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reader postcard the Bernese Alps, Switzerland



travel q&a

I'm going to Mexico. Is it safe to eat the local cuisine?

It depends. One in 10 people will come down with traveler's diarrhea, a foodborne illness. But there are measures you can take to avoid it. "The number-one rule is: Boil it, peel it, cook it, or forget it," says Louis J. Morledge, M.D., a New York travel-medicine specialist. If you sample fare from a street vendor, he suggests opting for foods that have been cut into small pieces and grilled. "Also, look for long lines—high turnover usually means the food's fresher," he says. And because no amount of precautions can guarantee you won't get sick, he recommends seeing your physician before you go. She may give you an antibiotic to take in case you do come down with something. —J.D.

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