

## Preparing for your trip

**Below are a number of things that are a good idea to do to prepare for your trip.**

- DON'T rely on your phone for everything. You could lose it, damage it or the batteries could go dead. ALWAYS have back up hard copies of anything important.
- ALWAYS check on Covid entry requirements and make sure you have things figured out before your trip if any testing is needed. Carry Covid self-test kits for you or anyone traveling with you.
- If vaccinated for Covid, check online with your state to get electronic version of vaccination card with QR code. Some countries require this.
- Have emergency contact information for yourself and anyone traveling with you and if traveling with a group, make sure the group leader has the info.
- Sign up for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program. This is a free service provided by the U.S. State Department. You can register online at <http://step.state.gov> or through a link at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) . It only takes a few moments and can be of immense help during a crisis.
- Have extra numbers written down as well as saved in your cellphone with key contact numbers.
- If needed, be sure your cellphone is set up to make international calls and check it on arrival to the country.
- It is important that you have copies of your passports and leave a copy with a family member or trusted friend back home.
- Inside each suitcase (including carry on), place a paper with your name, address and telephone number of the place where you will be staying, flight number, dates of travel along with contact info for yourself.
- Along with leaving copies of passports behind, The State Department recommends that each traveler leave a copy of their itinerary, airline tickets, driver's license, and the credit cards they plan to take. Leave a copy of each with a family member or trusted friend and take another copy packed separately from the originals on the trip.
- Set up a pin number for a credit card you wish to use. Your ATM card may not be useable with certain ATM machines and some ATM machines will only accept credit cards using a PIN number. Call your bank to set this up in advance and to notify them of your travel plans so they will not stop your card from being used when you need it.
- If you have any medications that are vital to your health, make sure to take more than is required for the duration of the trip. In the case of a crisis that delays your return home, you probably will not have access to a pharmacy.
- Make sure to have dive accident and trip insurance. Most medical insurance companies do not cover dive accidents and the expenses that will go with one. You can check out the Channel Islands Dive Adventures website for more information on either DAN or DiveAssure.