

# TRAVEL TIPS TO AVOID BEING PICKPOCKETED

## KNOW YOUR THEIR

- **Pickpockets often work in groups** - One or two members of the pickpocketing team will act as distractions while an accomplice steals your stuff.
- **Pickpockets are often children** - A tourist doesn't expect a child to be a criminal; the young pickpocket can get closer to their target without raising suspicion.
- **Pickpockets are often well dressed** - They want to blend in with their environment and appear as non-threatening as possible to get as close to you as they can without setting off alarms.

## KNOW WHERE THEY LIKE TO WORK

- **Tourist attractions** - Tourist attractions are a pickpocket's paradise. You've got lots of clueless tourists often carrying lots of cash, and monuments and exhibits that distract people and take their gaze and attention off their possessions.
- **Public transportation** - Because public transportation forces people to stand right next to each other, it's a fertile field for pickpocketing.
- **Hotel Lobbies** - Pickpockets take advantage of the tourist's diverted attention by stealing what they can from them.

## KNOW THE TRICKS THEY USE

- **Helpful stranger** - If someone acts a little too friendly and helpful towards you, be suspicious. They could be a pickpocket or the distracter.
- **Child beggars** - While many pickpockets look like mild-mannered middle-class folks, some do look like the stereotypical street urchin/beggar.
- **Bag slashing** - Some thieves won't even bother with all the distractions and stealth tactics, and will just cut open your backpack and take what they can get their hands on.

