

TRAVEL AND SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

International travel during the holiday season can be stressful, hectic, and oftentimes dangerous. MAX has compiled a list of travel and security recommendations to guide you through the holidays safely and hassle-free.

TRANSPORT

- 1 It is recommended to employ a security-minded driver with local language capabilities and knowledge. To organize secure transportation please contact MAX Security: operations@max-security.com or +44 203 5400434.
- 2 Pre-plan transport to and from destinations. Do not rely on taxis or public transport, particularly when attending busy events.
- 3 **[High risk country specific]** In the event that a security checkpoint is encountered, act respectfully and patiently, while cooperating fully with security personnel. Refrain from photographing security personnel or documenting events.
- 4 Do not exit the vehicle unless instructed to by a driver or security agent.
- 5 Be sure to carry passports and documents at all times and show them only to the law or state officials. Make sure they are returned immediately after inspection.
- 6 Do not touch unattended packages or bags.
- 7 It is recommended to post pictures on social media after your travel to prevent burglary while you are away.



CRIME

- 1 Increase vigilance against possible crime in light of the potential for attacks by criminal networks targeting foreigners and high profile individuals.
- 2 **[High risk country specific]** Refrain from pedestrian travel during the night hours, including in upscale areas and in the vicinity of ATMs and businesses frequented by Westerners.
- 3 Travelers should avoid exposing jewelry or other items that may make them a target for theft. Store your valuables in your hotel room safe.
- 4 Walk on the sidewalk away from the curb and keep your bag away from the side of the road.
- 5 If confronted by muggers, it is advised to cooperate fully and not engage in any behavior that could raise tensions and lead to violence.
- 6 If approached by particularly intoxicated individuals, be sure to remain polite while attempting to extract oneself from the situation. Avoid entering into heated or sensitive conversations and do not confront.



ANTI-FOREIGN SENTIMENT

- 1 Be mindful of current affairs of the country you are visiting and any link to your own country.
- 2 Foreigners, particularly Westerners, conducting travel are advised to maintain a low profile, and exercise heightened vigilance in the vicinity of locales frequented by foreign, particularly Western nationals.
- 3 Refrain from divulging travel itinerary information to strangers.
- 4 As a general security precaution, avoid revealing to strangers your position or affiliation with foreign-based firms, as your response could attract a negative reaction from locals.
- 5 Remain cognizant of local political, religious, and social customs while traveling within [area] and avoid discussing potentially sensitive topics.
- 6 Avoid any overt or critical statements of government, religious, or political institutions both in public spaces and online, including social media.
- 7 Be mindful of any social media posts made prior to travel that could be accessed publicly and could be viewed negatively during your visit.



HEALTH

- 1 Confirm medical and travel insurance coverage, ensuring that plans cover necessary medications and treatments that will be required while traveling. If traveling with prescription medications, have proper documentation with you at all times.
- 2 Remain cognizant of varying medical and substance laws and be sure to check with local embassy's regarding differing legal statuses of medication. Be cognizant that certain countries have specific entry requirements with regards to vaccines. (Check to see if your destination requires an "International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis" for Yellow Fever prior to entry).
- 3 Prior to traveling, research and make note of vetted hospitals and medical facilities in your area of travel.



PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS

- 1 Ensure that you always carry a scanned copy of your passport's data page, travel visas, copies of current prescriptions, and other identification. Ensure that copies of these scans are held online. Send yourself the email, so that you can access those documents, if required, from any internet source.
- 2 Keep a printed copy of all your in-country contacts and emergency details, hotel address and those of contacts, hosts, or colleagues. Ensure you have these details stored in your phone for easy access.
- 3 Keep a small notebook and pen with you to record details. Also consider keeping a small LED flashlight to use in the event of a power cut.
- 4 **[High risk country specific]** For contingency in the event of an emergency, always carry with you current prescriptions, and a sufficient amount of cash.
- 5 Be sure to carry a charged and working phone at all times.
- 6 Do not respond to any requests for a meeting with unidentified individuals. If a meeting is planned, be sure to organize it at a known and public place (such as a hotel).
- 7 Do not walk with earphones when outside; it isolates you from the environment and could affect your ability to recognize and respond in emergency.



CULTURAL NORMS

- 1 Remain cognizant of local cultural norms regarding general etiquette, attire, and appearance. Adhere to local customs and norms while in public, such as sightseeing or utilizing public and private transport.
- 2 Avoid public criticism of the ruling administration/monarchy.
- 3 Avoid displays of religious imagery which may be perceived as misrepresentations of religiously significant figures. This includes via accessories, body art, clothing, or otherwise.
- 4 Adhere to local cultural dress norms, including conservative dress.



HOTEL

- 1 When staying at local hotels it is advised to request a room which is not located on the first or last floor, to ease possible evacuations when necessary.
- 2 Upon arrival at the hotel, take a moment to check escape routes from the allocated room to the nearest emergency exit.
- 3 **[High risk country specific]** Minimize lone travel outside of hotels. Be sure to update colleagues or associates on itineraries or whereabouts.
- 4 Only stay in hotels or accommodation which is known and pre-vetted by a trusted vendor or member of staff. **[High risk country specific]** When possible stay in hotels linked to, or owned by, well known Western hotel chains.
- 5 Lock the door or use the door latch when you are inside the room. Do not open the door to unidentified people. Use the peephole to identify personnel.



CYBER

- 1 **[High risk country specific]** Maintain vigilance when using mobile devices in public, connecting only to secure networks. Do not leave devices unattended or unlocked.
- 2 Avoid clicking on all suspicious links or opening emails from unidentified senders.
- 3 Public profiles on social networking sites that put you at risk by exposing information that a criminal could use to pose as you. Use privacy settings to ensure your personal information is not publicly shared.
- 4 Be selective when accepting friends, posting, and clicking. Do not accept friend requests from strangers and carefully consider the content you post on any social networking site.
- 5 If your computer has been compromised and infected with a virus or other malware, shut it down, pull the network cable out of your PC, and turn off the Wi-Fi connection. Seek professional guidance.
- 6 Routinely change passwords and password-protect all devices that connect to the internet.
- 7 Avoid clicking on and all suspicious links or opening emails from unidentified senders.
- 8 If your computer has been compromised and infected with a virus or other malware, shut it down, pull the network cable out of your PC, and turn off the Wi-Fi connection. Seek professional guidance.



MILITANCY

- 1 Remain cognizant of surroundings, including any suspicious behavior of individuals, which may include a person wearing winter clothing during warm weather and/or seemingly wandering around, as well as items that look out of place, such as bags or containers.
- 2 Immediately alert authorities of any suspicious behavior or items.
- 3 Ensure that places of stay are properly secured, alter travel routes, and avoid disclosing sensitive itinerary information to unknown individuals.
- 4 If approached by security services it is advised to remain calm and serious and not to attempt to negotiate or be overly friendly with agents.

