



Taxi & Bus Passenger Safety Checklist

Taxi Safety Checklist

Suggestions for Road Safety

- Be aware of traffic patterns and local road culture.
- Avoid overcrowded taxis.
- Be alert for reckless driving (e.g. speeding, inattention to driving, apparent drowsiness, disregard for signage and signals).
- If driver is irresponsible, get out at first safe opportunity.
- If you feel you are at risk, speak up!
- Avoid riding with drivers who seem to be under influence or alcohol or medication, or appear over-tired, irrational or distracted.
- Ride only in taxis with functional seat-belts in back seat.
- Avoid night travel, especially in rural areas.

Suggestions for Physical Security

- If you are unsure of which taxi companies are acceptable, inquire at the airport information desk, hotel concierge desk, shop keeper, restaurant personnel or program staff. They might also be able to help with communication problems you may encounter. Have a local write your destination for the taxi driver to read.
- Plan ahead how to get home before you go out.
- Take a business card with the phone number of a reputable minicab or taxi company, phone for the taxi when you need it.
- Do not travel alone. When possible, travel in groups.
- Calling for a taxi is the safest way to travel, especially at night.
- Try not to let anyone overhear you ordering a taxi. If they hear your name and destination, they may pretend to be the taxi you ordered.
- If you have ordered a taxi, wait for the driver should approach you. Do not approach a car that you think is your taxi.
- Ask the driver the name and destination he has been given to check he is your driver. Don't get into a taxi you haven't ordered.
- If you must hail a taxi, spot one from a well known and reliable company. This requires some advanced knowledge of taxi companies in the area.
- Before getting into the taxi, make sure the driver agrees to take you to your destination.
- When you get into the taxi, note the company name, code number displayed, driver's name, ID and photograph if possible.
- Do not accept rides from drivers who randomly approach you.
- Sit in the back seat.

Information on Taxi Fares

- If the driver tries to bargain instead of using the meter or claims his meter is broken, get out of the taxi.
- Ask a trustworthy individual what the fare should be.
- The key to successful bargaining is to ask the driver what the fare is before getting into the taxi. Once you sit down, you are the taxi's next fare.

Bus & Minivan Safety Checklist

- Be aware of traffic patterns and local road culture.
- Wait for the bus in a safe place – away from the road.
- Whenever possible, avoid overcrowded buses and minivans.
- Be alert for reckless driving (e.g. speeding, inattention to driving, apparent drowsiness, disregard for signage and signals).
- Insist that the driver be responsible or get off at the first possible safe opportunity.
- If you feel you are at risk, speak up!
- After you get off the bus take several steps out of the danger zone.
- If you drop something near the bus, tell the driver before you pick it up.
- Stand several steps away from the road while waiting for the bus.
- After getting driver's attention, cross the street in front of the bus. Never go behind the bus.
- Stay seated at all times.
- Avoid night travel, especially in rural areas.