

Your Holiday Border Crossing: Final Preparation

Last-minute steps to ensure a smooth holiday border crossing

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Holiday travel week is here. These final preparations separate smooth crossings from holiday disasters.

Real-Time Information Monitoring

Don't rely on information from days ago. Current conditions change constantly during holidays.

Check before departing:

- Border wait times (CBP Border Wait Times app)
- Weather forecasts for entire route including border area
- Traffic conditions on approach routes
- Any emergency closures or delays
- Special alerts for your crossing point

Technology setup:

- Download border wait times app
- Enable weather alerts for crossing area
- Set up traffic notifications
- Verify international calling works
- Charge all devices fully and bring backup power

Weather Contingency Planning

Winter weather creates unpredictable complications.

Final weather checks:

- Review forecasts from multiple sources
- Check conditions at border, not just your location
- Monitor wind chill and extreme cold warnings
- Watch for winter storm warnings on travel day
- Consider postponing if severe weather forecast

Have ready in your vehicle:

- Alternate routes identified
- Emergency supplies (blankets, water, food, first aid)
- Warm clothing accessible, not packed away
- Fully charged phone with car charging capability

Documentation Quick-Check

Must have accessible:

- Passports (check expiration dates one final time)
- Enhanced driver's licenses or other approved documents
- Children's documentation
- Vehicle registration and insurance proof
- Pet documentation if applicable

Organization:

- Documents in waterproof folder or bag
- Readily accessible, not buried in luggage
- Digital copies on phone
- Physical copies separate from originals
- Emergency contact has copies

Declaration Final Review

Review what you're bringing:

- All food items (even if you think they're allowed)
- Gifts and purchases value
- Cash and monetary instruments over \$10,000
- Medications (carry in original containers)
- Business documents or equipment

Common last-minute mistakes:

- Adding items to vehicle without updating mental declaration
- Forgetting about food in coolers or bags
- Not accounting for gifts others put in your vehicle
- Failing to declare items received as gifts

At the Border

When you arrive:

- Have documents ready before reaching the officer
- Turn off radio and lower windows completely
- Remain calm — holiday stress is not the officer's problem
- Answer questions directly and honestly
- Declare everything — penalties for non-declaration are severe
- Check in with SafelyArrived once you've crossed safely

Set up your SafelyArrived check-in at safelyarrived.com

No app. No download. If you don't check in — your emergency contacts are automatically notified.

Be Prepared. Not Scared.

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