

What does travel insurance cover?

Travel Insurance

101

So, what does travel insurance cover?

Here's the very short answer:

Cancellations, medical expenses, evacuations, loss or delays, and 24/7 assistance.

These are the 5 basic types of coverage provided with vacation insurance.

1. Cancelled Trips

This is the #1 concern with most travelers.

Plane tickets, cruise fare, tour packages, hotel rooms, charter fishing boats, golf greens fees.

You invest money when planning a trip. If these expenses are pre-paid and non-refundable, you risk losing it if something goes wrong.

Trip Cancellation Coverage reimburses you for pre-paid, non-refundable expenses if you need to cancel your trip before you depart.

Covered reasons to cancel your trip:

- Sickness, injury, or death of you, a family member, or a traveling companion
- Hurricane damages your destination or cancels your flight
- Laid off from work or required to work
- Terrorist incident in your destination city
- Bankruptcy of your travel supplier
- Called for jury duty

This is only a partial list, but you can see it covers very common situations for cancelling.

The most common reason is the first one...someone getting sick or a family member passing away.

Trip Interruption Coverage is similar to cancellation coverage, but covers you while you are on your trip for the same list of covered reasons.

If something happens and you are required to return home, insurance will reimburse you for the lost portion of your trip...as well as any additional expenses for the last-minute flight home.

2. Medical emergencies abroad*

This is crucial, and often overlooked.

Most people think they are covered for medical emergencies if they already have existing health care insurance. Within the United States, that will be true.

Outside the U.S., however, is a big IF. Most do not provide coverage, and Medicare never covers you abroad.

Would you feel comfortable having a family member risk inadequate medical care in a foreign country?

For cruises, your health insurance from home may not cover you if you're traveling on a foreign-flagged ship (which includes most cruise ships).

Medical Expense Coverage will cover you for accidents and emergency medical and dental care when you travel abroad.

Even if you are covered for basic emergency care overseas (again, a big IF), your current health insurance provider will almost certainly NOT pay to evacuate you and repatriate you back to the U.S.

3. Emergency evacuations*

Emergency Evacuation Coverage will pay for emergency evacuation expenses such as airlifts and medically equipped flights back home, and oftentimes will transport you to the hospital of your choice for care.

Evacuation expenses can be devastating.

An ambulance to the hospital, an airlift to a more adequate hospital, getting you back home on board a medically-staffed flight afterwards...evacuation expenses can easily cost \$50,000.

4. Lost bags, delayed bags, delayed flights

These coverage are for the "smaller things" that are nice to have. Again, the list is not complete but it will give you an idea of some additional coverages.

Baggage Coverage can reimburse you for your personal belongings if your luggage is lost, stolen or damaged.

Baggage Delay Coverage provides money to buy essential items until your delayed bags arrive, such as a toiletry kit, a swimsuit, or another change of clothes.

Travel Delay Coverage provides reimbursement for additional expenses if your flight is delayed, such as an extra night in a hotel or a meal at a restaurant.

5. Phone assistance 24/7 worldwide

This coverage is about having a 'lifeline' to call when something happens.

Medical emergencies, stolen baggage, lost passports, cancelled flights. Every travel insurance company provides 24/7 support for all of these needs.

This service is most important when you have a medical issue.

24/7 Travel Assistance Services can help you: This coverage is provided free of charge by Frontier/Medex.

- Locate the nearest adequate hospital if needed
- Organize medical transportation
- Arrange for treatment and overcome any language barriers
- Organize transportation home
- Replace prescriptions in an emergency

In addition, non-medical assistance may include:

- Lost baggage search; stolen luggage replacement assistance
- Lost passport/travel documents assistance
- Travel information including visa/passport requirements
- Emergency telephone interpretation assistance

Additional coverage with travel insurance

Travel insurance can also provide coverage for:

Life Insurance coverage for accidental death or dismemberment.

Hazardous Sports extends the medical coverage to cover activities like SCUBA.

Rental Car Collision replaces your personal insurance or the rental company policy.

Identity Theft provides services to help in the event of identity theft while traveling.

Travel insurance covers cancellations, medical expenses, evacuations, losses or delays, and 24/7 assistance

You can use our [comparison tool to get quotes and compare vacation plans](#).

Next in the series:

Coming up we will look at the [Two Most Popular Types of Travel Insurance](#), where you'll discover the type of plan that accounts for 96% of travel insurance plans.

Go back to the [Travel Insurance 101](#) series.

How to compare and buy travel insurance

The easiest way to compare plans is to use a comparison website.

It works the same as Egencia when you buy plane tickets. You enter a few trip details and get prices from all companies at the same time. Then, you can narrow down your choices and make the right selection.

Here is a link to one of those companies: <http://www.insuremytrip.com>

*Coverage provided by UHC Global