



## Pedestrian Safety Checklist

These guidelines serve as suggestions. Each suggestion will not necessarily apply in your country or location. Be alert is traveling in a country where vehicles travel on the left side of the road.

### Good habits while on the road

- Be aware of local traffic patterns. Understand local road culture.
- Be alert at intersections in countries where traffic pattern differs from yours.
- Be alert to reckless driver behaviors (e.g. speeding, inattention to driving, disregard for pedestrians, signs and signals)
- Many countries have narrow, winding streets where visibility of pedestrian is compromised.
- At night, wear or carry something reflective or carry a light, so that motorists' attention will be attracted to you.
- At night, cross where the lights are bright and visibility is good.
- Avoid walking where you cannot be easily seen.
- Remember that the **KERB DRILL** (Look right, look left, look right again) must be reversed in countries where the traffic pattern is reversed.
- Be alert for vehicles which can suddenly turn into the street.
- Walk on the sidewalk where there is one. Where there is none, walk on the road bank or on the right side of the road in single file, facing oncoming traffic.
- Always stand on the sidewalk, or at the edge of the road, not in the street while waiting to cross.
- Be just as alert and careful when crossing in groups as when alone, and do not depend on others to watch out for you.
- Always look very carefully when crossing the road from behind or in front of stationary vehicles.
- Use provisions for crossing (e.g. Police Officer, Pedestrian Crossing, Traffic Lights).
- Look and listen for warning signals of motor vehicles especially when crossing at a bend. If possible, don't cross where there is a bend in the road.
- Cross where there is a clear view in both directions, when it can be done safely.
- Be alert for train crossings that might not be marked or obvious.
- When you have alighted from a vehicle, wait until it moves off before crossing.
- Do not adopt the attitude that because you have the right of way in the pedestrian crossing, you are automatically safe to cross. In many countries drivers ignore stop signs, signal lights, pedestrian right-of-way.
- Jaywalking may result in severe fines in various countries.

- Get into or out of a vehicle on the side nearest the sidewalk or edge of the road. If you use the door on the street side, wait for a break in traffic to exit the vehicle.
- Remember most road fatalities are pedestrians

### **Personal Safety of Pedestrians**

- Avoid crowds when you have to slow down. Every time you slow down while walking in a street you become an easier target.
- Be suspicious if somebody slows you down (e.g. falls in front of you, clothing gets stuck on something). It may be a pretext to facilitate an accomplice who is behind you.
- Be aware of who is behind you. If the same person is behind you for a few minutes, be suspicious.
- A decoy wallet may help distract the thief. The thief will target your very visible wallet, while your money is somewhere else (eg, in another pocket).
- Avoid walking with big luggage. The bigger the luggage, the more visible you are and the harder it is for you to defend yourself. Backpacks can be easily opened even while you are walking.
- In most countries it is inappropriate to approach strangers (especially women). Anybody who approaches you, no matter how friendly, should make you a little suspicious. Keep your guard up and be careful when talking to strangers. Americans tend to be more trusting and open than other people. Understand that this may be used to put you in an unsafe situation. Locals know that Americans are raised to be nice to people who are nice to them. Do not smile at people you do not know. A smile can be interpreted as “I am saying no but I mean yes”.
- In most countries women never respond to strangers. For a foreign woman it is not good to respond to men who approach her. The appropriate behavior is cold silence and indifference.
- Walk fast all the time. Every time you stop to browse, shop, write a postcard or take a picture you become an easy target.
- Dress modestly. Do not dress to call attention to yourself.
- Be suspicious of any one who asks to see your money. Ask to be taken to the nearest police station before they search.
- Avoid hitchhiking