

Guidance for Hotel Safety

Hotels can be one of the safest temporary lodging options available to travelers. However, unwanted encounters have occurred at them, and the fact that you may be traveling in an unfamiliar city and culture can put you at greater risk.

When searching for/staying at a hotel, please follow these guidelines:

- Review the hotel's posted ratings and location. Consider the hotel's security measures and proximity to high-crime areas and popular gathering places. Consult others you know who live there/have visited.
- Consider choosing a familiar, name-brand hotel since international chains often standardize their fire and life-safety practices.
- Do not travel with high-value items or items containing sensitive and/or proprietary information. Some hotels may have locks and room-safes that are easy to breach, so if you must bring valuables with you, minimize the number, and keep them in another secure location.
- Let others know where you will be staying; include the hotel's name and address.
- Upon arrival, orient yourself to the hotel's layout and locate exit routes via stairs and elevator. Note where the closest fire extinguisher is located.



- Always look around your room before entering and verify the locks function, including locks on doors to adjoining rooms, window locks, and those on sliding balcony doors if applicable. If you notice any irregularities, request a new room.
- Have no expectation of privacy (digitally or in person), especially in authoritarian countries where officials may surveil guests.
- Do not open your door to strangers or share your room number with people you do not know well. If you are unsure if someone is a staff member, call the front desk to confirm before opening the door.
- Request a receipt for all transactions, especially if paying in cash. Monitor your credit/debit card for unapproved charges.
- If you have a poor experience, post an honest review to help others.
- Consider staying in a room between the second and sixth floors since criminals may access the first floor more easily; escaping to safety during an emergency may be more difficult from above the sixth floor.
- Avoid using the hotel's Wi-Fi, even if it is password-protected, since the network may not be secure. If available, use your phone's hotspot tethering feature.