

Advice for British visitors to Florida



British
Consulate-General
Miami



Top Safety Tips

Travel Insurance: Make sure you have adequate travel health insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment abroad and repatriation back home. Keep details of your travel insurance safe.

Health: Medical treatment is expensive and there are no special arrangements for British visitors. There are walk-in medical clinics at most pharmacies, but if you need emergency medical assistance during your trip, dial 911 and ask for an ambulance. Contact your insurance/medical assistance company promptly if you're referred to a medical facility for treatment.

Some hospitals may ask non US residents to pay a deposit or 'good faith' payment upon admittance. Any requests for funds should be directed to your travel insurance provider in the first instance; you should only pay the hospital if you are advised to do so by your travel insurance company. Your level of medical care won't be affected while your claim is being processed.

There are occasional outbreaks of mosquito-borne diseases, including West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, Dengue Fever and the Chickungunya virus. Take suitable steps to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes!

Crime: Take sensible precautions to protect yourself against petty crime. Violent crime, including gun crime, rarely involves tourists, but you should take care when travelling in unfamiliar areas. Research your destination before travelling, be vigilant, and follow the advice of local authorities.

Local laws and customs: Laws vary from state to state. When you are physically present in a state, even temporarily, you are subject to that state's laws. The legal drinking age in Florida is 21. You must keep passport with you at all times.

Your passport: Don't lose it! Make a copy of the details page and keep it in a separate place. Every year the British Consulate helps many visitors whose passports are lost or stolen. Keep an eye on your hand luggage at airports or hiring a car and always keep your passport in a safe place.

Driving: Drive on the right. Don't sleep in your car by the roadside or in rest areas. Try to stay on main roads and use well-lit car parks. Petrol stations that don't display the price of fuel usually charge considerably more than the national average for a gallon of fuel. They're often found close to tourist destinations and airports, and notoriously near to Orlando International Airport.

Watch out, there's a trunk thief about!

It's not what you think, it's worse! (in the USA, the boot of your vehicle is called a trunk)

Don't leave your passports in rental vehicles, including the boot as there have been a high number of thefts by gangs targeting the vehicles of those who appear to be tourists.

Hurricanes: The hurricane season normally runs from June to November and can affect Florida. You should monitor the progress of approaching storms on radio and television, and follow the instructions of local authorities including if ordered to evacuate.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) website contains information about how to prepare for extreme weather conditions and what to do if you are told to evacuate. It also provides a list of disaster supplies that will help if you live in an area affected by storms and hurricanes. Visit www.fema.gov for more information.

Tornadoes: Tornadoes can occur at any time of the year depending on weather conditions. Ensure you keep up to date with local weather forecasts. If a tornado warning is issued, take shelter immediately and follow the advice of local authorities.



Don't be alarmed, be alert!

Sign up for our Twitter alerts service. During a crisis or emergency, we will send you Twitter alerts with time-sensitive, critical information related to an unfolding event. With Twitter alerts activated, it's faster to get essential information when you need it. Sign up at twitter.com/FCOTravel/alerts.

Travel Advice: Check out our travel advice where you can subscribe to updates. Visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/usa.

The help, or consular assistance, we offer includes:

- Issuing Emergency Travel Documents*;
- Providing information about transferring funds;
- Providing help if you have suffered rape or serious assault, are a victim of other crime, or are in hospital;
- Contacting you as soon as possible after being told that you have been arrested;
- Providing details of how to contact a lawyer for assistance;
- Offering support and help in a range of other cases, such as child abductions, death of relatives overseas, missing people and kidnapping;
- Making special arrangements in cases of terrorism, civil disturbances or natural disasters.

But we can't:

- Get you out of prison, prevent the local authorities from deporting you after your prison sentence, or interfere in criminal or civil court proceedings;
- Give you legal advice, investigate crimes or carry out searches for missing people;
- Get you better treatment in hospital or prison than is given to local people;
- Pay any bills or give you money.

Calling the UK: The international dialling code for the UK from the USA is **011 44** (followed by the UK number without the first 0). To call the USA from the UK, the code is 001.

Lost Bank Cards: Call the following to report your lost/stolen bank card as soon as possible:

MasterCard: **1-800-627-8372**

Visa: **1-800-847-2911**

American Express: **011-44-1273-696 933**

The nearest British Consulate is:

British Consulate-General Miami
1001 Brickell Bay Drive
Suite 2800
Miami FL 33131
USA

Telephone +1 305-400-6400 (24 hours)

Website: gov.uk/world/usa



*If you are in Orlando, we may be able to offer a remote emergency travel document issuing service with the assistance of our travel industry partners. Please call us to discuss your requirements before travelling to Miami