

Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips for Travel



1. Do your research before you go: www.SmarTraveller.gov.au.
 - If you are a dual citizen, check the implications, e.g. the passport used dictates the embassy available to assist, liability for military service, etc.
 - If you take medications, know which are restricted & where. Take supporting documents.
 - If you have parental responsibility, ensure you have all consents necessary.
 - Register your trip with [Australian Government's DFAT SmarTraveller](http://www.AustralianGovernment.gov.au/DFAT/SmarTraveller).
2. Hold onto belongings such as handbags/backpacks. Beware pickpockets and bag-snatchers! When sitting, try looping bag straps around your ankles, or keep your bag on your lap. If you rest or sleep, ensure all expensive items like phones/wallets, are not visible. Take 'tourist photos' of unknown fellow travellers. Note: Belongings on a train/plane stored in a baggage store/over-head locker MAY NOT be covered by travel insurance – keep within sight at all times.
3. When wearing a backpack, be aware that you are unbalanced, heavier and overhang, especially on a station platform, on a balcony or an escalator.
4. Align the wheels of your pram or motorised scooter PARALLEL to the train platform edge to avoid accidents, i.e. not pointing towards/away from the track. Always apply the brakes on a station platform or whilst travelling on a train/bus/taxi. Always use a 'Pram Harness'.
5. Scan your itinerary, passport & travel insurance documents and save them to a secure USB and/or cloud-based storage. Include your Emergency Contact numbers, Consulate & Embassy contact details. Copy both sides of the cards in your wallet (the back has emergency contact numbers).
6. If you are away for an extended period consider house-sitters, inform your insurance & burglar alarm companies, set TV and lights on timers, and make your home look lived in. Ask a neighbour or friend to:
 - put your bins out and in each week;
 - regularly empty mailbox, collect mail & remove junk mail/freebie newspapers;
 - park in your driveway;
 - mow lawn and/or nature strip;
 - regularly check the outside of your property to remove any clues that your home is empty (e.g. a note/business card on your door, or a delivery on the doorstep).
7. Do not change the answering-machine message to indicate you are away. Similarly, don't post on Social Media that you are going away; no check-ins, no cruise ship as your public profile picture, no sharing of travel photos – wait until you return. Keep your travel SECRET! Consider NOT setting up a holiday auto-response email.

FOR EMERGENCIES (Including anyone on your property)	000
TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS (Crime Stoppers)	1800 333 000
TO REPORT NON-EMERGENCY CRIME (Police Assistance Line)	131 444
IF YOU'RE NOT SURE (Hornsby Police Station)	9476 979
TTY—To ask for Police, type PPP	106
SPEAK AND LISTEN	000
	1 800 555 727

8. If you drop anything on train tracks, ask staff for assistance, or use the emergency help point, or phone **CityRail's Security Hotline 9379 4444**. If you go onto railway tracks, it's not only incredibly dangerous, it's a criminal offence!
9. If you feel intimidated by someone with you in a train carriage, jump out at the next exit, go down a carriage and hop back on.
10. Text to a friend or relative, the Uber/taxi number, driver's name, driver's licence number, and to/from locations. Discretely (and only if possible), send photo(s).
11. When waiting at night, stand at the platform "Night safe" area (indicated in blue) to make sure you board the train at the carriage closest to the guard's compartment. Wait at a bus stop in a well-lit area. If possible, always wait near other people rather than on your own. Sit near the bus driver, especially if the bus is relatively empty or at night. Only use travel services and taxis recommended by the hotel.
12. Consider a reduced credit limit on a credit card purely for your overseas travel. Let the bank know of your trip. To avoid being over-charged, consider using a currency exchange mobile phone App such as XE Currency. Consider wearing a hidden wallet (that attaches to a belt and tucks inside your pants leg). Use a wallet/bag/passport holder with RFID protection.
13. Try and look like a local. Respect local customs and culture. Drink in moderation. Try and plan routes with maps inside the hotel or inconspicuously when out. Download local maps prior to departure. Research the area and routes, using 'Street View' to familiarise yourself. Avoid beaches at night, as they are usually not patrolled.
14. Beware public and free Wi-Fi unsecured by password, such as at airports and hotels.
15. Always report anti-social behaviour or harassment. Familiarise yourself with local emergency numbers and program them into your phone (see Australia below).
16. Request a room on a floor other than the lowest – most crimes happen on the lower floors. Acquire or photograph the fire escape plan on the back of your hotel door. Keep a flashlight next to the bed and within arm's reach.
17. Keep the 'do not disturb' sign on hotel door, even when unoccupied. Keep the drapes/blinds pulled at all times, even when unoccupied. Don't rely on hotel room safes - carry passport & anything of value at all times. Get cleaned by calling maid service.
18. Use a mobile phone app to let people know exactly where you are, using Apps such as Glympse, Find My Friends. See www.WatchOut.org.au/Personal.
19. Use a motion alarm that can be placed over the hotel doorknob, or a door-stopper alarm, or a simple rubber wedge to place under the door. Request an extra key at the front desk, so no one will know if you're traveling alone.
20. Visit our crime prevention website www.WatchOut.org.au/travel/ for links to pertinent info on the internet. Protect yourself!

This information was compiled by volunteers with Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby. Please contact your Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) at Hornsby Police Station for more information. Phone: 9476 9799. Tips and other resources are available to download free from the Neighbourhood Watch in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby website: au-NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org/Tips/.

See also the community's one-stop-shop of crime prevention information: WatchOut.org.au.

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