

Is your hotel safe?

**You will be surprised how
vulnerable you are!**

**Haganah Security International
www.haganahsecurity.com**

Topics

- *Things to look for in a secure hotel*
- *Hotel “security guards” or are they ?*
- *Your room and privacy*
- *Relaxed security and your safety*
- *Hotel staff and your security*

Secure hotels

Here are some basic things to look for in a secure hotel

1. Are there any hotel security personnel in the lobby?
2. Are there enough security personnel to handle emergency situation?
3. Are hotel security and personnel receiving on going training ?
4. Is there on a normal basis cars parked at the front door of the hotel?
5. Are there non hotel guests constantly in and out of the hotel? (not including nightclub hours)
6. Do you find key cards or keys just sitting around the desk area?
7. Are there many drunk customers in the hotel? (Night club hours as well as non-night club hours)
8. Is the hotel clean and up kept?
9. Two way or one way mirrors in your room?
10. Locks in proper order?

Just some things to think about.

Hotel “security guards” or are they?

As I have traveled the globe and stayed in more hotels than I can name I have met some very interesting hotel security people. From the good guys, to the right out criminals.

I have met:

1. “Security staff” that extorted other security staff from competing companies.
2. “Security staff” that stole tickets from night club entry and sold it to customers at cheaper prices.
3. “Security staff” that were so under trained that in a fire the customers lead the way.
4. “Security staff” that had egos bigger than the moon and rather than calming a situation fights broke out.
5. “Security staff” that slept in empty rooms, just to be caught by cleaning people.
6. “Security staff” that made sexual advances to female customers.
7. “Security staff” that on their off time, came to the hotel night club drunker than the customers they kicked out the night before.

Hotel “security” or are they? Cont.

I have seen:

8. "Security staff" that gave out personal information on clients.
9. "Security staff" that were no better than the local thugs in appearance and action.
10. "Security staff" that used video recordings of female clients in the spa to give to local perverts.

Be aware of leaving personal items that you don't want seen or stolen by cleaning people. Use common sense.

Please be aware that just because the name tag says "Security" doesn't mean they are. You are your best security. Don't be deceived and get in a relaxed state of mind that everyone is the friendly security staff.

I would like to add that there are many professional security staff out there. I have met some of the most well trained professionals in the security field. However I am trying to educate the reader that there are criminals in the hotel security field.

I spent many long years training security staff, I have met the good ones and the criminal ones. So beware !!!!!

Your room and your privacy

- Here are some tips on keeping secure and private in your room.
- If you don't want people or workers to enter your room while your in it, put up the do not disturb sign. By putting up the do not disturb sign, you will keep the employees and others away from your room. This also helps when your not in the room. The employees will not enter your room. By keeping it on all the time your training the employees psychologically to avoid your room, due to the fact that they just don't know if your in it or not.
- Pre inspect your room for 2 way mirrors, hidden cameras, and window observation from across hotel room. For 2 way mirrors take your finger nail and lay it sharp end towards the glass, if your nails do not touch, then it is a normal mirror. If your nails do touch, then it's a 2 way mirror and your being watched. Leave the room.
- Make sure that your door locks from the inside and from the outside.
- Make sure that your room door hinges are well set and has pins inserted. I was on a trip to Romania once, and the hinges were tampered with. From the outside and in the door locked nicely. With a lift from the door handle I took off the door. Surprised ? I'm not.

Your room and your privacy cont.

- Once on a work trip to Hungary, I received a phone call at 3 am. A woman's voice asked if I needed company, I said sure come on up. I quickly left the room and walked around in the hall like I was looking for my room. A few minutes later a woman showed up with 2 guys by her side. They went to my door and knocked. I noticed that the 2 men were standing on both sides of the door. Can you think why? Robbery? Prostitution / Police set up? Usually it will turn out to be a robbery.
- Don't leave any jewelry or money in plain sight of the cleaning people when they come in to clean or ask questions.
- Don't give too big tips at first to the hotel baggage delivery guy.. Big money means big robbery. If you want to tip big, do it when you leave.
- If your room has a balcony make sure it is locked when you leave, or in some countries when you are in the room. If people can easily just hop over to your room then that's how easy it will be to have access to you and your family as well as your luggage. Many people lock the front door, just to come back later to find out they have been robbed. An open balcony will usually be the mode of entry.
- These are just some basic tips that I have run into as I did my globe jumping. Use your imagination and common sense.

Relaxed security and your safety

here are some things I have seen as a hotel security consultant and as a traveler

- Most hotel security staff almost never control the lobby parking. Car suicide bombers and criminal thugs like to watch clients entering and exiting.
- I have noticed hotel security not being around when people come in and use stolen cell phones to make calls to machines to steal drinks from the machine...technology, isn't it great. I had to do the job of the hotel security staff and inform police. Finland is notorious for this type of scams. And at some hotels the security is notorious for their lack of observation skills.
- I have found plastic keycards to rooms sitting on floors and tables for a few hours before anyone picked it up to give to the hotel staff.
- Understaffed security staff. I have found also that in some hotels there are 2 hotel security staff to secure 3 hotels. They run around doing 20 minute security checks in 3 different hotels. I would not feel safe knowing that the hotel security staff is a few kilometers down the road.
- When choosing a hotel for you and your loved ones, wouldn't you want to know if your hotel is secure? In an age with terrorism and high crime you are responsible to making sure you and your family are secure. Having security staff checking 2 other hotels is a great neglect of safety in case of crime and fires.

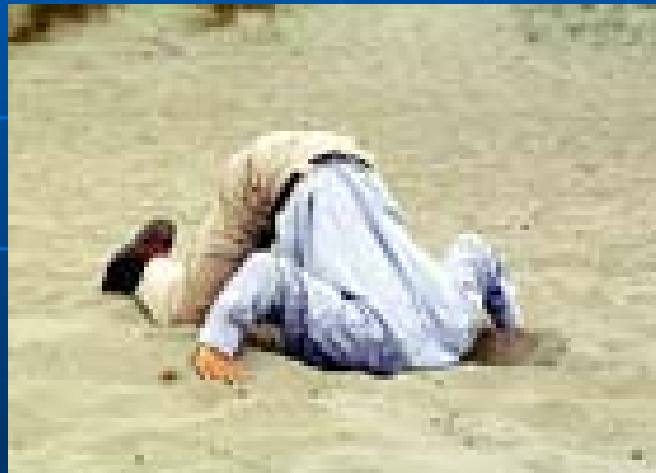
Relaxed security and your safety cont.

- At times when I sat in the hotel lobby, I hear loose lipped people after a few drink telling strangers their life stories and the reason for them being in that country. I had one man as I was working as a night club security supervisor tell me that he was in that country to do defense contracts with the government. After a few more drinks he told me his life story and his room number. I could not believe what I was hearing. The man was here on defense contract and he was telling me all about it. Amazing!
- Telling hotel employees about your business is one good way to get you robbed or kidnapped in certain areas around the globe.

KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT!!!!!!

- If you have been reading or listening to the news for the past few years, you will hear about hotel and nightclub bombings. After the explosion and further investigation the news states that the car has been sitting there for a while before it went off. Be careful in some countries hanging around the outside of the hotel lobby. If you notice that a car has been sitting there for a while and it looks weighed down, get away and report it. If hotel staff does nothing, pack your stuff and find another hotel.

Many people choose to live with their heads in the sand. What do you choose?



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