

## Travel Insurance

## 7 Things Every Traveler Should Know

1

**Why should I buy travel insurance?**

With more booking choices, more available destinations, and more people traveling than ever before, you want to make sure you thought of everything before you travel. That's where travel insurance can help. Travel insurance helps provide coverage for unexpected travel problems, from a cancelled flight to a serious illness, inclement weather – or even an act of terrorism.

**Did you know?** 112,265 flights were cancelled and 1,037,259 were delayed in 2011<sup>1</sup>. In fact, almost 25,000 of the flights that were cancelled were due to a hurricane.<sup>2</sup> In addition, 25.8 million pieces of luggage were delayed, damaged or lost throughout the world's airports<sup>3</sup>. In 2012, almost 25,000 flights were cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy.

2

**How many people actually buy travel insurance?**

Recent studies show that as many as 120 million Americans a year have been insured against travel-related loss.<sup>4</sup> In fact, the number of Americans insured for travel in 2010 was 124 million – that's 40% of those traveling.<sup>5</sup>

**Did you know?** Since 2001, the number of people buying travel insurance has increased 300 percent!<sup>4</sup>

3

**Can I buy my travel insurance anytime before I travel?**

Insurance must be purchased no later than 24 hours before you travel, most Travel Guard plans provide extra coverage if you purchase within a certain window, for example within 15 days of your initial trip payment. Check your plan before you buy to make sure you're getting the most for your dollar.

**Did you know?** With Travel Guard's Gold Plan, you can be eligible for coverage due to pre-existing medical conditions if you purchase the plan within 15 days of your initial trip payment.

4

**What are the chances I will use my travel insurance plan?**

Industry-wide, 17%, or one out of every 6 people who buy travel insurance have actually filed a claim.<sup>4</sup>

**Did you know?** When compared to travel insurance claims, the claim frequency rate for homeowners insurance was 7.3% or one out of every 14 policyholders, according to the Insurance Information Institute.<sup>4</sup> That means that you have a higher chance of making a travel insurance claim than almost any other insurance you buy.<sup>5</sup>

5

**What is included in a travel insurance plan?**

Travel Guard "per trip" plans, such as the Gold Plan, provide a bundled package of travel coverage to help plan for a variety of common problems travelers may face away from home. The plan also includes a complete suite of 24-hour travel assistance services you can access anytime, anywhere for help with anything from medical evacuations to dinner reservations.

**Did you know?** You can begin using your Travel Guard plan before you even leave home. For example, a traveler with Travel Guard's Gold Plan can call 24/7 for help with all the little things that make a vacation worthwhile. From planning the perfect couples get-away to grabbing up those impossible-to-get tickets, a Travel Guard plan is more than just insurance coverage. It's an essential part of the smart traveler's vacation plans.

6

**What can I expect to pay for my travel insurance plan?**

Travel insurance plans are affordable and are typically based on a percentage of your overall travel cost.

**Did you know?** When considering a travel insurance plan, keep in mind the potential financial impact of not purchasing may be significant. For example, bills for a medical emergency while vacationing can mean thousands in out-of-pocket expenses.

7

**I already have insurance for my home and medical insurance through my employer. Won't that cover my belongings and medical expenses on my trip?**

Not always. Check your current coverage carefully before you travel to see if you'll be covered in the case of an emergency. Many choose travel insurance to avoid possible deductibles they may pay if they were to file claims against their existing insurance plan.

**Did you know?** Many Homeowners Insurance policies cover your personal belongings while traveling ONLY if you have "added on" or "opted in" to this extra coverage and, even then, additional restrictions may be in effect. Also keep in mind that you may have "out-of-network" medical expenses and that Medicare may not cover medical expenses incurred while abroad.

<sup>1</sup> <http://TranStats.bts.gov/HomeDrillChart.asp>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.sfgate.com/business/prweb/article/20-254-Flights-Canceled-Due-to-Hurricane-Sandy-4005462.php>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.sita.aero/content/sita-reports-more-bags-delivered-time-2011-ever>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ustia.org/news/articles/consumersurvey2006.htm>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.tripinsurance.com/do-i-need-travel-insurance>