



VACATION



SAFETY

WHILE ON VACATION

You've successfully navigated the airport and now you've landed safely at your destination. Don't relax on safety just yet. Whether at a theme park or at a fancy resort, there are a few safety precautions (on top of washing your hands and social distancing) that you can take to make sure you're as safe as possible.

- Stay off social media. Don't tip criminals off by sharing too much information on your social networks. Refrain from posting photos, status updates, or "checking in" while on vacation. Even if you have the highest security settings on Facebook and Twitter, your personal information could still be seen by unwanted eyes.
- Tell friends and family at home your itinerary. It's a good idea to tell family and friends about your plans. Always let someone know when you're expected to be back and what route you're planning to take.
- Go contactless. Whenever possible, choose contactless options to check into your room, get meals delivered, or purchase tickets if you're going to any events or venues.
- Keep cash and credit cards in separate places. Never carry your credit cards, cash, and passport at the same time. You'll want to keep some cash in your wallet, and then stash the rest in a pocket or money pouch. If you have a safe in your hotel room, leave the majority of your cash there and only bring what you'll need for the day.
- Make a copy of your passport. You'll want to make two copies of your passport. Leave one copy at home with a trusted friend or family member and take another copy with you. When you go out sightseeing, take the copy with you and leave the original in a hotel safe until you are ready to travel again.
- Do a security sweep of your hotel room. Always keep your hotel door locked and never answer it for someone you don't know. If you can, try to get a room near the front desk or the elevator.
- Do a sanitizing sweep of your hotel room. Even though hotels are stepping up their cleaning routines during the pandemic, you may want to roll up your sleeves and do some extra disinfecting. The CDC has a whole guide to help you clean and disinfect your temporary lodgings the right way.
- You can never be too careful, especially when it comes to traveling. Make sure things are safe at home and while you are traveling by taking the necessary precautions.

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10 SAFETY TIPS

FOR ALL TRAVELERS



Do your research before you travel. First rule of safe travel — don't be uneducated about where you are going. Make an effort to learn about the country, the political situation, the cultural norms, the safest spots for travellers, safe accommodations to stay and the areas or regions that are best avoided. Head off on your trip with your eyes wide open to avoid surprises.

Blend in with your surroundings. Once you've done your research, you can start your visit to a new destination as if you were one of the locals. This is not only sound exploration advice, but a good safety tip as well. You'll make yourself more vulnerable to con artists if you stick out like a sore thumb with your massive backpack, two cameras and confused look on your face. and you will draw much less attention if you make an effort to blend in. You also don't want to disrespect or offend with improper dress or manners. If you're visiting places of worship, make sure to dress modestly in order to prevent upsetting the locals.

Don't flash your wealth. Whether this is with cash or expensive gear, showing wealth will only make you more appealing to scammers and pickpockets. Carry a dummy wallet with little cash in it so that you can give this in case you are mugged.

Stay safe in transport. Avoid air travel mishaps by frequently checking whether your flight has been rescheduled or cancelled. When using bus services, make sure to go with trusted companies that have many reviews online. Moreover, try booking your tickets in advance whenever possible, so you don't end up stranded on remote bus stops with no transport in sight. If you are hiring local taxis, agree upon the fare in advance in case the vehicle doesn't have a meter. Also, carry a map with you to avoid getting lost.

Keep your belongings safe. Avoid carrying too many luggage pieces and invest in a small sturdy lock for your luggage. Try to choose one that doesn't stand out, so it doesn't appear as if you have something really valuable inside. If you have a hand-carry with you, never leave it unattended. Buy wallets that have RFID protection to avoid identity theft.

Get travel insurance. Regardless of whether you are a natural worrier or not, don't hesitate to take out travel insurance. Not only will insurance cover any unexpected injuries and trips to the hospital, it can also protect you from theft or loss of personal belongings.

Have emergency info at hand. This should entail contact numbers for the local emergency services (police, fire department and ambulance) and for your country's embassy (if there is one in the place you're visiting).

Manage your money. If you plan on using your debit and credit cards, make sure to notify your bank in advance that you'll be abroad, or you may find your card blocked for suspicious activity. Research beforehand where are the best spots to exchange your money into local currency as ATMs might be scarce in certain places. When out and about, always carry a small amount of cash with you.

Keep track of your health. Make sure to have a supply of any over-the-counter essentials like motion sickness pills, probiotics, pain killers and bug repellants. Consult your doctor and get the proper vaccines before traveling. Ensure that any prescription pills are filled for some days extra than the intended length of your travel.

Know how to communicate. Learn the basic emergency phrases like "I need help", "Where is the nearest hospital/police station/embassy?" etc. in the local language.

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