



Safety and Security

While it is always advisable to be aware of your surroundings when traveling in a territory that is foreign to you, violent crime rates are much lower in Europe, even in big cities, than in the U.S. Typically the main concerns for a traveler will be petty crimes--namely, pickpocketing and scams.

Tips for personal security and safety in Europe:

- Do what you can to avoid making yourself a target for a pickpocket or scammer. Petty criminals look for people who stand out as inattentive to, or overwhelmed by, their surroundings or situation. Maintaining an outward appearance of calm and confidence can help you evade the notice of anyone with dishonest intentions.
- Be particularly vigilant in locations that are crowded and busy, where petty criminals are apt to operate. (Pickpocketing, for example, more frequently occurs in crowded public squares and large train stations.) Since our trip is taking place outside of peak tourist season, crowds will be less dense, so petty thieves operating in crowds may not seem as much of a concern, but still, remaining vigilant is always a good idea.
- For security, wear purses crossbody-style, closed and zippered or latched. Never keep wallets, phones, or any other important or valuable items in a back pocket.
- Before departure, duplicate important documents--such as all bank cards you are bringing and your passport photo page--by emailing yourself photos of these items or by making photocopies to bring with you (to make it easier to cancel or replace items if any are lost).
- You may leave your passport secured in your hotel room when going out for the day, and instead bring with you a physical copy of your passport photo page.
- We recommend not carrying all of your cash and cards in one place while you're out and about; you may choose to leave a debit or credit card secured in your hotel room, for example, in case your wallet or purse is lost.
- Monitor your open drinks in bars/restaurants, and do not accept open drinks from strangers.
- Street vendors may apply high-pressure tactics (especially in crowded and heavily touristed spots), but remember: you are always in control of whether, or what, to buy from them. If, for example, a vendor approaches you, hands you something, and says you now owe him for it and he will not take it back, simply put the item on the ground and walk away.
- Liz and Adam can always be reached on their cell phones (if you don't have a working phone of your own in Europe, you can often ask to borrow one from a local passerby). If you have any security concerns that arise while you are out and about in Europe, or if any emergency situation arises, you can always call us, at any time of the day or night, 24/7, for the entirety of our stay in Europe (yes, really!).

Let us know if you have any additional questions about safety and security issues!

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