



Fighting Back Institute

Making A Difference...One Life at a Time



Travel Safety

Traveling abroad can be an exciting time, but also one of unknown dangers. Customs, laws, and attitudes vary from country to country. In any country, there is always an element that seeks to prey on tourists.

There are a few simple things you can do to reduce your risk of being targeted while traveling outside the United States. While travel to any country (and travel within our own borders) is never without the risk of incident, preventative countermeasures can reduce the chances something bad will happen, and make any trip more enjoyable.

Defensive Countermeasures

- If traveling to another country, find out about their laws, customs, etc.
- Carry your money and personal documents (license, passport, credit cards, etc.) in a bag or purse that you can conceal under your clothing.
- Use a disposable camera rather than a digital or 35mm. Expensive cameras are popular targets for theft.
- Don't go out after dark alone.
- Always hold onto your luggage.
- Don't wear a lot of jewelry. Having a lot of expensive-looking or flashy jewelry makes you an easy target for predators.
- Avoid eye contact with men.
- If possible, it is best to travel with another person or in a group.
- Wear a wedding ring while you're in Asia.
- Use a business card for a luggage card instead of using your home address.
- Never tell anyone that you are traveling alone. If someone persistently asks, lie, if necessary.



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When Hailing a Taxi, Uber, Lyft, or Ride-Share

Avoid hailing a taxi when you are alone. Call a cab company ahead of time to schedule a pick-up at your location. When the cab arrives, ask the driver to confirm who he is picking up to make sure they are from the company that you called.

If you're using a Rideshare App, make sure you confirm the car's make, model, and license plate. A photo of the driver and his name should also be visible to you. Confirm the vehicle information and ask the driver his or her name.

Always try to share a cab or rideshare with a friend or someone you know.

Sit in the back of the vehicle. Never sit in the front seat with the driver.

Don't engage in personal conversations with the driver. It is okay to be friendly, but don't give out too much information about yourself or your travel plans.

When you get to your destination, ask the driver to wait until you are inside.

If you ever feel uneasy or threatened, have the driver let you out at a familiar, busy or popular place. Always trust your instincts!

