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What to do if you have lost your travel document?

How to proceed if a travel document is lost in Switzerland



Immediately report any loss, theft, or destruction of a travel document to the police of the place you are staying. You are advised to make copies of the personal data page of travel documents and carry one with you while traveling. This will speed up document recovery proceedings.

The police will issue you with a **confirmation of loss**.



Foreigners should **immediately report** the loss of a travel document to the diplomatic or consular representation of their home country. For example, a Canadian citizen should contact the Canadian embassy, situated in Bern. As a rule, a **replacement travel document** will be issued.



The following applies to foreigners subject to visa requirements

No sooner they have received a replacement travel document, citizens of a third state who are subject to Swiss or Schengen area visa requirements are advised to immediately contact the migration authorities at the place where they are staying. For example, a tourist visiting Lucerne should contact the “Amt für Migration des Kantons Luzern” to obtain a replacement visa (conflicting regulations based on bilateral agreements remain reserved).

See the [SEM website](#) for addresses of cantonal migration authorities.

If the visa wasn't issued by Switzerland, we recommend to contact the diplomatic or consular representation of this state in Switzerland.

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NOTE:

Once a confirmation of loss has been issued, the lost travel document becomes invalid. If recovered, it must not be used anymore. A domestic and international alert is put out on the number of lost or stolen travel documents. Traveling on a document reported lost or stolen may have embarrassing consequences: you may risk missing your plane because of lengthy customs and police inquiries.