



## Year 1 International Travel Checklist

Au pairs in their first year on program can travel internationally as long as they have a valid J-1 visa.

To successfully travel abroad during your Year 1 on program, please complete the following steps:

- ✓ **Valid J-1 Visa:** check to ensure your J-1 visa is still valid during your intended dates of travel. This document can be found stamped on the inside of your passport. You will not be allowed back into the U.S. if your visa has expired. APIA recommends that au pairs do not travel within 30 days of the visa expiration date.
- ✓ **Travel Validation Signature:** to successfully return to the United States your Certificate of Eligibility (or DS-2019) document needs to be validated (signed) by an Alternate Responsible Officer from the home office. Send your DS-2019 document to Au Pair in America in the mail along with the formal Travel Validation Request form at least 3-4 weeks before your date of travel. Please find the form using this link: <https://www.aupairinamerica.com/pdf/travel-validation-request-form.pdf>
  - **IMPORTANT: when you receive a travel signature from our office, it ensures that you are in good standing with the program only, it is not formal permission to travel.** Au Pairs (and host families if the au pair is traveling with the family) are ultimately responsible to ensure that all visa and passport requirements are met when traveling abroad. There is always some risk with traveling outside the US, as re-entry is at the discretion of the port of entry agent. Au Pair in America is not responsible for additional costs or travel arrangements should a delay in returning to the US occur.
- ✓ **Additional Visa Requirements:** independently research whether you will need an additional visitor's visa for your destination. This will depend on your nationality and your travel destination. For example, some countries will require you to apply for a **tourist/transit visa** before being allowed to enter.
- ✓ **Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Hawaii, and Alaska:** because these destinations are either U.S. states or U.S. territories, it is not considered international travel. *Therefore, you do not need a valid visa, or your DS-2019 form signed for travel.*
- ✓ **Formal Notification:** please be certain to notify both your host family and your community counselor of your intention to travel well in advance. It's important to schedule formal vacation time and check with your counselor to ensure you are following all the program guidelines.

Travel Reminders:

- Do not carry your DS-2019 document or passport on your person once you reach your destination, as it increases the risk of losing these important documents. Store them in a safe place either in your hotel or with friends or family.
- Avoid carrying your passport as identification. If you have a state driver's license, you should use that instead. If the only picture ID you have is your passport, then be very careful with its location at all times. It is difficult to replace a passport or DS-2019 while on vacation.
- Leave a photocopy of your passport and DS-2019 with your host family before departing.