



What to do following an **injury abroad** in
**The United States of
America**

Part of the **Slater and Gordon Travel Safety** series.

Going abroad, whether for leisure, travel, or business, is often something many of us look forward to. Though we all want to enjoy our time overseas, it's always best to be prepared for anything that may go wrong.

Our travel litigation experts have put together this useful guide so you can safeguard yourself and fellow travellers during your trip to America.



For specialist advice, call us on
0330 041 5723

Before your trip abroad:

Get travel insurance.

Policies differ significantly, so ensure you take out insurance that covers your scenario, especially if you intend to participate in high-risk activities or hire a motorcycle.

Always read the general exclusions and small print. If in doubt, contact your insurance provider.

Be aware of medical treatment costs.

In America, healthcare expenses are high so it's wise to get short term medical insurance and ensure you have sufficient funds for medical treatment should you need it.

Make sure to keep your passport and personal belongings safe.

If your passport is lost or stolen, you'll need an emergency travel document from the nearest British Embassy, High Commission, or consulate. The easiest way to obtain this is via the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office: www.gov.uk/fco



If you're injured while abroad in The United States of America:

1. Assess the injury and **seek medical attention** if necessary. **Call 911 for emergency services** in the US.
2. If you've been injured due to the fault or negligence of another person, **note their contact details and relevant information specific to the incident**. For example, a vehicle registration number in a road traffic accident.
3. If possible, and if it's safe to do so, **take photos of the incident and your surroundings**.
4. **Identify any witnesses** of the accident and get their **contact details**.
5. **Go to the nearest hospital** if your injuries are serious. If you can wait until you're home, **visit your GP to report any suffering or symptoms**. This will ensure the incident is on record. If in doubt, seek help.
6. **Obtain copies of medical reports** and/or any discharge reports detailing the treatment you've received.
7. **Visit a local police station or sheriff's department** to obtain a **reference number** if applicable.
8. **Contact your insurer, your package holiday provider, and your local representative** to make them aware of what has happened.
9. **Note all your expenses and keep receipts**. These costs may be reimbursed as part of your claim.
10. **Never enter into agreement with any foreign party**, whether that be a tour operator or an American lawyer.
11. **Contact travel litigation specialists** for legal advice on your accident abroad claim.

Limitation periods to pursue a personal injury claim can **vary from state to state**. If you booked a package holiday through a UK based provider, then UK limitation dates apply which is **3 years from the date the accident occurred**.

Our travel litigation experts have supported thousands of jetsetters who've been injured abroad, from injuries caused from luggage falling from the overhead lockers on a plane to serious road traffic collisions.

For specialist advice, call us on
0330 041 5723

