

SUGGESTIONS FROM THE US STATE DEPARTMENT ABOUT SAFETY ABROAD:

- Do not take valuable items out with you. Do not carry large amounts of cash. Leave your passport and other important documents at home unless you need them
- Prior to departure, prepare a list of the credit/debit cards you have. Note the name of each credit card, the account number, and the international and national phone numbers to call to report lost or stolen cards. Bring two copies of the list with you and leave one behind with your parents.
- Hide your valuables on your person. Wrapping rubber bands around a wallet makes it more difficult for a pickpocket to remove. If you must carry ID with you, put it in your shoe. Don't carry valuables in a handbag (especially a shoulder bag).
- Leave your passport and any money you don't expect to need at home (or locked in your hotel safe, if you are traveling). If local law does not require you to keep your passport with you, carry only a copy of the passport when you leave your hotel or house.
- Find out which parts of town local inhabitants consider risky. If you are out alone at night, stay away from those areas; don't use shortcuts or narrow alleys. Try not to be out alone late at night, ever. Take a taxi to your door and have the taxi driver wait until you are safely inside.
- Be especially alert in crowds. The most common sites for purse, bag or camera snatching are train stations, crowded shopping areas, and places heavily frequented by tourists, such as public buses, trams, subways, and museums.
- Thieves often strike when travelers are distracted. A bag casually left at one's feet or on a cart while checking a train schedule or using a telephone is an easy target. Money belts or pouches worn on the outside of clothing or loosely hung around the neck are easily cut or ripped off. Also, wearing them on the outside highlights where you keep all your valuables.