

TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE – A PERSONAL CHOICE

Trip cancellation/interruption insurance, or travel insurance, is designed to reimburse you for financial losses incurred when you're forced to cancel or interrupt a trip. You will not be reimbursed if you simply change your mind about traveling, but if you've invested a large prepayment on a major trip, such as the one to Truk and Palau this June, then trip cancellation insurance may make sense. The purchase of this type of insurance is an individual choice, which can be made easier by weighing the risks involved and considering the insurance coverage you may already have.

Risks to Your Trip

Let's face it. Stuff happens! Most trip cancellation insurance policies will reimburse you for:

- ✓ ***Illness, injury or death.*** Coverage protects you and one or more traveling companions for cancellation or interruption of your trip because of illness, injury of death or a close family member who remained at home. Possible exception: cancellation due to a pre-existing condition.
- ✓ ***Operator failure.*** If a travel agency, tour operator or airline collapses, trip cancellation insurance will reimburse you for the airline tickets and the land portion of your trip. Caution: it's important to make sure the policy says they pay in case of "failure" or "default" because a few say they only protect against bankruptcy.
- ✓ ***Home misfortunes.*** Covers against a wide range of unavoidable and unexpected mishaps at home that might require you to cancel or interrupt your trip.
- ✓ ***Destination disasters.*** Coverage for a long list of unexpected problems at your destination (or in any area through which you plan to pass).

Cost of Insurance

For basic coverage, expect to pay between \$5 - \$7 for every \$100 worth of protection. Keep in mind, you may not need to insure the entire cost of the trip. It may be prudent to cover just the airline portion since many of you already have equipment and medical coverage. If you're a DAN Preferred Member, you already have coverage for the land portion of the trip if cancellation is due to illness or injury. Caveat: Make certain if you do choose to purchase partial coverage from a carrier that you are not waiving the "pre-existing medical condition" benefit in the policy.