

SAFETY AND SECURITY TIPS FOR TRAVELLERS

As a domestic or foreign tourist, your enjoyment and well-being are of utmost importance to us. As in any country, there are a few basic safety precautions visitors should take to ensure they experience the best South Africa has to offer in confidence. Based on international guidelines, here are some precautionary guidelines to take before embarking on your trip and when travelling around South Africa:

Before you depart

- Leave copies of your itinerary, ID document, passport and driver's licence with family or friends, so you can be contacted in case of an emergency
- When renting a car, ensure you have selected an option with Personal Accident Cover, so you can have peace of mind in case of an accident. Alternatively, take out medical insurance with your travel agent to ensure a speedy medical service if required
- Plan your route by obtaining a set map or saving your planned locations on your mobile
- Make use of a reputable shuttle service or car rental agency. In the case of ordering a shuttle service, get the name, contact number and photograph of the driver who will pick you up at the airport in South Africa
- Make sure you have securely locked your bags and luggage, and have placed distinct markers for easy and quick identification
- Do not cover or wrap your luggage as you may be requested by airport officials to open your bags for standard security inspections. At the airport, you will find luggage wrapping services available that will secure fragile items in your luggage
- Avoid wearing flashy jewellery that may create attention
- Set your mobile device on data roaming, so you have immediate internet and telephonic access when you arrive in South Africa

At the airport

- Do not allow anyone to handle your bags without asking you
- When seeking directions, proceed to marked information counters only
- As you approach your rental, shuttle or friend's vehicle, keep a lookout for any suspicious people that may be following or who are parked in their cars. Criminals have access to potentially any make and model of car, so don't be fooled by an expensive-looking car
- If you have planned for a shuttle service to pick you up at the arrivals section, call the driver first and tell him or her that you have landed safely. Then ask where exactly they are situated and waiting for you
- Place all luggage in the boot of your/the car

In your vehicle

- As you or your driver exit the parking area and airport itself, take a 360° look around for any suspicious behavior. Once on the public road and at regular five minute intervals, try pay particular attention to see if there are any cars following you or drifting slowly behind you. If you recognise a car drifting behind that you think you saw exiting the



airport with you, make the driver aware of it. If you are alone, keep an extra eye out on the vehicle and regularly cross lanes safely

- Keep the doors locked and windows up at all times, and be vigilant at stop signals
- Do not leave your mobile device or other valuables where they are visible from outside
- Plan your route in advance. In the case of a car rental, always have the company's number on hand in case you get lost. Make sure the car you are driving is fueled-up.
- Never pick up strangers or hitch-hikers
- At night, park in well-lit areas

At the hotel, guesthouse or other accommodation

- As you approach the accommodation premises, take another 360° look around you
- Once at reception, report any unattended luggage or parcels to reception
- Ask reception if there any specific safety/security guidelines to note
- Once in your hotel room, review the emergency escape plan or route at the back of your hotel room door. If there is none, insist on reception to explain the escape route to you
- Store all your valuables in the safety deposit box, usually situated in the wardrobe
- If someone knocks at your door, check through the eye-hole first before opening. Contact reception if there is reason for concern

While travelling

- Limit the amount of cash you carry with you. There are numerous safely located ATM s around in case you need cash. Never carry your wallet in the rear of your trousers
- When using an ATM, keep your pin secure and do not accept any help from strangers. Always keep fully aware of your surroundings at the ATM and who is around you
- Plan your day trips in advance and where possible, save the GPS locations on your mobile
- Avoid wearing expensive or flashy jewellery. Keep mobile devices and cameras close to you by connecting them to a safety string wrapped around your wrist
- Do not stop if your tyres have been damaged by rocks or obstacles on the road – go to the nearest well-lit service station and call the police on 10111
- At night, stay away from dark, isolated areas. Where possible, always travel with a group and explore busy and well-lit streets