Explore with Confidence
Tips for traveling so you can relax, enjoy, and be safe.

The next time you make plans to vacation, make sure you and your family are prepared before you leave home. After all, a vacation should be a time to enjoy yourself, not focus on the risks you may face along the way. Consider this checklist of items before you leave and while you’re traveling, so you can enjoy your trip without worry.

1. Your documents
   Scan important documents and store them in a secure location. Leave copies of your passport, driver’s license, visa, and itinerary with a friend or family member, or store them online.

2. Renting a car or using a taxi
   Rent a car only if you are familiar with the terrain. Otherwise use only registered taxis. Be sure you understand your car insurance policy and the country’s requirements.

3. Airports
   Move quickly to secure areas in the airport and keep your belongings with you. Minimize your exposure to check-in lines and public shops.

4. Clothing
   Blend in and dress appropriately. Dress down and keep a low profile, especially in more risky locations.

5. Valuables
   Leave fine jewelry and watches at home. You risk losing your valuables, and you become a target for criminals.

6. Getting around
   Stay aware of your surroundings at tourist attractions and on public transportation.

7. Technology
   Don’t post photos or updates about your travels on social media. This lets criminals know you’re away from home.

8. Where to stay
   Stay in smaller, boutique hotels instead of large, marquee hotels, which may be more conspicuous. Don’t discuss your plans with hotel staff or guests.

9. Money
   Use ATMs in secure locations only and call your credit card providers to let them know where you’ll be traveling. Plan ahead so you know how much money you’ll need.

10. Children
    Prepare them but don’t create panic. Make sure your children know their names, address, and phone number, and keep a note in their pocket with your local hotel and embassy phone numbers, in case you get separated.

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