

Be Safe

*When You Travel with
Worldwide Central Travel*



Informational Shorts on Travelling Safe

I know where you got your shoes!

It sounds like an old vaudeville routine. A couple of kids approach you with a shoe shine kit in hand. One of the kids says I bet you \$10.00 I can tell you where you got your shoes. You are a tourist and live half a continent or half a world away. How would this kid know that you went to Terris Fine Shoes? So you decide to engage the kid. Ok, tell me where I got my shoes and if you're right I'll give you \$10.00. The kid says You got your shoes on your feet - that's where you got them - give me my \$10.00.

Funny? Not really, especially when 2 or 3 big, tough people decide to join the scene by standing next to the kid - just as you're contemplating what has just happened to you. You think it's a joke but it isn't. You better come up with the money and leave quickly. Better still, when you are initially approached, ignore the person or just say I'm not interested and then go to a safe place (hotel lobby, restaurant, nearby store etc.).

Variation:

But sometimes, ignoring the kids will not dissuade them from getting some money from you.

Just as you're about to walk past them, one of the kids takes a large dollop of shoe shine cream and splatters it on your shoes. He says he has a shoe shine kit and will fix everything for you. You're not sure what to do. You can leave but now you have this shoe shine paste all over your shoes. So you say, Well, all right. Go ahead. By this time, several other shoe shine observers have joined the scene. After a few token wipes of your shoes with a cloth, the kid says, That'll be \$20.00. You are aghast. \$20.00 to shine shoes - and you didn't really shine them anyway, and besides you caused the problem. I'll give you \$5.00. At this point in time, the observers draw a little closer to you. They're not smiling.

The Solution:

- 1) Pay the bill and leave the scene as quickly as possible or
- 2) if you're feeling a bit assertive you can try to bargain the fee down to something more reasonable
- 3) You can hold out a small bill and insist this is all you have they can take it or leave it. In any case, you've been taken by this scam.

These true street scams-that can happen anywhere in the world including your own town or city-- are good examples of why you should carry some small bills in your pocket. You can take the money required to buy your way out of the scene safely, rather than taking out your wallet or rummaging through the bills and documents in your waist pouch or purse. And by the way, if you don't have the correct change, street scammers take credit cards!

We are delighted to partner with Steve Gillick (President of Talking Travel / www.talkingtravel.ca) who has been in the travel industry for over 30-years and is a well-respected speaker and travel educator. These are designed to give you information about travel scams and how scam artists work. The goal is to be aware and informed. Still, there is no guarantee that, despite all precautions, you can completely avoid scam artists. We hope you enjoy these and that you travel safe.



Worldwide Central Travel Ltd., 295 Weber Street North, Unit 3, Waterloo ON N2J 3H8
Local: (519) 886-7700 Toll-Free (North America): 1-888-667-8881 Email: travel@worldwide.on.ca