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All Around The World: **SELFIE STICK SANCTIONS**

By Mona Parsa, Esq.

An experienced international traveller is sure to brush up on local customs, yet many tourists mistakenly gloss over non-ancient customs that have just been birthed from new phenomena. And here we speak of the selfie. Supported via social media and via selfie sticks, the international selfie fad is mushrooming beyond belief, yet not without laws in countries around the world responding in kind.

To guard against unexpected fines or other run-ins with the law, a tourist's review of these recent laws would be wise. Even locals should keep these in tow.

Let's put the bull up front. In Pamplona, Spain, a run with the bull will see you fined if you're running with a recording device in hand. There, runners are banned from taking selfies in the annual Running of the Bulls to prevent from losing concentration with the goal of coming out safely.

The long-beloved sport of soccer can't run from the law, either. In Brazil, soccer stadiums have banned the use of selfie sticks, due to concern that they could be used as weapons against rival fans. And if you attended the Carnival parades in Rio de Janeiro and snapped your gorgeous selfies with a selfie stick in hand, little you may know that you had performed a no-no.

Tourism can't be thought of without visions of cultural sites. So, be sure to leave selfie sticks at the hotel before visiting many museums worldwide, including The Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Lima (MAC) in Peru. Officials prohibited its use for the safety of both museum visitors and artifacts. Selfie sticks are also banned at The Museo de Arte de Lima (MALI). No fret, though, as your selfie and accompanying accessory are permitted at Machu Picchu, allowing you to later share some glorious

shots with those at home.

Keeping travels domestic won't allow whetting the selfie appetite. In New York, the Tiger Selfie Law bans selfies with big cats (including tigers, lions, leopards and jaguars) at traveling animal shows and fairs, unless a permanent physical barrier is in place between the visitor and the cat. A similar regulation stands in Lake Tahoe, where selfies with bears are banned.

Many U.S. museums, festivals and tourist attractions have jumped on board, as well. From the Getty Center in Los Angeles, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Modern Art in New York, to Lollapalooza and Coachella music festivals, the selfie stick has been prohibited. Even the happiest place on earth endeavors to keep itself happy. Disneyland is ensuring guest safety by expanding its selfie stick ban while riders are on a ride, to now not being allowed in the park at all.

The selfie stick is the most recent development in the selfie phenomenon, with surely more advancements to come. And when they do, developments in the law will undoubtedly follow closely behind.

