

Be Safe

*When You Travel with
Worldwide Central Travel*



Informational Shorts on Travelling Safe

IT'S RAINING SCAM ARTISTS!

When the rain clouds appear, some scam artists start to shower unsuspecting travellers with all sorts of tricks to confound, confuse, and ultimately separate them from their valuable possessions. Here are a few.

The Big Splash:

The scam artist positions himself by a large puddle. You drive by in your rental car and splash the person, who then chases you to the stop sign a few meters away. In loud and stressful tones, the scammer points to his ruined clothing and demands payment on the spot. The traveller usually pays to get out of the situation.

The Reverse Big Splash:

The Scam artist is driving and picks out a large puddle to splash a tourist carrying some parcels. Once the tourist is drenched, the driver stops the car and runs out, full of apologies and regret. In his "sincere" attempt to help the tourist dry off, the scam artist usually pockets a wallet here, a camera there, and even some parcels if the tourist is not paying attention, or is very distraught at being soaked.

The Hotel Umbrella:

Many hotels provide complimentary umbrellas to their guests on rainy days. To prevent loss and theft, the hotel has their name and logo emblazoned on the umbrella. When a tourist uses this umbrella, they are a walking advertisement that they are, in fact, a tourist, and therefore a target. Bring a foldable no-name umbrella with you as part of your travel baggage. Don't give scam artists an advantage.

Umbrella Deflation:

Distraction scams work. You are walking along the street in the rain, under your umbrella. A woman runs up to you, grabs the umbrella handle and clicks the button that causes the umbrella to fold up. But it folds up around the head of the tourist. Momentarily distracted, the scam artist grabs what she can and runs away.

Raining Money:

You have been identified as a tourist so the scam artists go into action. They see your wallet in your front pocket. One artist sticks his hand into your pocket, grabs the wallet and pushes you to the ground. He then runs off. His partner, in the meantime has a handful of green paper "already shredded into bill-size pieces" which he then throws up in the air above you. In your disoriented state you think that the paper raining down on you is the money that the thief has just stolen - which allows the thieves a few more precious moments to make their escape, or you have no idea what the paper is, only that it is falling on you - which again gives the thieves a few more seconds to leave the scene. The paper of course is just a distraction as the "rain man" runs off in a different direction from his partner.

The Lesson

...is to minimize the valuables you carry with you. Use an inside the clothes money belt or just carry a few bills and a credit card with you so they are undetectable in your pockets.

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.



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