that a missing passport can cause travelers any number of problems while abroad, the [US Travel Insurance Association](#) suggests a few simple steps travelers can take to help protect their passports and expedite replacement in case of loss.

### Be Prepared

In case a passport is lost or stolen, some advance planning can help:

- Before leaving home, the U.S. State Department suggests that you make photocopies of your passport's face page, bring one with you and leave one with a friend at home. Also consider scanning your passport and emailing it to yourself, and/or scanning a copy of your passport to an encrypted thumb drive that you can carry with you.
- Pack an extra set of passport photos to help expedite replacement in case of loss.

### When Traveling

- Use the hotel safe to store passport and other important documents.
- Do not leave any documents out in your hotel room or on the dresser.
- Consider specially designed outerwear such as a vest with an inside zipped pocket if you plan to take your passport with you while exploring the town.

### If Lost or Stolen

- Report the loss to your hotel and to local police immediately.
- Contact the nearest US embassy or consulate for a replacement. The assistance service hotline included with most travel insurance can help locate the nearest embassy or consulate, as well as help provide necessary paperwork. Often, it's possible to receive a new passport within 24 hours. Also, some travel insurance policies may offer protection against identity theft in case of a lost or stolen passport. And, if you've forgotten your passport, the assistance service can even help make arrangements to get it to you.

These and other helpful travel hints on travel security, safety, and health are available at [www.trip.ustia.org](http://www.trip.ustia.org). Sponsored by USTiA, TRIP stands for, "Travel Responsibly, Informed, and

Protected.” The site is an insider’s guide to travel tips, featuring more than 130 useful articles, all searchable by keyword.

### **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 services. Travel insurance is available from travel agencies, airlines, tour operators, hotels and resorts, and insurance brokers as well as through the Internet.

For more information and a listing of UStiA members, visit [www.ustia.org](http://www.ustia.org). Videos explaining travel insurance and medical evacuation are available by visiting the [UStiA YouTube channel](#) or by keying in *ustravelinsurance* on YouTube.

###

Contact:

Linda Kundell

Kundell Communications

212-877-2798

[linda@kundellcommunications.com](mailto:linda@kundellcommunications.com)