

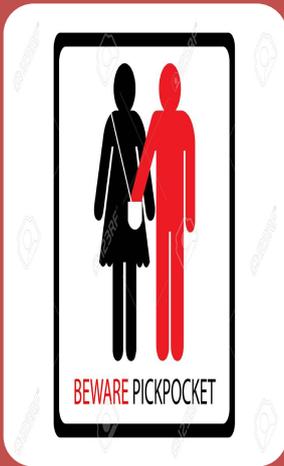


Travel Advisory to Indian Tourists to Spain

A General Word of Caution regards Thefts in Spain:

- Incidents of theft of passports, money, personal possessions and documents, etc., are on the rise in all major cities in Spain, a trend also recognized by leading travel guidebooks in their latest editions.
- Organized gangs targeting foreigners roam popular tourist areas such as Puerta del Sol in Madrid and the Ramblas in Barcelona, where the incidence of such thefts is particularly high. Many other leading tourist destinations in the country, including its airports, also witness such cases.
- The standard tactic is to disorient the victim by throwing paint on clothes, tapping the shoulder, showing a map or falling at the feet. Accomplices then move in for the clean-up act, which lasts just a few seconds.
- Thefts in buses and the Metro (including of heavy suitcases) are also commonplace. Such incidents are more common in Barcelona as compared to Madrid.
- The Spanish police are helpful, but can't do very much in investigating and going after the criminals. Since English is still not very prevalent in Spain, communication of these problems is also difficult with local authorities. Extra care and' caution is therefore the best policy.

Important Travel Advisory



Tips to Avoid Being Pick Pocketed:

- Keep your belonging close to you and be wary of them at crowded spots, restaurant counters & even on public transport!
- Watch out for the 'Police', the real ones. While a real policeman could ask for your documentation, he wouldn't do it before showing you a police badge of his own.
- Beware of other Tourists: Confused-looking person armed with baggage might ask for help to catch an urgent flight or train. Please dont entertain them. Quite often they would ask for € 27! Also don't entertain any roadside 'donations' to charity or sign any fake petitions!
- Don't fall for the drop scam, either: Pickpockets often feign goodwill, coming after you and pretending to return a valuable item you've dropped. While you deny the item is yours, an accomplice uses the distraction to snatch your wallet. Similarly, avoid impromptu roadside games.

Passport Lost by Indian Tourists/ Businessman visiting Spain

Further Tips to Avoid Pickpocket