

# AUSFILM

Connecting film & TV makers  
worldwide to Australia

Ausfilm Guide:

# TRAVEL SAFETY

October 2024





## SAFETY TIPS AND REMINDERS WHEN TRAVELLING

The following is a reminder for all Ausfilm members and Ausfilm staff, to ensure your safety when travelling.

This is not a Code of Conduct. For Ausfilm's Standards of Behavior and Anti-Sexual Harassment Code of Conduct refer to the Code of Conduct document.

Should there be an emergency of any type, please text or call either Kate or Erin to advise on your status and whereabouts so that we can account for all members:

- Kate Marks, CEO: +61 400 068 500
- Erin Stam, EVP, Production: +1 310 666 2105

We recommend that all members subscribe to SmartTraveller for alerts, however they are no longer asking people to register.

<https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/consular-services/subscribe>

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA)

## EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS IN THE USA

- Firefighting and rescue services: 911
- Medical emergencies: 911
- To report a crime: 911 (\*Always request a police report when reporting a crime).

For non-life threatening situations you can also contact the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) directly. Contact information for local police stations and hotlines are available via the LAPD [website](#).

## IF YOU ARE IN A GENUINE EMERGENCY SITUATION IN THE USA

The "[I need urgent help](#)" page on the SmartTraveller website has specific practical advice for many issues: <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/i-need-urgent-help>

If you, or someone you know, needs urgent help, emergency consular assistance is available 24 hours a day. Call the Consular Emergency Centre (CEC) in Canberra on:

- 1300 555 135 (within Australia)
- +61 2 6261 3305 (from overseas)

Do not contact the emergency centre with general enquires. Use the [SmartTraveller online contact form](#).

For more detailed information on visiting the United States of America: <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations/americas/united-states-america>.

## TRAVEL TIPS AND REMINDERS

- Exercise normal safety precautions in the USA. Use common sense and look out for suspicious behaviour, as you would in Australia. Visit: <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations/americas/united-states-america>
- Ensure your valuables are secure including passport, credit cards & phone.

- Monitor the media and other sources for information on location travel conditions.
- Enhanced security screening measures are in place for all commercial flights to the USA. Contact your airline or check the USA Department of Homeland Security and Transportation Security Administration websites for further information.
- The USA has strict entry requirements. Authorities actively pursue, detain and deport people who are in the US illegally. Ensure you have the correct Visa for entry.
- The USA has more violent crime than in Australia, although it rarely involves tourists. Shootings, including mass shootings, can occur in public places.
- Medical treatment in the USA can be expensive. Obtain comprehensive travel insurance before you depart to ensure you are covered for any unforeseen medical costs, including testing positive for COVID-19 when traveling. When choosing coverage, it is advised that you make sure the program covers COVID-19 as some providers do not cover this or may have a separate plan for expenses for COVID-19 related illness.
- Avoid areas that are known to have high incidences of crime or violence. Be especially careful at night. Stay on well-travelled and well-lit streets.
- Beware of drink spiking:
  - Don't leave drinks unattended in nightclubs or bars and don't accept food or drinks from strangers.
  - If you're unsure if a drink is safe, leave it-it's not worth the risk.
  - If you suspect that you or a companion may have been poisoned, you need to act quickly and get urgent medical attention. Symptoms of methanol poisoning can include fatigue, headaches and nausea, similar to the effects as excessive drinking, but with pronounced vision problems that may include blurred or snowfield vision, flashes of light, tunnel vision, changes in colour perception, dilated pupils, difficulty looking at bright lights, or blindness. All suspected cases of methanol poisoning should be reported to local police.
  - For further advice on partying safely visit:  
<https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/before-you-go/safety/partying>
- Please be mindful of driving to events where alcohol is served. Uber and Lyft are extremely easy to use and reliable alternatives.

## COVID-19

We recognize that while many things have returned to normal that COVID is still a consideration. We want members to feel safe during Ausfilm Week and also have information to be prepared for any eventualities.

Ausfilm no longer requires clients or members to be vaccinated to attend Ausfilm hosted events, however we request that should any member feel unwell, they do not attend events for the protection of others.

For more information on how to protect yourself and others from exposure, please visit the Center for Disease Control (CDC) here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/covid/prevention/index.html>

## MEETINGS

Many clients are happy to meet in person, though some still ask for virtual meetings. Most companies use the hybrid WFH / office model, with Friday seemingly the most popular day to work from home.

## TESTING

Should Members experience symptoms or believe they have been exposed to COVID-19, please take a rapid test. Tests are readily available for purchase at any pharmacy.

If you test positive for COVID-19 while you are in Los Angeles or in the week afterwards, please message Erin (+1 310-666-2105) and Savannah (+1 404-645-1028) as soon as possible.

## MASKS

Although masks are no longer required by law, some individuals may choose to continue wearing one.

## CARE

Hotels will often arrange for a healthcare professional to come to the hotel. If you need to visit a doctor while you are in LA, an Urgent Care Centre can address most basic medical needs and will take cash payments. If you require either, please ask reception at your hotel.