

# Travel and Trip Insurance to Protect Your Investment



Vacations can sometimes cost thousands of dollars so it is important to have the proper insurance protection in case the cruise or tour operator goes bankrupt or you need to cancel the trip due to illness or other unforeseen events.

There are four major types of travel insurance, although you can also purchase packages that offer several options, including Trip Cancellation, Lost Baggage, Medical, Dental, Emergency Evacuation, 24 Hour Traveler Assistance, Baggage Delay, Travel Delay, and Accidental Death Coverages. Some policies also have options for Collision/Damage coverage for rented cars.

Travel insurance can cover:

- Trip cancellation or disruption as the result of illness or death, a crisis at work, financial default on the part of a at your operator or other unexpected events
- Medical treatment not covered by your existing insurance
- Getting home after a medical emergency, earthquake, tsunami or other environmental event or political upheaval

Generally, there are three types of insurance plans to cover these events. They are:

- Standalone evacuation plans
- Standalone medical insurance plans (including evacuation)
- A more comprehensive plan including trip cancellation and interruption coverage and medical and evacuation coverage

Among the many factors to consider:

- The coverage level your health insurance plan provides, for both emergency and non-emergency care outside the U.S.
- The likelihood you would have to cancel your trip because of

an illness (you, your travel companion or close relative)

- The level of non-refundable costs involved with your trip

[Click for more information from III.org.](#)  
[Get a travel or trip insurance quote from Allen Insurance.](#)

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# Record-Breaking U.S. Charitable Giving in 2017 Tops \$400 Billion

By Sarah Ruef-Lindquist



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According to Giving USA 2018, for the first time in history annual US charitable giving exceeded \$400 billion, with \$410.02 billion in charitable gifts in 2017. The report is available at [www.givingusa.org](http://www.givingusa.org).

Their report, published annually by Giving USA Foundation, The Giving Institute and the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, released June 12, 2018, heralded the unprecedented amount of charitable giving that represents an increase of almost \$20 billion over 2016, which saw total giving of \$390.05 billion.

Some of the factors cited in the report for the robust nature of philanthropy reflected in the 2017 data include:

- Solid commitment to philanthropy;
- People having more resources available, choosing to use them to make a difference; and
- 2017 increases in the stock market, including 20% growth in the S&P 500.

Included in the report was mention of two gifts of at least \$1 billion in 2017, quoting the dean of the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Amir Pasic, Ph.D., as saying “This tells us that some of our most fortunate citizens are using their wealth to make some significant contributions to the common good.”

Included in those figures were gifts by bequest of \$35.7 billion, an increase of 2.3% over 2016.

As usual, gifts from living individuals made up the largest donor sector, representing 70% of the total. Foundations gave 16%, bequests 9% and corporations 5%. Giving to religion was the largest recipient area, at 31%, education next at 14%, followed by human services at 12%.

There is some speculation that with tax reform at year-end providing less of an incentive for itemization of deductions on tax returns starting in 2018, some may have accelerated giving into 2017, to take advantage of income tax treatment available. Likely we will have no way of seeing whether there has been any negative impact in 2018 of 2017 tax reform until a year from now when the 2018 figures are released.

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## **Rate Hikes Sought by Maine's**

# ACA Insurers

Maine's two leading providers of Affordable Care Act-compliant individual health insurance are requesting average rate increases of just over 9 percent in 2019, and smaller increases if a state-run reinsurance program is revived.

Maine media has covered this news, including this story from the Portland Press Herald. [Click here.](#)