

IDF 2011 SF Safety & Travel Tips

INTRODUCTION / OVERVIEW

A new city, a new hotel, new people to meet, all adds up to a stimulating environment away from the routine of our normal lives. But, it may cause us to let down our guard and become careless about the usual precautions we follow at home. No city or town is exempt from the problem of crime. We have assembled the following tips from various trade show publications to help you plan your trip and be more aware when traveling.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

1. Keep a list of the credit cards and identification you plan to take.

TRANSPORTATION/TAKING A CAB

1. Never take a gypsy cab. They are notorious for overcharging and are seldom insured.
2. Check for a posted estimate of average fares near the taxi stand. If a dispatcher is present, ask for the appropriate fare and time frame for reaching your destination. Ask if taxis run on a flat rate or meter, and whether the meter should start at zero. At some airports dispatchers give you a card outlining what charges to expect.
3. Check for notices posted inside the taxi regarding surcharges. If charges are not posted and the driver demands them, ask for written rules or proof that the costs are legitimate.
4. Ask for a signed receipt specifying pick-up and drop-off points when you get a cab. Drivers will be hesitant about circuitous routes if they know there will be a written record.

IN YOUR ROOM

1. When arriving in your room, check entry door lock function, as well as the security bolt lock action.
2. Check all areas of your room (bath, closet, etc.) before letting the bellman go.
3. Keep the hotel room door open when hotel staff (bellman, room service) are in your room. Flip the deadbolt out to keep the door from closing.
4. Do not answer the door without verifying who it is. If a person claims to be a hotel employee, call the front desk and ask if someone is supposed to have access to your room.
5. DO NOT give your credit card number over the phone to anyone claiming to be a hotel employee – should the front desk require your credit card, let them know that you will stop by the desk in the morning. Should you get such a phone call, please be sure to inform hotel security.

ON THE STREET

1. Avoid walking alone, especially after dark. If possible travel in groups.
2. Don't wear your name badge out of the convention center.