

TRAVEL SAFETY GUIDELINES

Independently of the type of transportation, it's essential to keep in mind a few rules that will help you mitigate some of the risks related to traveling within your destination country.

TRAVELING BY CAR

Traveling by car requires additional awareness and vigilance to remain safe.

- If you are the driver, educate yourself about local laws and customs regarding rights of way, licensing, and insurance. Understand the local "rules" for being involved in or witnessing a traffic accident.
- Plan your trip carefully, and always know where you are going. Study a map. Identify potential hazards and safe havens.
- Ensure to drive a well-maintained vehicle. Check the oil and fluids before your trip, carry a spare tire, and learn how to change it.
- Carry your official documents, travel plans, a fully charged cell phone with emergency numbers, a trauma/first aid kit, emergency triangle, spare water, map of the area, high-visibility flashlight, reflective vest, spare tire, and tools.
- Ensure luggage and valuables are hidden while driving and parking the car. Put them in the trunk or hide them before you arrive at your destination, so no one sees you access them.
- Keep your doors locked while driving, and open the windows no more than 2 inches, or 5 centimeters, to prevent criminals from reaching through the window and stealing your belongings.
- If traveling in a rental car, remove any markings that identify the vehicle as such.
- Always wear seat belts.
- Limit night travel; park in a well-lit area near pedestrian traffic or a parking attendant.
- When you park, reverse park into parking spots, preventing people from approaching you from behind as you enter and exit the car.
- Avoid displaying your organization's logo on the vehicle.
- When possible, avoid traveling alone.
- Do NOT pick up hitchhikers.

TRAVELING BY TAXI

- Get a taxi recommendation from your hotel.
- If you must wait for your taxi, be vigilant; others may be watching you. If you feel uncomfortable, wait in a nearby office or shop until your vehicle arrives.
- Before you leave, let a trusted person know about your itinerary.
- Only use officially licensed cabs. Don't let people guide you to a specific taxi.
- Make sure the cab's meter is functional, or agree upon the fare before departing.
- After getting into the taxi, lock the doors and close the windows until you reach your destination, and limit your use of your mobile phone so you can maintain awareness of your surroundings.
- Make sure the driver is alone in the taxi. If you need extra precaution, note down or take a photo of the license plate number and email it to a reliable contact.
- Always wear a seatbelt.
- Do not sit behind the driver, so that you are more aware of the driver's actions.
- Do not allow the taxi driver to take other people in the taxi.
- Make sure you can open the doors in case of an emergency.
- When possible, avoid traveling alone.
- Have someone meet you at your destination point. When you arrive, let others know.
- If you feel uncomfortable while traveling to your destination, make a few phone calls. Mention the taxi and your planned destination.