

WELCOME TO PARIS

Advice On STAYING SAFE



Before coming to Paris

- Bring photocopies of your passport / identification cards / travel documents OR saved in your emails OR copied in your smartphones.
- Ensure that you have small changes or small notes (1, 2, 10, 20 euros) as big notes (50 or 100 euros) attract attention.

While in Paris



- Do not put your wallet in your back pockets or in loose jackets.
- Do not carry large amount of cash with you – if you need to, put them in a money belt.
- Do not wear expensive jewellery when going out – Most Parisiens are casual shoppers!
- Never leave your bags unattended.
- Wear the shoulder strap of your bag across your chest and keep them zipped at all times.
- Wear your backpack over your chest – Do not put valuables in the outside zipper compartments.
- Make note of emergency telephone numbers that you may need: police (dial 17), medical emergency (dial 18), your hotel and the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam.

How pickpockets operate? Always beware!

- They are organised and skillful groups of teenagers or adults.
- They often have an accomplice who will jostle you, ask you for directions or the time, point to something spilled on your clothing or distract you by creating a disturbance. The teenagers might approach you with a clipped file asking for a short survey – either they pickpocket you or charge you a certain amount at the end of the survey!
- Beware of strangers who approach you and offering bargains or to be your guide.
- If approached by a person claiming to be a plainclothed police officer, ask him to show his identity/badge and check them carefully. This is one of the latest tactics around!
- If you realised you have just been pickpocketed, shout “pickpocket” (it is also a French word) or “help” so that others around you are kind enough to come to your aid. Your next action is to head straight to the nearest police station to file a report especially if your passport is stolen. Contact the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam as well.



Frequent pickpocket areas

- Be alert in crowded areas such as metro train stations, elevators, tourist sites, market places, festivals and marginal areas of the city.
- Known areas include the Eiffel Tower, Sacré Couer, Lafayette and Printemp shopping areas (even inside the malls), Champs Élysées, Gare du Nord and Gare de l'Est.
- Do not use short cuts, narrow alleys or poorly lit streets and try not to travel alone at night.



- Avoid areas with public demonstrations and other civil disturbances.

Safety in your hotel



- Keep your hotel door locked at all times. Do not open for strangers. If in doubt, call the hotel reception.
- Do not leave cash and valuables in your room.
- Use the hotel safety box.

Safety on public transportation



Taxis

- Beware of unmarked taxis. Only board taxis clearly identified with TAXI signs.
- Upon your arrival at Gare du Nord, for example, do not accept a person/s offering you rides. They charge twice or more than the actual prices. Follow the queue where the official taxi stand is located.

Metro & RER Trains / Buses



- Metro trains along popular tourist routes are also popular targets of well-organized group of pickpockets.
- Be extra vigilant when standing near the train doors, corridor and platform as pickpockets will try to block your path or create a distraction while an accomplice will steal your valuables.
- Do not feel afraid to alert authorities if you feel threatened in any way. There are extra uniformed police personnel assigned to ride on trains or areas where crime is common.

Note: These are only suggestions and should not be interpreted as a legal advice.