

## **Chapter 6 – Out-of-State/ Country Travel (OST)**

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## Out-of-State Travel

References: [California Code of Regulations \(CCR\), Administration, Title 2 Sections 599.615, 599.615.1, 599.619, and 599.621](#), [State Administrative Manual \(SAM\) Sections 0710 and 0760](#), and [California Department of Human Resources \(CalHR\) PML 2016-010](#)

### OVERVIEW

Out-of-state travel is defined as any travel outside the State of California for the purpose of conducting business outside the State of California. It does not include trips through or stopovers in bordering states incidental to travel within points in California.

An approved Form [STD. 257](#), "Request for Approval of Out-of-State Travel" is required to reimburse a Travel Expense Claim (TEC). The total expenditures claimed on the TEC, plus transportation costs, may not exceed the total amount approved on the STD. 257.

State time authorized for out-of-state travel is limited to the time necessary to transact business plus actual travel time. The travel time cannot exceed rail time.

Non-state employees (witnesses, contract consultants, and others) traveling out-of-state and from other states to California to conduct business on behalf of the department are typically not considered part of the out-of-state travel plan.

The [Division of Business Operations](#) is responsible for administering the approval process for out-of-state travel. Employees with questions regarding the approval process should contact their division's out-of-state travel coordinator.

### Third Party Vendors

For third party (Priceline, Expedia, etc.) reimbursement requirements, see [Third Party Vendors](#).

### LODGING, MEALS, AND INCIDENTALS

#### Out-of-State and Out-of-Country Lodging

**Effective October 1, 2024**, the State is adopting federal standard and non-standard reimbursement lodging rates at time of travel for receipted lodging that will align with the applicable standard and non-standard federal lodging rates, as follows:

- [GSA](#) (in-state and certain out-of-state locations): The continental United States and Washington, D.C. (CONUS)
- [DOD](#) (certain out-of-state locations): Non-foreign areas outside CONUS (Alaska, Hawaii, U.S. Territories and Possessions)
- [State Department](#) (out-of-country): Foreign areas

For short-term out-of-state and out-of-country travel (less than 31 days), employees will be reimbursed federal standard and non-standard reimbursement rate at time of travel. The actual lodging expenses must be substantiated by a receipt. Failure to furnish lodging receipts will limit reimbursement to meals only. For additional information on lodging such as specific receipt requirements and lodging resources, please see [Lodging Rates and Requirements](#) and [Third Party Vendors](#).

For information on out-of-state travel assignments exceeding 30 days, see [Long-Term Assignments](#).

### **Out-of-State Meals and Incidentals**

For short-term out-of-state travel, employees will be reimbursed actual meal and incidental expenses, up to the maximum rates for in-state travel. For maximum reimbursement rates, see [Meal and Incidental Rates and Requirements](#).

### **Out-of-Country Meals and Incidentals**

For short-term out-of-country travel, employees will be reimbursed for actual meal and incidental expenses up to the maximum rates in accordance with the published Government meal and incidental rates for foreign travel for the specific dates of travel.

The maximum rates for meals and incidentals are available by country and travel date on the [U.S. Department of State's](#) website. Go to the Foreign Per Diem Rates to find the combined maximum daily rate for meals and incidentals (M&I), and then to [Appendix B](#) to locate the corresponding breakdown of the combined maximum rate to the specific maximum for each meal and incidental.

Receipts are required for meals and incidentals claimed in excess of \$24.99 (US).

Employees should review the long-term assignment policies within this guide if it is anticipated that an out-of-state or out-of-country assignment will exceed 30 days in one geographic area (50-mile radius).

Long-term out-of-state and out-of-country travel will be reimbursed in accordance with California Code of Regulations CCR 599.619 (a) through (c). For more information, see [Long-Term Assignments](#).

## **FOREIGN CURRENCY**

Valid documentation for foreign currency exchange rates must be submitted with the TEC to substantiate expenses claimed. If unavailable, the [FXConverter](#) (Foreign Exchange Currency Converter) may be used as adequate documentation.

## **BUSINESS EXPENSES**

The reimbursement policy for business expenses is the same as that for in-state travel. For more information, see [Business Expenses](#).

Global Entry and TSA are not necessary out-of-pocket expenses for official state businesses and therefore not reimbursable according to California Department of Human Resources (CalHR).

## **WEEKEND TRAVEL**

Reimbursement for Saturday and Sunday travel is allowed if pre-approved on the Form [STD. 257](#).

Weekend travelers are expected to stay in the vicinity of the official state business. Rental cars paid for by the State are only to be used to obtain meals and commute between the lodging location and the official business site. Separate arrangements must be made for sightseeing, visits with friends and family, etc.