



**A Helpful Guide to Your Travels with Two (or more) Passports
By Dual Citizens and Travelers to Over 70 Countries and Counting**

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There are exceptions to every rule. With more than 200 countries on earth, there are undoubtedly a myriad of exceptions for each, making it impossible to list everything. This guide is meant to address the concerns of the vast majority of people.

We are dual citizens with travel experience in over 70 countries. However, this guide should also not be considered legal advice. The contents here are the summary of our own personal experiences and do not represent legal counsel. We take no responsibility for how you use, or don't use, this information and make no guarantees.



Passports & Citizenships

What is a Passport?

A passport is a travel document, usually issued by the government of a nation, that certifies the identity and nationality of the holder for the purposes of international travel.

For the vast majority of cases (there are always exceptions, such as stateless persons, refugees), having a passport from a country indicates that you are a citizen of that country. Of course, you do not have to have a passport to be a citizen. Most Americans do not have passports. But, if you do have a passport, you are a probably citizen of that country. Conversely, if you are a citizen of a country, you are most likely eligible to obtain a passport issued by that country.

What Does a Passport Allow?

Passports are specifically meant for international travel. This does not mean that you can go anywhere you like once you have a passport! For example, US citizens are not allowed to travel to Cuba even with a passport (as usual, there are exceptions to even this specific rule). Even if you are allowed to travel to a country, you may be required to obtain additional documentation prior to your travels, mainly in the form of a visa. Visa requirements for travel to every country vary by the country that issued your passport.

Example: US Citizens are required to obtain a visa prior to traveling to Brazil. Your application process includes paying a large fee, taking photographs and submitting a detailed itinerary. Conversely, Italian Citizens traveling to Brazil can simply book a flight and present their Italian passport upon arrival.

What is Citizenship?

Having citizenship of a certain country means that you have both certain rights and certain responsibilities related to that country. In the majority of cases, citizens have the right to live and work in the country in which they are citizens. Having citizenship may mean that you have the right to vote, own land and do business. Responsibilities of citizens vary largely by country. Citizenship may even mandate military service.

How do you Acquire Citizenship?

Most people acquire citizenship by birth. If you were born in Country A by parents of Country A, you are most likely a citizen of Country A.

There are, of course, many exceptions to this rule that are too numerous to list. In fact, the US and Canada are themselves exceptional in that citizenship is granted by birth regardless of the citizenship status of your parents. If a non-US citizen pregnant woman comes to the US on vacation and gives birth, the child is a US citizen.

Most people start their lives as citizens of one country. In most cases, that country is the country in which they were born. How then, do you acquire citizenship, and therefore a passport, to additional countries? How are some people citizens of countries they have never even traveled to?

Citizenship by Acquisition, Including Marriage

This covers individuals that started out their lives in one country and then for various circumstances moved to another, eventually acquiring their new country's citizenship without giving up their original.

This also covers obtaining citizenship because you married someone with a citizenship different from your own. For this type of acquisition, the process is not instant. You typically have to be married for a certain amount of time and may be subject to additional requirements depending on the country.

Example: The US will not require you to renounce your citizenship to most other countries if you become a US citizen. This does not mean that your original country will allow it. Those immigrating to the US from India are required by India to give up that citizenship when US citizenship is obtained. Of course, there are always exceptions and loopholes that may apply.

Example: You were born in Australia and hold an Australian passport. In your 20's, you decide to move to the US. After years of living in the US, you acquire your "Green Card" (permanent residency). Years later, you become a US citizen. You can now obtain a US passport. You have the same travel rights and rights to live in America as anyone who was born there. You are also still an Australian citizen and can also hold a passport from that country. Forget about that Green Card, you don't need it anymore!

Citizenship by Birthright, Including by Religion

You can also acquire additional citizenship through birthright. Let's say for example your parents or grandparents came from another country and because of that country's laws, you qualify for citizenship there as well. This can all get very complicated, but you see it a lot with people of Italian, Irish or other European descent. It is worthwhile to note that you can very well become a citizen of a country without ever actually travelling to that country.

Israel is the most well-known country that grants citizenship by religion. If you are "legally" Jewish by birth or by conversion, you just have to move to Israel to quickly start the citizenship process. You will obtain your passport after living there for at least one year.

Example: You were born in the US and are therefore a US citizen. Your grandfather was from Italy and never became a US citizen. You can apply to have your Italian citizenship "recognized" by following a procedure outlined by the Italian government via their consulates in the US. You eventually become an Italian citizen and receive an Italian passport, never having been to Italy before in your life. You have the right to travel "as an Italian" and even move to Italy (or elsewhere in the EU) permanently if you decide.

How do you Acquire Citizenship?

Citizenship by Investment

There are a handful of countries (mostly in the Caribbean) that grant citizenship if you invest enough cash. You don't even have to live there. This is not a particularly common or worthwhile way to obtain multiple passports, but it is interesting to know so we are including it here.



***Multiple Passports:
How to Acquire and Benefit***

Passports from Multiple Countries

Once you are a citizen of a country, you can most likely obtain a passport from that country. There is actually an interesting case that is worthwhile to mention though:

Multiple Passports from a Single Country

Another option to obtain an additional passport is to actually get a duplicate passport from the same country. In the case of the US, you just need a reason to justify having two simultaneous passports and the State Department will issue you an additional two year book. Obviously having two of the same passport doesn't give you all the benefits of having two passports from different countries, but it still has its perks.

Visa Requirements

Every country's passport brings with it different entry requirements as you travel around the world. Having two passports from different countries often lets you choose which passport is the most beneficial to use at any given time.

Reciprocity Fees

Some countries may not require you to have a visa, but may charge you a "[reciprocity fee](#)" to make up for what your country charges their citizens when they enter. Americans [feel the effects of these fees the worst and mostly in South America](#). US passport holder? A visit to Bolivia will cost you \$140, Paraguay \$65 and Argentina \$160, just to name a few. Got another passport? Use it instead!

Immigration Lines

Definitely the most trivial of the benefits, but most countries make it far easier for their citizens to enter than foreigners. Have an EU passport? Enjoy a shorter line in all European Union countries.

Visa Issuance

For frequent travelers, [having to send your passport away to issue a visa](#) can be a problem if you need to travel during the same time-frame. Having two passports (of the same or different countries, depending on your exact situation) solves this by letting you send one passport away while you continue to travel on the other.

Country Conflicts

Not all countries get along. Some don't recognize others existence and some take it so far that if they see a stamp in your passport they don't like they may not let you in. Let's say for example you visit Israel and then later on the same passport you need to visit Lebanon. Lebanon is not going to let you in because of that Israeli stamp but a second passport provides a clean slate and no questions asked. Remember: although the country that issued your passport may be able to see your travel history, other countries, for the most part, cannot.

Avoiding Controversy

Sometimes governments don't make the best decisions. Sometimes you may want to avoid a potential security risk to yourself by using a more "neutral" country's passport.

A visa is issued by a country that is not your own for the purposes of visiting that country for a given amount of time and/or for a given purpose. It is a requirement in addition to your passport. Prior to traveling to any country to which you are not a citizen, you must find out about the visa requirements. There are two flavors of visas:

Visa on Arrival

There are actually two types of visas that are obtained upon arrival to a foreign country: a stamp and a sticker. Generally, receiving a stamp in your passport alone doesn't feel like you're getting a visa per se. But technically, that stamp indicates the conditions of your stay in that country. It will usually list your date of entry and the expiration date or number of days you're allowed to remain in the country. This is almost always free, however be sure to check prior to your departure.

The second type of visa on arrival is a sticker. You don't have to do anything prior to arriving (but always check first!) but you usually will have to visit a separate counter prior to passing through immigration to purchase a sticker. Make sure you know the fee for this visa and the acceptable payment methods. Often times only certain currencies are accepted (usually USD or Euros).

Visa Prior to Travel

This type of visa is what people think of when they hear “visa”. Obtaining a visa prior to traveling to a country can be as simple as filling out a form online (e-visa) or as difficult as having an in-person appointment at that country’s consulate. The requirements vary wildly from one country to the next depending on your citizenship and purpose of visit. The odds of your visa being “approved” also vary based on the country to which you’re traveling and by your citizenship.

Visa Requirements

As you learned, visa requirements vary by destination country depending on your citizenship. The biggest, practical advantage to having multiple passports is the ability to find the easiest requirements for obtaining a visa. It may mean the difference between obtaining a visa prior to travel versus just getting stamped when you arrive. It may mean the difference between paying nothing or paying hundreds of dollars. It may mean the difference between going to a country or not.

Length of Stay

A visa, whether it is obtained on arrival or prior to arrival, is always valid for a certain length of time and for a certain purpose (tourism, business, student, etc). Even though your visa is physically located within a certain passport, its actually linked to you and not your passport. This means that you are not allowed to overstay in a country by using a combination of your multiple passports. You are you – you are not your passport.

Reciprocity Fees

Reciprocity fees are not visas, but they might as well be. Popular in South America, these fees require those travelers entering on certain passports to pay a fee prior to getting stamped at immigration. It is best to pay attention to these fees in addition to visa fees when deciding which passport to use.

The short answer is “yes”. You would be surprised at how many people are dual citizens (but after getting over 1,000 inquiries for help on this topic, we are no longer surprised by how many dual citizens there are out there!). The real question here is, is it legal to be a citizen of more than one country? If it is legal to be a citizen, then it is legal to have the passport.

The most common misconception is that a country does not “allow” dual citizenship. You need to make sure that you are very clear in what you mean by “allow”. There are actually two interpretations.

The most common interpretation of “allow” is **recognition**. A country may not “recognize” you as a dual citizen. Again, this is most often the case. Citizenship is absolute. If you are American and Irish, the US considers you 100% American. When dealing with US authorities (whether this be for travel, tax, business or employment related activity), they are not under the impression that you are Irish **at all**. To them, you are always a US citizen. They do not recognize you as Irish. This does not mean that you are not Irish. If the US were to learn about your Irish citizenship, you would not get in trouble. They would not take away your American citizenship. If you traveled to Argentina on your Irish passport, then informed US Customs of that fact, nothing bad would happen. You’re still a US citizen and you still went to Argentina.

For other countries, “allow” does mean “allow”. If you are Indian, you will lose your Indian citizenship (and passport) if you become a US citizen. If you are found to still have your Indian passport (and “citizenship”) after you become American, you could be in real trouble with India. Whether or not you lose citizenship depends on both the “new” citizenship that you are acquiring and your “original” citizenship.

There are laws in place for every possible combination of countries. Wikipedia actually has a great article on [Multiple Citizenship](#).



The Rules for Multiple Passports

Rules

There are a handful of rules that you need to follow regardless of how many passports you have:

- If you are a citizen of the country to which you're traveling, you must enter with that country's passport.
- You must always enter and exit a country using the same passport. To be clear, when you enter a country, you present passport A. When you pass through exit immigration on your way out, you must also present passport A. *Note that the US has no exit immigration.*
- You must not switch passports mid-stream. We will explain this one more when we walk you through the airport process and introduce an example.

In addition to the actual rules, you need to be aware of the following:

- Even though you have more than one passport, you are still one person. A country's laws generally apply to a person, not a passport. If you'd like to stay longer than you're allowed to in a country (provided you're not a citizen), you cannot leave and reenter using a different passport to attempt to fool the system. Similarly, if you broke the law while visiting a country on one passport, you probably shouldn't try to avoid things by using a different passport the next time you want to travel to that country.
- It's a good idea to always travel with all valid passports that you hold – you never know!

Determine Which Passport to Use

As long as you follow the rules listed on the previous page, you are free to decide which passport to use when traveling to a given country. That said, there may be rules in place that will “decide” for you.

You will have to do some research into your specific travel itinerary to determine your best possible option. Refer to the Benefits of Multiple Citizenships & Passports to think through all of your possible advantages. Generally, you should ask yourself:

- What costs might I be able to avoid/reduce by using one passport over another? This may include visa and reciprocity fees.
- What hassles might I be able to avoid/reduce by using one passport over another? This may include avoiding a trip to a consulate, mailing your passport for a visa or even just waiting in a longer line at immigration.
- Are there any safety implications of traveling on one passport versus another?
- Does one passport offer a longer length of stay versus another?
- Does one passport permit you to work in your destination country if you’d like to do so?

How to Book Your Flight

Most people book their flights online. When you are booking an international flight, you are asked for both your nationality and passport information. This can be a difficult process to navigate if you're going to be using more than one passport on your trip.

A large source of this confusion is that there is no “booking a flight with a passport.” It is information that you enter online, and you should do your best to make sure it is correct, but that information isn't set in stone.

So, which passport's information should you enter?

The easy answer to this question is that it doesn't matter. You will have to go to the airline counter when you get to the airport and the airline agent will enter your information there, potentially overwriting what you had entered online. In this way you can “book a ticket on one passport”, but actually travel on one passport for one leg and another passport on another leg of your trip.

It's pretty obvious from the above, but airlines' systems typically aren't able to handle travelers with multiple passports. This extends to their online flight check-in systems, so you are probably best checking-in at the airport.



How to Navigate the Airport

The Key Players

Generally you will encounter three types of “officials” who will check your passport/identification at the airport when you are departing a country.

When you arrive at your destination, you will typically only encounter one official (we are considering Immigration and Customs to be one entity).

- **Airline counter employee:** You will only encounter this person when you are departing. They are the person who is responsible for determining if you are allowed into the country you’re traveling **TO**. This means that you should **present the passport that you intend to use when you arrive at your destination**. If you want to enter your destination as a citizen of Country A, use your passport from Country A.
- **Security:** You will generally also only encounter this person when you are departing. They are checking your identification to ensure it matches your boarding card. Technically you can use any passport here because a passport is an official document. **We recommend using the passport you presented to the airline** though, especially since some people have slightly different names in each of their passports. This will ensure your passport matches the boarding card exactly.

- **Immigration:** Typically you will encounter an immigration officer when you both depart and enter a country. In both cases the function of Immigration is to determine if you have permission to be **where you are at that moment**.
 - **Arrival: Use the passport that you used to check into your flight.** Remember, the airline personnel should have determined that you have permission to go to the country to which you're flying.
 - There are a few countries that put their "arrival" immigration officers at the departure point. Just be aware of this fact and treat the process like you would if arrival immigration were located in your destination country like normal!
 - **Departure (Exit Immigration):** Yes, we know that you depart before you arrive and thus we have presented these bullets in the wrong order. But we have a reason. At Exit Immigration, **present the passport you used to enter the country that you are currently in**.
 - If you feel like you never "entered" the country you're currently in, it is probably because you're a citizen of that country and/or you live there permanently. Use the passport that is tied to that citizenship/residency.
 - Note that the US has no exit immigration.

What if you are questioned?

It is important to remember that you are not doing anything wrong by having (and traveling on) more than one passport. If you are questioned by authorities, you should answer truthfully.

Of course there are cases where people try to illegally use multiple passports: if dual citizenship isn't allowed (refer to [Is This Legal?](#)), if you have committed a crime, etc. We make no recommendations and do not have any advice for you in these cases.



Step-by-Step Guide with Examples

The best way to learn the steps you're required to take is to see examples. The following is a case that allows you to see how to approach using more than one passport to travel. We are including both the generic steps and also an example in this first sample case.

In our case, Michael, our example traveler, has two passports: US and Italian. He is starting his trip in the US and to flying to Brazil and then back to the US. He wants to use his Italian passport to enter Brazil to save on the visa cost and hassle. He should take the following steps:

Step 1: Starting Point

We assume that you have permission to be where you currently are. We will refer to this as your *Home Country*, although it does not have to be your home! Permission can be a passport from that country that denotes citizenship, or a visa/stamp in another country's passport that allows you to be there. You are traveling to your *Destination Country*.

Example: Michael is American and lives in the US. He wants to go to Brazil. Brazil requires a complicated visa for US citizens, but no such visa for Italians. He will therefore enter Brazil as an Italian.



Step 2: Book Your Ticket

Authority: Airline

Passport to Show: The One You'll Use at Your Destination

Often when you book a plane ticket to an international destination the airline will ask you for your passport details. If you have two different passports, you should provide the details of the passport you plan on using to enter your destination country. The reason the airline asks for passport details is to determine if you are allowed to go where you are going. If they allow you to fly without permission to enter, they risk a large fine from the destination country.

You read earlier and will see later in this example that you can overwrite this information at the airport. This is useful if you will be using a different passport on each leg of your trip.

Example: Michael books a ticket to Brazil and enters his Italian passport details with the airline.



Step 3: Check in at the Airport

Authority: Airline

Passport to Show: The One You'll Use at Your Destination. If you are flying to a country whose passport you hold, you must use that passport. If you are flying to another country, you are free to decide which passport to use.

Here we do the same thing as step two. We show the airline the passport we plan to use when we reach our destination country. It doesn't matter if that passport does not allow you to be in the country you are departing from. That is not their concern.

Often times you will not be able to check in online. It is possible the airline's system is not robust enough to handle multiple passports

Example: Michael checks in to his flight in the USA using his Italian passport.



Step 4/5: Airport Security (may be before or after Exit Immigration)

Authority: Airport Security

Passport to Show: The One You'll Use at Your Destination

Technically you can use any official ID, but it is best and easiest to use the ID that is guaranteed to match your boarding card, especially if your name differs between passports.

Airport security varies quite a bit from country to country but typically your ID/passport is checked to ensure it matches your boarding card, your carry-on bags pass through an x-ray and you pass through a metal detector. The employees acting as security may be government employees, members of the military, contractors or private employees.

Example: Michael presents his Italian passport and boarding card to US Airport Security (TSA).



Step 4/5: Exit Immigration (may be before or after Airport Security)

Authority: Government Immigration Department

Passport to Show: The One That Allows You to Be Where You Currently Are

In most countries you need to clear exit immigration before departing the country (the US is a notable exception to this). After checking into your flight but before you get to your gate you have to present your passport and boarding card to some sort of immigration authority. Here is where things get tricky as you must present the passport that allows you to be where you are – NOT the one that allows you to go where you are going (Destination Country). Exit immigration authorities are concerned with if you are allowed to have been where you were, not if you will be able to enter your destination. If you are starting in a country that you don't hold citizenship in they will be looking for an entry stamp or visa that authorizes you to have been there.

Example: Michael presents his US passport in order to depart the US (not really applicable since the US doesn't check this).



Step 6: Arriving Immigration

Authority: Government Immigration Department

Passport to Show: The One that Allows You to Enter That Country

Chances are, after you checked in with the airline they sent a list of everyone on the flight to the immigration authority of your Destination Country. It is therefore **very important** that you present yourself at Arriving Immigration with the passport that matches the airline manifest. Here immigration is concerned with if you have permission to enter the country you've arrived at, NOT if you had permission to be in the country you've just come from. To clarify, this is the same passport that you used to check into your flight.

Example: Michael presents his Italian passport (matching what the airline shared) at Brazilian immigration and enters with a stamp. If he had entered with his American passport, he would have had to obtain a Brazilian visa prior to travel and pay well over \$100.



Step 7: Check in at the Airport for Return Flight

Authority: Airline

Passport to Show: The One You'll Use at Your Destination. If you are returning "home" or to a country whose passport you hold, you must use that passport. If you are flying to another country, you are again free to decide which passport to use. Effectively, we are repeating steps 3-6, with a new destination in mind.

Here you may be concerned that the passport information you entered when you booked your original flight may not match. This is not a problem. When you check in, present the airline with the passport you will use to enter your destination country. They will overwrite any information that is now incompatible.

Again, often times you will not be able to check in online. It is possible the airline's system is not robust enough to handle multiple passports

Example: Michael checks in to his flight to the US using his American passport.



Step 8/9: Airport Security (may be before or after Exit Immigration)

Authority: Airport Security

Passport to Show: The One You'll Use at Your Destination

Again, technically you can use any official ID, but it is best and easiest to use the ID that is guaranteed to match your boarding card, especially if your name differs between passports.

Airport security varies quite a bit from country to country but typically your ID/passport is checked to ensure it matches your boarding card, your carry-on bags pass through an x-ray and you pass through a metal detector. The employees acting as security may be government employees, members of the military, contractors or private employees.

Example: Michael presents his US passport and boarding card to Brazilian Airport Security.



Step 8/9: Exit Immigration (may be before or after Airport Security)

Authority: Government Immigration Department

Passport to Show: The One That Allows You to Be Where You Currently Are

You know what to do now. After checking into your flight but before you get to your gate you have to present your passport and boarding card to some sort of immigration authority. Present the passport that allows you to be where you are – NOT the one that allows you to go where you are going. Exit immigration authorities are concerned with if you are allowed to have been where you were, not if you will be able to enter your destination. If you are starting in a country that you don't hold citizenship in they will be looking for an entry stamp or visa that authorizes you to have been there.

Example: Michael presents his Italian passport in order to depart Brazil. The immigration official references his Brazilian entry stamp that he received in Step 6, but probably more importantly, a computer or paper database.



Step 10: Arriving Immigration

Authority: Government Immigration Department

Passport to Show: The One That Allows You to Be Where You Currently Are

If you hold this country's passport, you should have checked into the airline with that passport – present that again now.

Example: Michael presents his US passport to US immigration authorities (CBP).



Congratulations!

You did it – you traveled successfully with more than one passport!!

Technically you can repeat Steps 2-6 over and over again for any type of travel itinerary. Traveling to more than one country? Starting out in a country that is not your own? Just follow steps 2-6 each time you plan on entering a new country.

Obviously this works for all border crossings, not just air. Land and sea follow similar procedures.

Example: Using Multiple Passports on a Single Trip with a Layover

Many of the questions that we've received have to do with a single "trip" that has a layover in a country. People want to know which passport to use when booking the flight, checking in within each country and whether or not they should switch passports at any point.

In a scenario like this, it is important to know whether or not you have to clear immigration in your layover country. This makes a huge difference! You should ask your airline if this is the case.

This scenario is pretty complex to spell out generically, so let's present two examples.

Example: Using Multiple Passports on a Single Trip with a Layover

1. You hold Mexican and American passports. You live in Mexico. You wish to travel to China and have obtained a Chinese visa in your Mexican passport. Your flight from Mexico to China, however, has a layover in the US. Since the US requires you to pass through immigration even if you are just connecting through, you must enter the US with your US passport because you are a US citizen. However, you must enter China with your Mexican passport because your visa is linked to that passport. What should you do?

Book your flight with your US or Mexican passport. At check-in, use your US passport to check into the US flight. If they can provide you with the boarding card for the second leg (US to China), you may have to show your Mexican passport with Chinese visa too, just so that know you will have permission to be in China. They probably will not give you this boarding card though.

At airport security, show either passport (probably US) and at Mexican Exit Immigration show your Mexican passport to “leave” Mexico. Upon arriving into the US, present your US passport, collect your bags (required in US) and check into your China-bound flight with your Mexican passport. If you have already received a boarding card you must still go to the airline counter to ensure that you are checked into that flight as Mexican. The US has no Exit Immigration (if it did, you would use your US passport). Show your Mexican passport to airport security in the US and to enter China. When leaving China, ensure you use your Mexican passport at Exit Immigration.

Example: Using Multiple Passports on a Single Trip with a Layover

2. You hold Canadian and French passports. You are flying from India (where you are with an Indian visa in your French passport) to Canada with a layover in Turkey. Which passport(s) should you use to get to Canada?

We specifically chose a layover in Turkey because French passport holders do not need to pay for a visa in Turkey but Canadians do. Does that mean you should fly to Turkey on your French passport and then onwards to Canada on your Canadian passport? Not necessarily... Unlike in the US, in Turkey you do not have to “enter” the country to transit. You are a transfer and will not pass through Immigration.

Two important things to note!!

1. If you want to enter Turkey, even if for a few hours on a long layover, it is best to use the passport that will get you in for free (French).
2. If you have booked each leg of your flight separately, you will have to collect your bags in Turkey and check into your next flight. This requires you to actually enter Turkey. If you use your Canadian passport, you would have to pay for a visa sticker.

Assuming the two cases above do not apply, check into your flight in India using your Canadian passport, exit India on your French passport (since that had your Indian visa), pass through security with your Canadian, and enter Canada on your Canadian passport.

Example: Using Multiple Passports on a Single Trip with a Layover

2. Continued

But what if those “important things” do apply to you? As you recall:

1. If you want to enter Turkey, even if for a few hours on a long layover, it is best to use the passport that will get you in for free (French).
2. If you have booked each leg of your flight separately, you will have to collect your bags in Turkey and check into your next flight. This requires you to actually enter Turkey. If you used your Canadian passport, you would have to pay for a visa sticker.

In this case, you would check into your India -> Turkey flight using your French passport, clear security and Indian Exit Immigration with your French passport and enter Turkey on your French passport. You would check into your flight to Canada with your Canadian passport, pass through security with your Canadian passport and present your French passport to Exit Immigration in Turkey. You would then enter Canada using your Canadian passport.



Frequently Asked Questions

With over 1,000 comments on our blog relating to this specific topic, we can sure compile a great list of frequently asked questions! Many questions that we receive are extremely specific; people have numerous passports, complex itineraries and personal situations that often do not make things very easy.

The bottom line is always that you should follow the rules we've outlined and be honest if you're ever questioned. If you make a mistake, try to fix it at a Consulate or airport immigration office.

Now, onto the questions!

The Basics

I've been in a country I hold citizenship for a very long time, am I allowed to leave? Or, Can I visit a country I hold citizenship for with no plan to ever leave?

Yup! In the vast majority of cases, if you are a citizen (holding a passport or not) you can live in that country as long as you like.

What if my names differ between passports?

This happens more often than you'd think. Many countries use different alphabets, writing systems and conventions. Some people have spelling mistakes. In some countries, a woman will always keep her maiden name. There are as many rules as there are countries. If you are booking a flight but intend to use multiple passports on that itinerary, call your airline to add the "second name" as an addition to your ticket.

Won't changing passports on different parts of my round-trip mean things won't line up in the computer?

Each flight you take is independent of the others. As long as you are consistent in showing the same passport when entering and exiting a single country, you'll be fine.

Stamps

We get a LOT of questions from people who are concerned about stamps. Here are the most common:

- *What if I don't have any stamps in my passport?*
- *Won't I be questioned where I went?*
- *I have never used my passport, is that ok?*
- *I'm going to enter a country I have a passport of for the first time, or with a passport with no stamps in it. Will I have a problem? Will I be allowed in?*

These questions are asked for a variety of reasons. Mostly people are concerned that, by using different passports at different points in a trip, immigration will wonder why they have no stamps to “prove” where they have been. Some people are concerned about using a passport for the first time. The bottom line is that this doesn't matter. If you are required to tell Immigration where you have been, answer honestly. If you don't have a stamp and they ask you about it, just tell them that you have another passport from another country.

Your “Home” Country (You hold that country’s passport)

Can I enter a country I am a citizen of without using its passport?

You should not do this. The reason is that you will technically be there on some sort of visa and will be a “visitor” when you should really be a “citizen”. People run into this issue if their passport has expired, they don’t have that passport, or if it is lost. Your best bet is to inform Immigration officials that you are a citizen if you can not rectify the situation before you travel. But you should really fix it before you enter a country if you are a citizen.

I accidentally (or on purpose) entered a country I am a citizen of using the incorrect passport. Should I just pretend it never happened?

No, go to the immigration authorities and fix it. If you entered using the wrong passport it means it’s possible for you to overstay the legal amount of time allowed for citizen’s of your other nationality. Don’t cause problems, fix it.

I’m flying to a country I hold a passport of with a one-way ticket. Will they give me a hard time?

If you are a citizen, you don’t have to ever leave anyways.

I have to go to a country I hold a passport of but that passport is expired. Can I just use my other passport?

Not legally, you should get your passport renewed abroad before travel.

“I’m trying to avoid something.”

I’ve reached the maximum amount of time I can stay in a country using one of my passports, can I leave and come back using the other and stay longer?

Probably not. You are still the same person. Countries (most anyways) are a bit more sophisticated than just checking the stamps in your passport. They match your identity on name, birthdate, citizenship and probably other data points. It is not worth the risk. Obey the law. That said, if your other passport has more favorable benefits, it is probably possible to leave that country and re-enter to get those benefits, which may include the right to stay longer. Just make sure that your total stay (across passports) doesn’t exceed a potential maximum.

I did something (illegal) in Country C with a passport from Country A. Can I just use my passport from Country B to enter Country C again without them knowing what I did?

Maybe, maybe not, but we wouldn’t risk it. You are the same person.

Will immigration know that I am the same person across passports?

See above. Maybe, maybe not. It depends how sophisticated their systems are.

Random Questions

Can a country see my travel history?

Realistically, probably not. It is even less likely if you are NOT a citizen. We have been to many borders that aren't even computerized.

Do countries share information?

Yes, but to an extent. It is more likely that they share criminal information than simple exit/entry stats, but both are possible. It also depends on the country. Some countries work together and others do not. The EU shares entry/exit because you can enter in one country and exit in another without ever passing another border.

My country doesn't allow dual citizenship. Can I have two passports?

This depends what is meant by allow. [Please see our section on this](#). It is not recommended to hold two passports if this truly isn't allowed.

We Hope We've Helped!

Traveling with multiple passports can be tricky. It is important to understand the key players, the laws and your rights. If you are in doubt about a specific situation, your authority should be that country's Consulate.

Your purchase comes with one free e-mail consultation if you have any follow-ups that we did not cover in this book. We are unable to know the laws of every country on earth, but we are happy to help you with procedures for using your passports. We will also point you in the proper direction to get the official help that you need.

Please email passporthelp@stylehiclub.com and mention that you have purchased our e-book. We will make every effort to respond within 48 hours. If your question is urgent, please indicate that in the Subject.

Happy travels!



**A Helpful Guide to Your Travels with Two (or more) Passports
By Dual Citizens and Travelers to Over 70 Countries and Counting**

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