

Be Safe

*When You Travel with
Worldwide Central Travel*



Informational Shorts on Travelling Safe

AIRPORT SCAMS

Most travellers psychologically start their vacation once they arrive at the airport. They let their guard down. All they need to do is check-in for their flight (most of which is through automatic kiosks, these days), go through security and then head to the departure lounge. But strange things can happen during this time.

- A. You arrive at the airport and someone approaches to ask on which airline you are flying, and if you wish to have your bags brought directly to the counter. They seem to be wearing a uniform or at least a hat that looks "official". You are told that there is no charge - this is a complimentary service covering your airline and a few others. The person says he will meet you at the check-in, Aisle 5. You leave your luggage to proceed to the counter. And then you wait. You have actually just given your luggage to a scam artist who has brought your luggage to another area of the airport and is now searching through your things for anything valuable.
- B. You are waiting inside the airport for your travel companion to return from the washroom. You are watching both your luggage and her luggage. Someone comes up from behind and asks you for the time. You turn around to respond and the person engages you in a short conversation. By the time you turn around, one of your pieces of luggage is missing. You fell for one of the classic "distraction scams".
- C. You are waiting in the departure lounge. The woman beside you strikes up a conversation. After a while she asks if you will keep an eye on her luggage as she goes to the washroom. You agree. She returns and tells you that if you would like to use the washroom she will watch your luggage. You feel that a trust relationship already exists, so you agree. When you return there is no luggage and no woman. All she has to do is hide somewhere until after your flight departs and then find another departure lounge to re-create the same scene, possibly with a change of clothes and a new disguise.

THE LESSON

Airports are public places where travellers need to keep their wits about them and practice good travel common sense by being aware of their possessions, their safety and the people around them.

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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