

Be Safe

*When You Travel with
Worldwide Central Travel*



Informational Shorts on Travelling Safe

SCAMS THAT TAKE FLIGHT

Just because you've boarded the flight and are sitting in your seat, it does not mean that everyone on the flight is your friend. Consider these scenarios.

- a) You are lined up in the crowded aisle to find your seat. People are in front of you putting their luggage in the overhead compartment; people are pushing behind you and trying to pass you in the very narrow aisle; people are still getting settled in the seats to your left and right. Everyone is impatient. A few minutes ago you were asked to show photo ID before you were allowed to board the flight so you are carrying your passport or driver's license or wallet - or perhaps you quickly jammed one of these items into a pocket or purse so could properly stow it away, once seated. By the time you reach your seat, your document or wallet is gone. A pick pocket on the flight focussed in on you and stole the document or wallet as he passed you in the crowded aisle.
- b) You sit down and put your ID documents and your wallet in your backpack or purse or briefcase and then stow it in the space under the seat in front of you. A scam artist sitting in the vicinity has watched you. Later in the flight you might fall asleep and the scam artist will walk by, pretend to drop something and then take something out of your purse. Or when you go to the washroom and you think it is safe to leave your purse at the seat, the scam artist will find some way to access your valuables.
- c) You are filling out the immigration or landing card for the destination. It asks you for your name and passport number and your home address. It also asks for the address at which you will be staying and sometimes you are even asked for the amount of money you are bringing into the country. This of course is all highly confidential information. And the shoulder-surfer knows this. (A shoulder-surfer is a person who literally looks over your shoulder to learn about things that are none of that person's business) She/he could be in the seat next to you, or across the aisle. It could be the person who asks you to help them fill out their form by showing them examples from your own immigration form. Now this person knows a lot about you - enough to either visit you in your hotel or have some friends visit you - or enough to contact friends in the city where you live and see if your home can be robbed.

THE LESSON

The lesson in these scams is to protect your documents and your information and never let your guard down. Always know where your valuable documents are stowed and keep them secure. Always protect information - and just as you would keep a PIN number shielded from prying eyes at an ATM machine, keep the information on your immigration form protected.

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.

