

## **DIXIE STATE UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL PROCEDURE TIPS**

Use good judgment and take precautions - especially when traveling to countries with potential civil unrest and threat of terrorism. Check your Insurance Policy for exclusions.

When making hotel reservations, email hotel and inquire about security precautions taken to ensure safety of guests (i.e. armed guards, metal detectors, x-ray machines for luggage, etc.).

Especially important if you are unfamiliar with the language and culture of the country you are visiting, have your hotel arrange a "meet and greet" reception at the airport and a hotel car to your hotel (i.e. greeter with name placard and driver). This will expedite visa process, customs and ensure safe travel to your hotel.

When using ground transportation, use hotel taxis wherever possible. This makes the hotel knowledgeable for your whereabouts and responsible for your safety.

Rental self-drive vehicles are not advised - small incidents can become large problems when you are unfamiliar with local laws and customs.

If an independent taxi is used, ask your hotel for its business card or written note in native language which says: "Please take me to Hotel \_\_\_\_\_ (name)." Note that taxi drivers often do NOT speak English and frequently don't know locations - they may have to call your hotel for directions.

If an independent taxi is used, ask your hotel what the rate should be from A to B before your taxi ride. Travel in metered taxis if possible. If unmetered, negotiate and confirm price before getting in.

Before getting into a private vehicle with a new associate or someone you do not know, give your hotel front desk the name, phone number and email address of the individual(s) you will be traveling with, and your itinerary including proposed return time. Upon returning to your hotel, notify the front desk that you have arrived back safely.

Please keep flashlight by your bed at night as many countries have ongoing power outages. The lightweight DSU solar powered flashlight is perfect.

Note that some countries do not allow any batteries in airplane carry-on luggage.