

Travel Safety Tips from Help-me-park

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We all think that we travel safely when abroad and that things will always happen to other people. With more and more people now being able to afford to travel abroad for a week's holiday, would it surprise you that 1 in 5 risk travelling abroad without the security of travel insurance?

At Help-me-park, we always recommend that you take out comprehensive Travel Insurance, as sometimes, Murphy's law strikes without warning. Check out these useful tips from Help-me-park, your Gatwick Airport meet and greet parking specialist, to see how you can get street-wise and limit your exposure to some of the pitfalls of travelling:

1. Check out FCO travel advice

The **Foreign & Commonwealth office** issue Travel advice, tips and useful cultural information including specific do's & don'ts, areas to avoid, and any security issues in place.

2. Transfers to and from the airport

If you didn't arrange these before you travelled, go to the tourist information counter and get some advice. They should be able to tell you the best and most cost effective way to get to your final destination. Write this information down and put away the guide book. Pickpockets are successful when you're not paying attention to the people who are in close proximity.

3. Remove your flight tags

Once you've got to your destination airport, remove the flight tags your airline added to your bags. It may still seem obvious that you've just stepped off a plane, but it could also be interpreted that you have just returned home.

4. Avoid looking like a tourist

some cultures are naturally friendly and will want to be tactile, which is often the reason for travelling to a particular country in the first place. Just be mindful that pickpockets use this to their advantage. Don't make yourself a target by flashing that expensive watch, camera or bulge of cash in your wallet openly in public. Take a rucksack with you on all your journeys to store all those bulky items.

5. Know your surroundings

Get a local tourist map when you arrive and check with your hotel, hostel or the local tourist office on areas to avoid and check if the information is for a specific time of day. Don't attract trouble by being in the wrong place at the wrong time!

6. Keep your travel documents in a safe place

Always use hotel safes to store your documentation and passports. If you don't have a safe in your room, most hotels will allow you to store this in a sealed envelope in reception's office's safe. Photocopy your passport, visas (if you have had to obtain them), travel insurance & tickets and carry it separately from the originals in your luggage.

7. Disposable wallet

Carry a disposable wallet with you at all times, which has a limited amount of currency (approximately £10). Should you get approached for your wallet, don't argue, just give them the disposable one and limit your losses. Better to lose a few pounds than be hurt.

8. Emergency services

know the telephone numbers for the country you're travelling in and store them in your mobile if you can. Also learn the local word for Police, Ambulance and Fire service for your destination in case you are unable to speak English.

Most importantly though, use your common sense. Don't do anything in a resort that you wouldn't do in a large UK city. And remember, should the unfortunate happen, make sure you report the incident to the police so you can claim against your travel insurance.

Author

Nicole Miller, Marketing Manager of Help-me-park, is an experienced traveller who has worked in the Travel Industry for over 10 years, many of them working for airlines. Help-me-park offer secure and convenient **Meet and Greet valet style parking** at London Gatwick airport. For more information visit the **Help-me-park** website or call 0870 300 600 9.