

## Travel Safety Tips

# Precautionary Safety Measures

### 1 / Pre-Travel Tips

The joy of travelling is always overshadowed by a feeling of anxiety, excitement and fear as we are often worried about the possessions that will be left unattended. The Planet Traveller has assembled this checklist to ensure that your trip will be worry-free.

- Check expiration dates on your passport, credit cards, medical checkup, vitamins etc.
- Are visas and certificate of vaccination or immunization required?
- Increase credit card spending limit if necessary.
- Contact a reliable neighbour/friend and leave keys and itinerary with him/her.
- Examine insurance policies.
- Check weather ahead and pack the right clothes.

### 2 / How to Outsmart Thieves

- Choose your travel wardrobe carefully, eliminating bright colours and fancy jewellery. The smart traveller wants to remain as inconspicuous as possible.
- Be vigilant at airport check in and at train/bus stations, keeping your luggage in front of you.
- 99% of the people who offer a traveller food and drink are simply being kind. Be very wary of the remaining 1%, as drugging is always a possibility.
- Never, ever count your money in public. This is an open invitation to be robbed.
- When carrying a laptop, don't send it through x-ray security. Check until you're ready to go through yourself. Scam artists work in teams. The man in front of you holds the line up by deliberately leaving change in his pocket and setting off the metal detector. While you're waiting to go through, his partner is picking your laptop off the conveyor belt.

### 3 / Protection Tips

- Protect your true essentials: passport, air tickets, traveller's cheque and credit cards. Keep them in a moneybelt under clothes.
- When checking in hotel, give only business address.
- Do not discuss plans, accommodation, finances or politics with strangers.
- Always keep the hotel room door locked.
- Use peephole to screen visitors before opening hotel room door.
- Keep your wallet close to you at all times as they may be snatched away.
- Get a door wedge or door alarms for added hotel room security.
- Be alert during potentially dangerous times and places.
- Carry a photocopy of your passport – the ID, visa and entry/exit card pages. Leave the original, along with your valuable in the hotel safe.
- Do not entertain strangers asking for small changes or exchange currency with street money changers.
- Protect your valuables in crowded train, bus and places.

### 4 / Other Useful Tips

#### **Diversify your money**

Take travellers cheques, credit cards, bank cards as well as cash.

#### **Be very sure to check the restrictions on your credit cards.**

Did you know that some cards are not replaceable internationally if they're stolen?

#### **Ask your bank for an extra client card.**

If the first is taken, you still have the second one to withdraw cash with.

#### **Be prepared**

Before you leave home, record (in triplicate) the numbers on your traveller's cheques, credit cards and bank cards. The same applies to all 800 numbers you might need to report a theft. Leave one list with someone at home, one goes to the moneybelt and one stays in your suitcase.

#### **Be creative**

Hide your emergency money in strange places; a vitamin pill bottle with a few pills in it is great.