

Agent4VIPs Travel Resource Library
Book #001 • The Smart Traveler's Passport & Travel Documents Guide

Chapter 2

Passport Basics

A passport is the single most valuable travel document you can carry when traveling internationally. Even when a cruise itinerary may allow alternative documentation, a passport provides the greatest flexibility if your plans unexpectedly change due to weather, medical emergencies, or missed connections.

Passport Book vs. Passport Card

Feature	Passport Book	Passport Card
International Air Travel	✓ Yes	✗ No
Closed-Loop Cruises	✓ Yes	Sometimes (eligible itineraries only)
International Land/Sea Border Crossings	✓ Yes	✓ Yes (eligible borders)
Recommended for International Cruises	✓ Absolutely	Not as your primary document

The 6-Month Passport Validity Rule

Many countries require your passport to remain valid for at least six months beyond the date you plan to leave their country. Even if your passport has not expired, you could be denied boarding if it does not meet that country's validity requirement. Check your passport as soon as you book your trip.

Applying or Renewing Your Passport

- Apply as early as possible—processing times vary.
- Review the latest application requirements before submitting paperwork.
- Consider expedited service if you are traveling soon.
- Verify all personal information before your passport is issued.

If Your Passport Is Lost or Stolen

Report a lost or stolen passport immediately and begin the replacement process as soon as possible. If you are overseas, contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate for assistance.

Aimee's Pro Tip

As soon as you book an international vacation, check every traveler's passport expiration date—including children. It's one of the easiest things to verify early and one of the most stressful issues to discover right before departure.