

+ Health & Safety

HATCH

Safety Share

Safe Transportation

Planes, trains, automobiles and buses. What do they all have in common? They are all forms of transportation which many of us rely on for business travel to get to our destinations efficiently and safely. While some of these modes of transportations are part of our regular daily life routine, when traveling to and locally in other countries, it can become a safety risk. Different countries having different laws and regulations governing transportation and infrastructure and may be lacking when compared to what you are use to at home. Keep your best interests in mind throughout your travel when using local transportation by following these tips:

Airports

- Arrive early. Remember, it's your responsibility to arrive at the airport with enough time to complete all ticketing, baggage check and security clearance procedures to arrive at the gate ready to board.
- Expect different methods of security from country to country.
- Ensure to exchange money at the airport or bring some of the local currency with you.
- Don't linger in public areas.
- Don't carry bags for others.
- Pay attention to the inflight briefing. It may seem monotonous or boring to those who travel often, but in the event of an emergency, you will need to know it instantly.
- Count the rows to the emergency exit. In an emergency, lighting may be reduced.
- Don't drink too much alcohol. Cabins are pressurized so the effect of alcohol is greater than normal.
- Listen to the flight attendants. They are primarily there for your safety.

Local Transportation

In some countries, there are many risks involved with taking local transportation. It may not be appropriate for foreigners to use, or other means may be preferred over others. You should always research or ask your host about public transportation before using.

Taxis

Many travelers choose taxis as a primary method of getting around. Taxis are generally safer than many forms of public transportation, especially if buses and trains are overcrowded, poorly run or unregulated. However in some countries, even taxis are warned to be unsafe. The following are steps to take to minimize the risks.

- Go to a taxi stand, ask at the hotel, or ask a local for authorized taxi. Legal taxis should have radios, meters, identification of the driver. Always check for those items before getting in the taxi.
- Be sure the car seems safe. Check for seatbelts and door handles in the back for exiting.
- The address and phone number of your destination should be prepared in advance for the taxi driver.
- Ride with the windows closed, or nearly so, and have your phone handy. From a thief's point of view, every stop along the way is an opportunity to reach in, open even a locked door, and take your belongings.

- You should not share a cab with a stranger.
- Ensure to settle on a price beforehand when there is no meter inside the taxi.
- Carry money in small denominations at all times, so you have change for the taxi fare.
- If in an emergency situation, leave the bags. You can run faster without it and items can be replaced.

Buses and Trains

- Public transport of this nature should be avoided whenever possible.
- If the driver is acting in an unsafe manner or appears intoxicated, disembark at the next stop.
- Keep your personal belongings in your sight, or preferably on you at all times. A lock placed on zippers is a good deterrent to a 'would be' thief.
- Remain alert to surroundings. Be aware of distractions, as they may be opportunities for pickpockets.
- Know your stop.
- Don't accept food offerings; they may contain sedatives to induce sleep and allow you to be robbed.
- Do not be afraid to alert authorities if you feel threatened in any way. Extra police are often assigned to ride trains on routes where crime is a serious problem.
- Beware of bogus porters who may disappear with your luggage.

When You Drive

- Driving habits and cultures around the world can vary significantly. Do not drive in countries where you do not have experience driving or are unfamiliar with the roads. Refer to your host for other transportation options.
- Review the [Global](#) and [Regional](#) Road Safety Management Program and Plan approach to safe driving prior to departure.
- Create a Journey Management Plan if any of the following apply:
 - you will be travelling before 5 AM or after 10 PM (relative to the time zone you awoke in).
 - you are travelling after working 12 hours or more.
 - you are travelling in excess of 150 km / 95 miles.

If your trip meets the criteria that requires a Journey Management Plan, [click here](#) for a copy of the blank template, or you may find an already completed plan for your use. Some of these completed plans have been identified as high risk familiar trips, so please make sure you fully review and understand the contents of the plan.

- Record ALL work-related road travel by using the Road Safety Trip Log App, regardless of means or duration. It can be accessed on insideHatch from the [Road Safety Webpage](#) or externally using a desktop or mobile device at: <https://roadsafetytriplog.hatch.ca/>.
- Know the location of police stations and hospitals along your route.
- Maintain contact with your client, client security, or your country Embassy.
- If possible, travel with a locally purchased or rented mobile telephone or one with global roaming installed.
- Where appropriate, hire a local driver who is familiar with the terrain, the road rules, and customs. Inspect the vehicle for tire wear and general condition.
- When renting a car, avoid those with rental markings and choose a vehicle that is commonly available locally.
- Ensure the rental car is fitted with features such as seat belts, air bags, and if at all possible with universal door locks and power windows, features that give the driver better control of access to the car.
- Don't drive at night.
- Keep your car doors locked and windows rolled up when driving. Use cars with air conditioning.
- Don't leave valuables in the car. If you must carry things with you, keep them out of sight locked in the trunk.
- Don't park your car on the street overnight. If the hotel or municipality does not have a parking garage or other secure area, select a well-lit area.
- Don't get out of the car if there are suspicious looking individuals nearby. Drive away.