

# **Travel Security & Awareness**

**Haganah Security International**  
**[www.haganahsecurity.com](http://www.haganahsecurity.com)**

# Topics

- *Hotels and cruise ships*
- *Luggage and other property*
- *Your area security*
- *Stay in sight & in public areas*
- *Having a plan*
- *Body language*

# *Hotel & Cruise ships*

- **Hotel & Ship Security:** Never open the door to anyone. Many times criminals pose as staff. Use locks in addition to hotel locks. Staff have tools to bypass existing hotel locks. Plan a fire escape route; book no higher than the 3rd floor, fire apparatus is limited.
- Try not to get a room by an emergency exit or back stair case. Criminals use this as a quick escape after burglarizing your room, or worse kidnapping you or assaulting you.
- Be careful who you give out personal information to. You may be overheard and you will be set up for kidnapping or robbery as well as identity theft. Hotel workers may be connected with local thugs. Keep your travel plans as well as where you are from to yourself. Lie if you have to.
- When you go out put up the “do not disturb” sign. It is a valuable sentry for your room if you leave it on the doorknob outside the room. The sign works nicely when you aren't in the room because it gives the impression you are still inside.
- **Make sure the room doesn't have a 2 way mirror.** You can make sure you aren't watched in your privacy. By placing your finger nail on the mirror, if your nails touch in the reflection, it's a 2 way mirror. You may be watched. If your nails don't touch, your looking at a real mirror. I have found 2 way mirrors in some hotels. They didn't like the show I put on when I did...☺

# *Luggage & Property*

- Luggage tags. People sure like to put their names on those cute luggage tags. Gives great information on where you live and if you may be a good target. Instead, put that tag in a small inner pocket that's not locked. Airport lost and found can unzip it and find your information. This will keep it out of plain sight of those that are looking for targets.
- Check your bags when you depart, make sure nobody planted drugs or any contraband on you that will get you into trouble later. Or worse yet, you find out you have been a mule for a drug dealer or terrorist. Recheck your bags and once you pack it, don't let it out of your sight.
- Make sure you lock everything! It's simple to get into those little locks, but why make things easy. If you can get a better lock. A one Euro lock will give you one Euro of protection.
- Don't put national flags on your bags. If a politically motivated terrorist is lurking you just got the terrorists attention. This also may apply to t-shirts, don't put a target on yourself.
- Keep lap tops with you at all times. If you have very private stuff on there, you will be a target for identity theft and if you have business material on it, well now you gave them your firms plans and contacts. Make sure that your laptop has a key code to log on. Never make things simple for the criminal. If you have been targeted, make them work for it.
- At times I use a luggage that is loud in color, if someone is brave enough to walk away with my hot pink or yellow luggage, I can spot them from a kilometer away. If you make the color loud, it will scream when it gets stolen. 😊

# *Your area security*

- Awareness. Keep your eyes open, don't look like a tourist! Don't walk around like you don't know where you are going. Criminals look for the weak and confused looking. They are the most easy victims.
- Don't let people get into your personal space, try to keep people that you don't know at least an arms length away. This will make it a bit harder for them to grab you around your throat and drag you away.
- Ladies! If you are asked to go look at a product in the back of the store, this is a set up for a possible sexual assault. Never go to the rear of the store alone!
- Make sure that you walk with confidence, don't walk around looking like a weakling. If you are approached, let your body language say that you will not be an easy target. If you are approached, be calm and positive and leave the area.
- Know your environment where ever you are. Have an escape route, wear non seductive clothing, be aware of your gestures and eye contact.
- Don't walk around talking on your cell phone, you will never know what hit you when they hit you. Your awareness will be low.
- Don't walk around with money exposed in your hands. You are making yourself stick out. Homeless people may hassle you or do a grab and run.

# *Stay in sight & in public areas*

- Stay in sight of the public. Taking short cuts will get you lost and isolated from help, leaving you open to deal with trouble alone and in confusion. Keep children in sight at all time and don't let them talk to strangers.
- If in public areas stay back from public bus area. Or if your waiting for a bus, stand somewhat back till the bus arrives and watch out for suspicious packages and people that are not dressed to the climate norms.
- Some families like to use 2 way communication radios to keep in touch. Great idea and this will keep the cost of that cell phone low in case you get lost. A 30-70 Euro investment is cheap when you consider the hassle of getting lost and worrying.
- Famous last words "I'll be back in a minute". These are famous last words of missing children and missing spouses. Then they normally run off to places you don't even know.

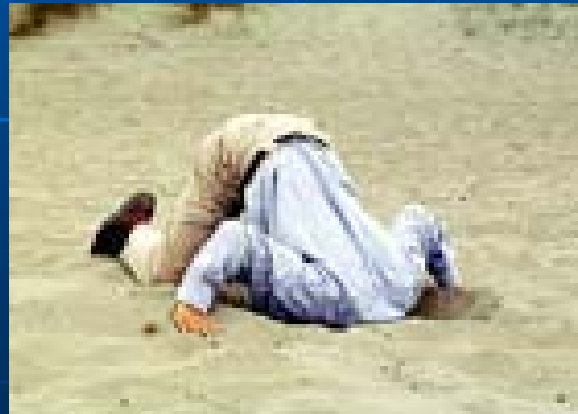
# *Having a plan*

- Make sure everyone in your family knows a plan of action in case of emergency. For example, escape routes from every room in your hotel. Try not to book room on top floors. It's a long way down when a fire starts.
- A plan is very important to talk about before a trip, during a trip the stress and excitement will cause the plan not to stick in your mind when the stress is on.
- If a member of your group is attacked, do you know how to defend your group? Part of having a plan is to know basic self defense. Does your wife know to help when you are attacked? Where do you run? Who do you call? You need a plan.
- A plan also includes letting your loved ones back home know exactly where you will be and who to contact in case of emergency. What will they do and who will they contact when you become missing.
- Planning starts at home. Also make sure that you get your medical shots and know what you are allergic to. Medical emergencies are very important in pre trip planning.

# *Body language*

- What your body language says tells a lot about you. If you look like a victim you will be treated like a victim. Walk and talk with confidence.
- Watch for clues in others that you may be tricked, robbed or about to be assaulted.
- Watch for the same people that you start to see at your hotel as well as many places that you are. Great sign that you may be a target for kidnapping.
- Be careful about certain hand gestures, in some cultures they are an insult. What may be a “V” sign for victory, in England a palm facing you “V” is an insult.
- Touching. In some cultures to touch a man's shoulder is normal, where as in some it's an intrusion on space. Hands off people.
- Excessive smiling may be interpreted as flirting as well as prolonged eye contact. This can either be good or bad. Depending on your situation and hangout.
- Remember to give people space, don't crowd a person. This can be insulting as well as dangerous in case they planned to assault you.
- Body language is important, use common sense and good judgment. If the body language says something different than the verbal believe the body language.

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



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