

TRAVELER SAFETY AND SECURITY CHECKLIST



SECURE COMMUNITY NETWORK

BEFORE TRAVELING

- ✔ If you are traveling, review local or international government websites for travel advisories.
- ✔ Stay up to date on local and national news.
- ✔ Sign up for local weather and emergency alerts for the city in which you are staying.
- ✔ Sign up for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at step.state.gov
- ✔ Do not post your travel dates or destinations on social media *until you are back home*
- ✔ Provide an itinerary to trusted third parties.
- ✔ Only take necessary identification, credit cards, health insurance cards, cash, etc.
- ✔ Ensure you have photocopies of all documents and credit cards. Keep them hidden in your luggage with a small amount of cash in case your wallet is lost or stolen.
- ✔ If you will be traveling for an extended period, have your mail delivery stopped at usps.com/manage/hold-mail.htm
- ✔ Place your home lighting on timers and turn on exterior lighting.
- ✔ Place tags on all luggage with your name and phone number, but not your address. Use tags that conceal your contact information to casual observers.

AT THE AIRPORT

- ✔ Do not linger outside; head directly to a secure area.
- ✔ Do not let anyone but badged airline personnel handle your bags.
- ✔ Carry your purse close to your body and your wallet in an inside front pocket.
- ✔ Keep anything of value with you.
- ✔ Initiate any transportation options yourself. Do not accept rides from anyone who offers them first.

IN TRANSIT

- ✔ Stay focused on your surroundings.
- ✔ Have car keys ready when approaching a vehicle.
- ✔ If you are using a rental vehicle, familiarize yourself with its features before operating.
- ✔ Become familiar with your travel route to your hotel before you start.
- ✔ Park in well-lit areas only, as close to building entrances and walkways as possible.
- ✔ Keep vehicle doors locked while you are driving.
- ✔ If you are bumped by another vehicle, think before you get out. If in doubt, call the police.
- ✔ When using public transit, locate exits and sit or stand near one.
- ✔ Anticipate your stop location.
- ✔ Watch for anyone following you off the transit system.



AT HOTEL

- ✔ When checking into the hotel, keep your room number private.
- ✔ Never leave luggage unattended in public spaces.
- ✔ Keep all hotel doors and windows locked.
- ✔ Review the emergency evacuation procedures for the hotel and identify your nearest exit.
- ✔ Always verify who's at your door before opening.
- ✔ Use hotel safes if available.
- ✔ Know where your room key is at all times and keep your room number private.
- ✔ Be aware of areas to avoid.
- ✔ For ground transportation, use only reputable apps such as Curb (taxi), Uber or Lyft (rideshare), or GETT (Israel).
- ✔ Before checking out, ensure you have all important items with you and have not left any sensitive materials in your room.

AROUND YOUR DESTINATION

- ✔ Always appear confident, even when you are lost.
- ✔ Avoid public demonstrations or political disturbances.
- ✔ Know how to call for help, especially if out of country (e.g., 9-1-1 in U.S.; 1-0-0 in Israel)
- ✔ Travel in pairs when possible.
- ✔ Do not discuss travel plans with strangers.
- ✔ Avoid using small alleyways and dimly lit streets. Stay on the main thoroughfares.
- ✔ Be aware of people attempting to distract you.
- ✔ If you are being robbed, give up your valuables, then contact law enforcement.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✔ Always practice situational awareness.
- ✔ Always maintain a calm and confident demeanor.
- ✔ Always have a plan and commit to action.
- ✔ Always know where you are and how to describe it (e.g., address, crossroads, streets, buildings, landmarks).
- ✔ **Trust your instincts.** If it doesn't look right, it probably isn't.
- ✔ Blend in with your surroundings. Don't stand out.
- ✔ Do not use public Wi-Fi without a VPN (encryption).

