

CYBER TRIP ADVISOR: VACATION TRAVEL SECURITY TIPS

These days, no matter where you're headed, being continuously connected is part of the travel plan. As you embark upon your next adventure, the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) urges travelers to be cyber safe while away from home by following some simple practices to help keep your devices safe and your vacation plans from going awry.



REMEMBER

No matter how you get to your destination or where you choose to stay, **you will still be connected when you're on vacation.** When traveling, you rely on technology even more to enhance your experience. Simple practices like exercising care when using public Wi-Fi and enabling security features to protect and find your devices can make all the difference in the world.

GETTING READY TO GO

Before you head out on vacation, here's a simple security checklist to add to your packing routine.

TRAVEL LIGHTLY

Limit the amount of devices you take with you. The more you take with you, the more risk you open yourself up to.

PASSWORD PROTECT YOUR DEVICES

Make sure you require the use of a passcode or extra security feature (like a fingerprint) to unlock your phone or mobile device in case either is misplaced or stolen.

SET UP THE "FIND MY PHONE" FEATURE ON YOUR DEVICES

This will allow you to find, remotely wipe data and/or disable the device if it gets into the wrong hands.

OWN YOUR ONLINE PRESENCE

Set the privacy and security settings on web services and apps. It is okay to limit how and with whom you share information (like location tracking) – especially when you are away.



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GETTING READY TO GO

UPDATE YOUR SYSTEM AND SOFTWARE

Before you hit the road, make sure all security and critical software is up-to-date on your connected devices and keep them updated during travel. Turn on “automatic updates” on your devices if you’re prone to forgetting.

BACK IT UP

If you haven’t taken a moment to back up the information on your devices, do so before heading out for vacation. If something unfortunate does happen and you lose your device or access to it, you’ll at least be able to recover the information you backed up.



ON THE GO

Now that your devices are updated, password protected, and backed up, there are a few steps you can take to improve your security while on the go:.



SHARE WITH CARE

Think twice before posting pictures that indicate you are away. Wait until you get home to share your magical memories.

ACTIVELY MANAGE LOCATION SERVICES

Location tools come in handy while planning navigating a new place, but they can also expose your location – even through photos. Turn off location services when not in use.

GET SAVVY ABOUT WIFI HOTSPOTS

Do not transmit personal info or make purchases on unsecure networks. Instead, use a virtual private network (VPN) or your phone as a personal hotspot to surf more securely.



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ON THE GO

TURN OFF WIFI AND BLUETOOTH WHEN IDLE

When WiFi and Bluetooth are on, they connect and track your whereabouts. If you do not need them, switch them off.

STOP AUTO CONNECTING

Disable remote connectivity and Bluetooth. Some devices will automatically seek and connect to available wireless networks. And Bluetooth enables your device to connect wirelessly with other devices, such as headphones or automobile infotainment systems. Disable these features so that you only connect to wireless and Bluetooth networks when you want to.



IF YOU SHARE COMPUTERS, DON'T SHARE INFORMATION

Be extremely cautious on public computers in airports, hotel lobbies and internet cafes. Keep activities as generic and anonymous as possible. If you do log into accounts, such as email, always click "logout" when you are finished. Simply clicking the "x" does not log you out of accounts.

PROTECT PHYSICAL DEVICES

Ensure your devices are with you at all times. If you are staying in a hotel, the best thing to do is lock them in a safe. If a safe is not available, lock them in your luggage. Don't leave devices unattended with strangers.

Using your device at an airport or cafe? Don't leave it unattended with a stranger while you get up to use the restroom or order another latte. Keep your devices with you at all times. The phrase "stranger danger" also applies to cybersecurity.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



FCC: Cybersecurity Tips for International Travelers:

<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/cybersecurity-tips-international-travelers>



ID Theft Center: Travel Safe Blog:

<https://www.idtheftcenter.org/travel-safe-with-these-cybersecurity-protection-tips-2/>



Consumer Reports: What You Need to Know About Cyber Safety While Traveling:

<https://www.consumerreports.org/digital-security/what-you-need-to-know-about-cyber-safety-while-traveling/>

