



VICTORY SPORTS TOURS

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Victory Sports Tours - Safety & Security

Please find below suggested precautions that you should take in any city, even in your hometown, but especially when traveling, either internationally or in the US, since you are on unfamiliar ground when doing so.

MOTORCOACHES

- **IMPORTANT:** Always look back when getting off the bus to see any oncoming vehicles.
- Wear safety belts as you would in a car
- Do not block the aisle with luggage or any other obstructions
- Do not get up and move around anymore than necessary while the bus is moving
- Avoid shouting so that the bus driver can concentrate
- Note emergency exits on the motorcoach, such as pop-out windows and roof exits
- No drinking alcohol on the bus even if you are a legal adult

WALKING

- **IMPORTANT:** When crossing the street as a group, make sure to look out for vehicles, do not just blindly follow the person in front of you while talking to other group members. It is very easy to get distracted !

HOTELS

Fire Safety

- Note the fire escape routes on the back of your hotel room door and check the hallway to make sure you know where they are.
- Read the evacuation instructions on the back of your room door so that you know what to do in the event of fire.
- Know the common meeting point established outside of your hotel by your Group Leader (coach/director) so that he/she will know that you are out of the building if there is a fire or other emergency.

Visitors

- Do not open your hotel room door without checking to see if you know the person.
- If the person claims to be hotel staff and you are not expecting them, ask why they are there for some kind of proof before opening the door.

- If the staff member is male and you are a woman and alone in the room, call down to the front desk to verify that the person is an employee before opening the door.
- Keep a business card of the hotel in your wallet for easy access. You would be surprised how often people forget the name of the hotel that they are staying in and can't find their way back !

THEFT AVOIDANCE

Keep a Low Profile

- Dress in muted colors, such as black, white, gray, dark blue, etc. and not bright colors, such as red and yellow, which are less common outside the U.S. and tend to identify you as a tourist.
- Avoid showing large amounts of money, such as when paying a restaurant bill.
- Avoid wearing expensive watches, jewelry and other items or even expensive-looking items.
- Try to read maps in a cafe, restaurant or store where you are out of view instead of on the street, which tends to advertise that you are an outsider and therefore more vulnerable.

"Touristy" Areas

- Be especially careful to keep your valuables out of reach when walking in areas that are very popular with tourists.
- Try to stay away from crowds but if you cannot avoid doing so, be aware of where your valuables are at all times.

ATM Machines

- Try to use ATM machines during the day located in areas with plenty of people.
- Avoid using ATM's at night. If you must, do so only in well-lit areas with a friend along for greater safety.

Strangers

- Avoid talking to strangers who approach you no matter how friendly they might be as they often have ulterior motives.

Valuables

- Only carry with you the documents and money that you will need on any particular day.
- Keep the rest in money belts around the waist or in your hotel room's safe.
- Avoid traveling with expensive watches, jewelry or other items or even expensive-looking items.
- Take care to keep your valuables out of reach. For example, you should avoid:
 - Taking your eye off your baggage in the hotel lobby
 - Leaving your smartphone on the breakfast table while you go to the buffet line
 - Hanging a bag on your chair at a restaurant

VIOLENT CRIME AVOIDANCE

- Follow many of the same tips that are listed in "Theft Avoidance" above.

- Walk and travel around the city in pairs or small groups.
- Minimize walking at night, especially away from the immediate area around your hotel.
- Ask your tour manager, hotel staff, etc. which areas of the city should be avoided.
- If someone tries to rob you, do not resist, especially if they have a visible weapon. You will be able to replace your stolen items so risking your life is not worth it.
- If you are robbed or assaulted, report the crime to the police. They will probably not be able to recover stolen items, but you will be able to document the incident for any possible insurance or medical help needed as a result of the crime.
- **PLEASE NOTE: If you ever feel unsafe anywhere, trust your instincts, and move on to more comfortable surroundings.**

U.S. STATE DEPT. COUNTRY-SPECIFIC INFO LINK

- <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>

For Further Suggestions:

More information is available in guidebooks, such as those published by Fodor's, Frommer's, Lonely Planet, and Rough Guides.

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