Travel advisory for Spain

Spain is a tourist's delight and its multiple facets are a big attraction but, taking cognizance of recent incidents in Barcelona, Indian citizens visiting Spain and particularly Barcelona are advised:

i. Pick pocketing, theft of valuables including passports, pull-over scams on roadways are not uncommon. Theft statistics have gone up.
ii. Such incidents usually take place at major tourist spots (like La Sagrada familia, Casa Mila among others) pit stops on highways, bus/metro/railway stations, airport waiting areas, queues for tickets even lobbies/restaurant of hotels.
iii. Modus Operandi
    - Your vehicle could be stopped on any pretext including fake police or highway patrol and your valuables forcibly taken away.
    - Handbags are picked from coffee shops and lobbies of hotels.
    - Your valuables, including trolley bags are targeted while waiting for check-ins at airport and railway/bus stations.
    - Liquids including paint can be thrown to distract you and your valuables can be targeted on the pretext of offering help.
iv. Physical intimidation is not uncommon in robberies.
v. The Spanish police are helpful, but may have limited success in returning stolen property.

2. Some Travel Tips:

i. Always carry a copy of your passport, but keep the original document safe in your hotel.
ii. Do not carry too much cash. Use plastic money which is freely acceptable.
iii. Jewellery is the easiest item to be stolen.
iv. In case of any such incident call the police. A police report will be needed, if you require a duplicate passport.

3. Assistance:

i. Indian Embassy: **Emergency Contact Number: +34628319030 (Only in case of loss of Indian passport, death or serious illness)**.
Embassy reception Number is+34-913098882

ii. CALL 112, a general emergency number, *which offers help in different languages*. You can call this number from any line, including phones that do not have a local SIM card. This number can direct you to police, ambulance and fire services.

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