

Safety & Security Tips and Tools for Visitors

Seattle is one of the nation's safest big cities, statistically, but like in all cities, visitors are advised to observe some basic safety procedures, adhere to local laws and report crime to appropriate officials.

Common Sense Safety Tips



When out and about

- Remove your conference badge; don't draw attention to yourself and the fact that you're a tourist.
- Safety in numbers: Grab a friend or colleague while exploring the city.
- Walk in well-lit areas; Use main streets and avoid shortcuts through alleys.
- If alone after dark, use a ride service such as Lyft, Uber or a cab.
- Be conscious of your belongings. Keep personal/valuable items in your hotel safe or close at hand.
- Keep the address and phone number of where you're staying in your phone in case you find yourself turned around.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Keep your eyes up and not on your phone.
- Pay attention to your instincts; if something doesn't feel right, you can always walk into a business/hotel for help.
- If you are in a drinking establishment, don't leave your drink unattended.
- Walk with purpose and project an assertive and business-like image. Criminals will be discouraged if you do not appear vulnerable or easily intimidated.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash. Use traveler's checks or debit/credit cards. Keep a record of traveler's checks numbers, credit card numbers, photocopy of passport and other valuable documents separate from originals.
- Be careful and alert when cashing traveler's checks, or using a cash machine. Never let someone see how much money you have in your wallet, or where you keep your money.
- Don't wear expensive jewelry and watches when out sightseeing. If you must wear it, wear it inside your clothing.
- Pickpockets are often attracted to crowded places. They often work in teams of two or three; one may create a distraction while the other one lifts your wallet. Be aware of someone who bumps, shoves or gets too close.
- Learn to carry your purse or wallet safely. Purses should be closed, held in front of your body, with your arm across it. Wallets should be carried in a front pants pocket or in an interior jacket pocket.

Common Sense Safety Tips

At your hotel

- Prior to arriving, book hotel reservations using only first and middle initial and last name, particularly women traveling alone.
- Keep your currency and credit cards in multiple places. Keep some cash and an extra credit card in a safe place in your belongings or in a room safe. This way if for some reason you become separated from it, you aren't stranded.
- Keep room numbers private. Don't sign bar or restaurant checks with your room number. Keep track of room keys. If a key is lost, ask for a different room, or ask for the locks to be changed.
- Use all locks on hotel door, particularly the double lock. Always lock the door when leaving.
- When returning to your room, make sure that you have your room key out and ready.
- Never automatically open your door when a knock is heard. Know your visitor's identity prior to admittance. Use your peephole, if available, or talk through the locked door. If someone claims they are from maintenance, security or a hotel employee, phone the front desk to make sure the visitor is legitimate.
- Put valuables in a signed and sealed envelope and leave it in the room safe.
- Be alert for suspicious persons in the hotel hallways. Report them to the manager.
- Locate fire exits, elevators and the nearest phone. Plan the best way to get out of the building in an emergency.
- Label all pieces of luggage with your name, address, and phone number, both inside and outside. For the outside label be sure to use a tag that closes, so the information can't be read by a passerby.