

Before You Travel: Security Checklist

HCS Technology Group - Travel Data Security Guide

Before Departure:

-  Backup & encrypt all data (leave backup at home)
-  Sign out of sensitive services (Box, Dropbox, iCloud, social media)
-  Evaluate your Photos library for sensitive content
-  Consider temporarily deleting social media apps
-  Use strong passwords (13+ characters with symbols)

At the Border:

-  Disable Face ID/Touch ID: Press power + volume buttons until "slide to power off" appears (then cancel)
-  iOS 18 auto-restart: iPhone automatically restarts after 3 days without unlocking
-  Turn off Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Cellular in hostile environments

High-Risk Destinations:

- Use a sanitized loaner device with no personal data
- Reboot devices daily (clears certain types of malware)
- Store sensitive documents only in secure cloud storage

Device Security Basics

Mobile Devices

- Use strong passcodes (6+ digits)
- Enable biometric locks
- Set auto-lock to 30 seconds
- Enable "Find My Device"
- Disable lock screen notifications

Computers

- Use full-disk encryption
- Require password on wake
- Enable firewall
- Keep software updated
- Disable auto-login