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A passport is one of the most valuable documents you can own.

## Facts About Passport Revocation

If you owe more than \$53,000 to the Internal Revenue Service (including penalties and interest), the U.S. State Department can deny your passport application or revoke your current passport.

The IRS notifies taxpayers of outstanding tax liabilities by regular mail sent to the taxpayer's last known address. Since 2018, the IRS is also allowed to certify "seriously delinquent" tax debt (that is, debt in excess of \$53,000, adjusted yearly for inflation) to the State Department for action with regard to an individual's passport.

If that happens, and the State Department is considering your passport application, it will hold the application for 90 days to give you an opportunity to resolve any errors with the IRS, pay the tax debt in full, or enter

into an alternative payment arrangement.

If you already have a passport, the IRS allows 30 days to resolve your account before it sends a revocation referral to the State Department. If you owe a debt but can't pay the full amount, you can arrange to satisfy the liability by a payment plan.

**"The IRS allows 30 days to resolve your account."**

If you disagree with the amount owed, you must work with the IRS to resolve the issue.

If you are not comfortable contacting the IRS yourself, you can authorize a tax professional to do it for you or contact the Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) office for your state or at its office for U.S. citizens living abroad. TAS is an independent organization within the IRS designed to protect taxpayer rights. The TAS website, [Taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov](http://Taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov), has the most up to date contact information.—Paul Carlino.

## Riding Mexico's Tequila Train

All you can drink tequila might sound like a recipe for disaster. But this special train voyage in Mexico is swanky, not spring break. Created by the world-famous Jose Cuervo tequila brand, trips go from the city of Guadalajara and where else, to the town of Tequila. You'll visit agave fields, view a harvesting demonstration, and tour the Jose Cuervo distillery.

Onboard the well-appointed Jose Cuervo Express you'll enjoy an expert-led tequila tasting and celebratory toast. With the premium packages (\$130 per person and up), you'll also get an open bar of premium tequila, margaritas, and other traditional cocktails, as well as plenty of savory snacks. See: [Mundocuervo.com](http://Mundocuervo.com) —Jason Holland.

## On Two Wheels in Penang

Want to learn what Penang, Malaysia was like decades ago, before all the skyscrapers and fancy malls?

Take a slow bicycle excursion with Matahari Cycle Tours to the untouched and little-known side of the island called Balik Pulau. You'll ride the trails through durian farms, *kampung*s (local villages), paddy fields, and fishing villages untouched by most tourism.

Interact with the locals while learning about their way of life and see the small trades that have kept them going for generations. Take it all in at

your own pace with an expert English-speaking guide, and stopping for local delicacies along the way.

Don't worry about getting tired, they have a support car that will bring you snacks and drinks along the way and drive you to the next stop if you need a rest. The price includes bike, helmet, unlimited water and plenty of snacks, pick up from hotel, and a hearty lunch (which is usually served in the middle of a rice paddy or some other fitting location.) It's currently \$94 for a full day tour. —Kirsten Raccuia.

## The Pelicans of Peru

It's too bad I'm not a birdwatcher. Peru is one of the "birdiest" countries in the world and few places can match the bird diversity of my home in northern Peru. Between the eight northern departments (think states or provinces) that stretch from the coast to the Andes and into the Amazon lowlands, there are over 1,600 bird species (out of a total of more than 1,800 in the country).

Every spring, the Peruvian Pelicans make their seasonal appearance on my local beach

in Huanchaco and can often be seen offshore alongside the local fishermen in their traditional reed boats, or relaxing on the shore. These birds range from 10 to 15 pounds in weight and up to five feet in length. Their wingspan is over seven feet!

Hanging around for much of the spring and summer, they offer great photo ops. They're comfortable around people and almost seem to enjoy posing for close-ups as they soak up the Peruvian sunshine.—Steve LePoidevin.

**DID YOU KNOW?** According to the heart health monitoring project, the Framingham Heart Study, people who take yearly travel breaks are less likely to have heart attacks or develop heart disease.