


Tips for Safely Using Dating Apps When Abroad

Using dating apps is a common, contemporary practice that can bring people together socially. But like many activities, it can also introduce risks, especially when traveling or studying abroad. The tips below are common-sense practices that can help you avoid risks associated with dating apps. *Remember, it is okay to be wary and situationally aware without being suspicious!*

When planning to meet someone you've met on a dating app, follow these guidelines:

- Share your location with friends and let them know whom you intend to meet. Send them a screenshot of your date's online profile, their name, and any other identifying information.
 - Make sure friends know where you are going and when you will be back. Update your friends if your plans change.
 - Choose a location that is familiar, well-lit, and well-traveled. Avoid secluded locations. Consider choosing a popular restaurant or café in an area frequented by other travelers.
 - Do not take any high-value items with you other than your phone – leave extra cash, credit/debit cards, and expensive jewelry locked away for this one!
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- Never allow someone you do not know to pick you up at your lodging – always arrange to meet them at a well-traveled, visible, public location where you cannot be isolated.
 - If they are available and safe to use in your location, have a ride-share app or the number of a trusted taxi service ready to use if you want to end the date and leave quickly.
 - Do not give your telephone number to your date until you have met them. NEVER let them know the exact location where you are staying, working, and/or studying until you've gotten to know them after several meetings.
 - Do not become intoxicated and watch your food and drink carefully. If you suspect it may have been tampered with, leave immediately and call for help, even from those near you.
 - Make sure you have local emergency numbers and numbers for friends memorized or available somewhere other than your phone in case you lose your phone and need help – police response may not always be timely!