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## *Bon Voyage?!* Five Reasons Travelers Should Be Glad 2007 Is Nearly Behind Us

*Access America names the worst travel moments of the past year*

**RICHMOND, VA., November 27, 2007** – As a leading travel insurance provider, Access America is on the front lines when things go wrong for U.S. travelers. Looking back on the year in travel, Mother Nature once again made her presence known but it may have been the U.S. government that wreaked the most havoc on Americans' travel plans.

Here's a look at the top five "worst travel moments" of 2007:

### 1. New passport rules generate backlog, tourism slump

*As of October 1, all persons traveling between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and the Caribbean region are required to present a passport. Announced in January, the result has been a massive back-log in passport applications and a major slump in Caribbean tourism. And there's no end in sight – sometime next year the rules will be further expanded to require most US citizens entering the country by any means to carry a passport.*

### 2. Airlines face-off against fierce weather

*First, a Valentine's Day snowstorm left airline passengers stranded on runways at John F. Kennedy International Airport for hours, then in April a record-setting nor'easter moved across the East Coast canceling hundreds of flights and causing flooding, power outages, massive snow-fall and even tornadoes in areas from South Carolina to Maine.*

### 3. A triple-threat in Britain

*At the end of June, Britain raised its terror alert to "critical" — the highest possible level — after foiling three car bomb attempts in less than a week. First, two Mercedes*

*containing gasoline, gas cylinders and nails were found in central London. Days later, a burning Jeep Cherokee loaded with gas cylinders crashed into the doors of a Glasgow Airport passenger terminal. No one was hurt, but the ensuing increase in security added extra delays to air travel to and from Britain for weeks.*

#### 4. A Hurricane season named "Dean"

*In August, 15 countries felt the effects of Hurricane Dean as its path through the Caribbean Sea claimed 42 lives. Thousands of frightened tourists lined up for hours to flee Mexico's Caribbean resorts. Mexico aimed to evacuate nearly 50,000 people in total. Hurricane Dean ultimately became the third most intense Atlantic hurricane ever to make landfall.*

#### 5. Wildfires at home and abroad

*California wildfires destroyed more than 800 square miles of land and displaced more than 50,000 people in October. Just a few months before in Greece's Peloponnese, massive wildfires forced tour operators to shut down scores of hotels and travel facilities in the area surrounding ancient Olympia.*

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