

IAR Travel Safety Tips



DO

Keep a list at home of the important credit cards and identification you're carrying.

Carry with you the name, address, and phone number of an individual to contact in case of emergency.

Take as little cash as possible. Carry traveler's checks and credit cards to cover expenses.

Be sure to carry a card describing any medical conditions such as diabetes or drug allergies.

DO

Use hotel vault safe deposit service, provided free to all registered guests for jewelry and valuables. Just ask at the front desk.

Be careful what you say in the presence of strangers. Never reveal your room number or discuss plans for leaving the hotel in a crowded area where you can be overheard.

Ask at the front desk or concierge desk about the neighborhood around the hotel so you know if there are areas to be avoided.

When Leaving Home:

DON'T

Don't display large amounts of cash when paying for taxis or tips. Many taxis now accept credit cards.

Don't leave luggage unattended. Keep it in full view at all times. If your hotel room is not ready when you check-in, use the luggage check-in service at the Bell Captain's desk.

When Checking In:

DON'T

Don't leave money or jewelry in your hotel room, even for a short time. Remember, thieves know all the same hiding places you do!

Don't put your room key down beside you on a restaurant table, bar, or at poolside. You may find your room robbed while you are enjoying yourself.

Don't reveal your room number within earshot of unfamiliar people (on an elevator or in a restaurant).

When Traveling Around a Hotel:

DO

Look into the elevator before you get on. If you are uncertain about an occupant, wait for the next elevator.

Stand near the elevator control panel. If accosted, push all the buttons.

Exit before the door closes if a suspicious person joins you on the elevator.

Look down the corridor carefully for suspicious activity before leaving the elevator.

Call the front desk before letting anyone who says he is a maintenance man or TV repair man. Find out if he is legitimate before opening the door.

Use every locking device on your door—the night bolt, deadbolt, etc., when you are in your room.

Put all valuables in the safe deposit box at the front desk.

Check carefully to know where fire exits are when you check in. Remember that smoke rises, so the red “exit” sign will probably be invisible if there is a fire. Walk from your room to the exit so you are sure how far away it is. Count the number of steps and open the exit door to see what is beyond it.

Use the peephole to identify callers before letting them in. If you don’t have a peephole, put on the chain and open the door to see who is there.

DON'T

Don’t automatically open your room door if someone knocks. Make sure you know who it is before you open the door.

Don’t leave your room door ajar if you are going down the hall for ice.

Don’t enter your room if the door is ajar. Call security to go in with you. Make sure the security guard checks all places in the room where someone could be hiding.

Don’t open your room door if someone is following you down the hall. Let them go before you put the key in the lock.

When Going Out:

DO

Ride, rather than walk, particularly at night. If the streets around the hotel are deserted, as they are in many major cities, take a taxi or shuttle bus—even if your destination is “within easy walking distance.”

Avoid unlit driveways and other shadowed places. If necessary, walk in the middle of the street until you reach a better lighted street.

Walk with another person when sightseeing or shopping particularly at night.

Carry your wallet in your inside coat pocket if you are a man. Your rear trouser pocket is an easy target for pickpockets.

Carry your billfold in a coat pocket rather than your purse if you are a woman. Leave valuables at home. If you must carry a purse, firmly clasp the top of the purse with your hand so a pickpocket cannot reach in.

Be wary of strangers. Never accompany a stranger anywhere.

Remain alert at all times, especially in crowded areas. Thieves often operate in pairs. One may bump you while the other is picking your pocket. Avoid shortcuts and walkways between buildings during the day and at night.

Beware of people who approach you on the street asking for directions. Keep a polite but safe distance.

DON'T

Don't loiter. Remain alert if window shopping. Be prepared to run if followed. If accosted by someone in a car, run in the opposite direction from the direction the car is going.

Don't wear your badge or carry your convention materials with you outside the hotel. Obvious conventioners are prime targets for thieves. Try to look as though you belong.

Don't take unmarked, “gypsy” taxis or accept a ride from anyone you don't know, even if the person says he is attending your meeting.

Don't make purchases from people who approach you on the street. They may be after your money, not a sale.

Don't walk through dark, unattended parking lots or in a deserted garage alone.

When Driving Around:

DO

Make sure you have enough gas.

Keep your car doors locked when driving and keep the windows rolled up to within two to three inches of the top.

Park only in lighted areas at night.

Look inside your car before entering. An intruder may be crouching on the floor in the rear.

If your car breaks down, remain inside with the doors and windows locked. If possible raise the hood. Open the door only for the police or road service personnel. If anyone else approaches you, offering help, politely decline the offer.

Pull over to a well-lighted curbside and blow your horn to attract attention if you are being followed by another car.

DON'T

Don't leave attractive packages, luggage, clothes, purses, cameras, or other valuables in view. Lock them in the trunk.

Don't transfer items to the trunk at the location where you are parking the car. A thief may be watching.

Don't ask directions from strangers. Instead drive to a well-lighted gas station.

Don't pick up hitchhikers...ever.

Don't turn over your car keys, or your idling car in a parking lot until you are sure the individual is a legitimate employee.

When You Have An Emergency: