



D E T E C T I V E S C O R N E R

TRAVEL SAFETY

We have all heard or read about things we can do to make our homes more secure. From alarm systems and high security locks to neighborhood watch programs to vacant house checks, such as the program offered to Atlantis residents, there are a number of things we can do to make our homes more secure when we're at home or away.

We are probably more vulnerable when traveling than anywhere else. Especially so when we travel to a location we are not familiar with.

There are groups of criminals that prey exclusively on the vacationing public. They target these citizens for a number of reasons. Probably the most significant reason is that vacationing victims of crime, for the most part, do not want to travel back to the state or city where the crime occurred to testify at trial or deposition. The "bad guys" know this, and look for this type of victim in large tourist areas, such as Orlando, Florida and other vacation spots. These same groups will travel to heavily attended sporting events such as the Super Bowl, college championship games, etc. to look for people to victimize.

What can be done to avoid becoming a victim?

There are several steps that can be taken when traveling to lessen the chance of becoming a crime victim when on vacation or away from home. Here are a few:

- ▶ Never put your home address on your luggage. Your name and a cell phone number is all that is necessary.
- ▶ Stay with your luggage until it has been checked and you have been given a receipt for each piece of luggage that is not going to be kept within view of yourself or a traveling companion.
- ▶ Carry important papers such as your passport, driver's license, etc with you. Make a photocopy of these important documents to be kept in a carryon bag or with someone else in your party.
- ▶ Carry in your wallet or purse only those credit cards and identification cards that you anticipate needing on your trip. There is no reason to bring along your Sears, J.C. Penney and other similar cards if you only need a major card or two for charge purposes.

- ▶ Do not wear anything that projects affluence. You may be selected over someone else by the real pro's looking for a big score.
- ▶ Most strangers who strike up a conversation with you are curious about where you came from and where you will be visiting. However, there are those who are trying to divert your attention so another person working with them can steal your luggage or victimize another member in your travel group.
- ▶ DO NOT use unmarked taxis. Some thieves have fake ID cards fastened to their shirts indicating they are taxi or transportation drivers.
- ▶ Be aware of possible staged vehicle crashes. If you are "tapped" from behind use caution in approaching the driver or in their approach to your vehicle.
- ▶ Have your tip money ready in advance for service personnel. Do not open your wallet or pull a large amount of cash from your pants pocket in a public place.
- ▶ Let someone at home know of your travel or vacation plans. If your plans change, notify your contact back home of the change in plans.

Easy access to locked luggage!!

After going through security check points or retrieving your checked luggage, some travelers place small locks on their luggage to avoid hotel baggage handlers from gaining access to their luggage. Watch the demonstration here of how easy it is to get into many zippered type bags.

If you have any questions about travel safety, feel free to contact me or any other Atlantis Police Officer.

Openingabaggage.wmv



Sincerely,

Det. Marvin Jenne

DET. MARVIN JENNE, ID #400
ATLANTIS POLICE DEPARTMENT