



Key Safety Tips For Students on Vacation

- **Notify parents of your vacation plans.** Your parents/relatives should always have the name, phone, and room number of the condominium or hotel where you will be staying. Tell them when you will depart and when you expect to return. Call friends or family members to let them know that you have arrived and returned.
- **Awareness:** Be cautious of who you trust, especially in other states or countries where the law and culture are different. Always keep your luggage with you and in your site. If you must step away, make sure you ask a friend you can trust to keep an eye on your belongings. Never walk alone or get into a vehicle with someone you do not know. *Follow your gut instincts; if your intuition tells you are at risk, you are probably right.* Try to leave quickly. Always be aware of your surroundings. At night, stay in well-lit areas and use more heavily travelled routes. Avoid walking alone in isolated areas; avoid shortcuts through parking lots, parks, and deserted areas.
- **Alcohol Laws:** Know the drug and alcohol laws at your destination. Research and thoroughly understand the legal age of consumption and local laws regarding drug and alcohol use. Some areas will ticket for open intoxicants and marijuana use, while others may arrest and have stiff penalties for public inebriation and illegal drug use.
- **Designate a non-drinker/safety person:** Make sure that someone in your group is not drinking or is drinking responsibly so that they can get everyone home. Plan ahead on how much you plan to drink. Always eat when you drink. Only accept drinks from a licensed bartender or drinks that you pour yourself. You put yourself at risk for receiving an altered beverage if you don't know the source of the drink. *Keep your drink in sight at all times.* Talk with a friend about when he/she should intervene and make a plan for how you will return to your hotel. Stay with someone who knows you when you are drinking and never wander off alone.
- **Illness:** If a friend feels sick, don't leave them alone. If you feel sick, ask someone to look out for you. If a member of your group passes out, turn them on their side to prevent choking and call 911 immediately.
- **Hotel Safety:** Ensure door locks are in good order. Always lock the door when in the room. Never open your door to anyone you do not know (if the person states they work for the hotel, call the front desk and confirm before allowing them entry). Don't horseplay or climb on balconies. Never sit on railings and always keep both feet on the floor at all times. Falls from balconies, even those on lower floors, can be fatal.
- **Identification, Cash & Credit Cards:** Don't carry all of your credit or bank cards in your wallet or purse. Carry the minimum amount of cash that you will need, including a little backup. If you have extra cash, leave it in your hotel room/safe, hidden from sight. Never leave your passport, other forms of ID or money in an unsafe place. It is best to keep these with you at all times.
- **Crime:** NEVER EVER assume that someone you've just met will look out for your best interests. Keep in mind that more people are sexually assaulted by acquaintances than by strangers. Try your best to stay with your friends. Watch out for each other. Do not let your friends go with strangers no matter how nice or fun they seem. Never bring strangers back to your room or give them your - or your friend's - personal information. If you are unlucky enough to be robbed, assaulted, or raped alert (Call 911) the proper authorities as soon as possible. If you are raped, get medical attention immediately.