

Protecting Your Data While Traveling

Border Security Reality Check

US border agents can search devices without warrants at 328 ports of entry AND within 100 miles of borders/ports (covers ~2/3 of US population).

- ✗ Can Be Compelled
 - Unlock with Face ID
 - Unlock with Touch ID
 - Unlock with fingerprint

- ✓ Cannot Be Compelled*
 - Reveal your password
 - Enter your passcode
- *Not settled law—varies by jurisdiction

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