

## Better Insure Before Travel than be Sorry



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**W**hile planning a vacation, you use words like unwinding, adventure, fun and entertainment, and not accident, illness and medical emergency. So, you usually don't bother to buy a travel insurance plan, unless it is mandatory.

Even though you don't make a claim every time you buy a travel insurance, it is unwise to go out without one. Medical costs in most foreign countries are high. Even consulting a doctor can burn a big hole in your pocket. The trend is creeping in India too.

A travel plan provides cashless hospitalisation and, if needed, covers the evacuation cost. It insures you against mishaps such as loss of checked-in baggage or

passport, trip cancellation/interruption and personal liabilities. It also pays for legal support in a financial emergency.

By spending a few hundred rupees, you not only insure yourself against financial disaster but ensure that, if need be, you get the best possible service.

Travel insurance is a comprehensive insurance policy that offers cover for both medical and financial emergencies that might arise while traveling anywhere, especially abroad. There are several travel insurance plans that offer protection during domestic travel as well as overseas travel.

You may have an existing health insurance policy, but that will only provide you medical emergencies cover while you are in your country. Many insurance companies give a special card that can be used to obtain cashless service at hospitals. Not all policies offer cashless claims service, though. These policies require the insured to take care of the expenses and claim the amount covered later.

### **Travel Insurance options available in India**

Broadly, there are three types of travel insurance plans available in the market, namely, single trip, multi-trip and family travel insurance.

**Single trip:** This type of insurance is typically custom made for an occasional traveler. The maximum period of this plan generally does not exceed 6 months. It is



best suited for businessmen or individuals who travel overseas on specific occasions. These plans generally cover accidental death, emergency evacuation, medical expenses, disablement benefits and delayed departure and baggage.

**Multi-trip insurance:** This plan is designed for people who frequently travel to overseas locations. These plans are usually valid for one year and may slightly vary depending on the insurance provider. In this plan, a customer can choose from 30, 45, 60 and 90 days, as the duration of their trip. In other words, this is one plan that saves money for the frequent traveler. It is also convenient as the traveler has to pay a premium just once and is secured for an entire year for the travel. There is no limit to the number of visits you can make during this period.

**Family travel insurance:** This is also termed as Family Floater Plan by a few insurance companies. This plan provides comprehensive financial coverage to the entire family, while traveling overseas for a single trip. Within this plan, each and every member of the family is covered under single policy with a single premi-



um. The family members share the sum assured in this plan.

### Eligibility for travel insurance

In most travel insurance plans, the eligible age may range from 5 years to 70 years. Moreover, you can avail travel insurance for a trip that is as short as 1-4 days. The idea behind travel insurance is to facilitate you when you need it the most. You do not have to go through any medical examination to apply for travel insurance.

## Advantage of Travel Insurance



