

Being safe in Hungary

Some foreign citizens visiting Hungary fall victim to crimes – mainly to crimes against property (theft, tricky theft, fraud, theft from vehicle).

To make your stay in Hungary enjoyable and untroubled, the Hungarian National Police assists you with the following handy hints and tips:

- ❖ Upon arrival at the airport or railway station, especially when looking around, never lose sight of your luggage and never leave it unattended – if necessary, lock it in the left luggage lockers, do not give occasional thieves a chance;
- ❖ Upon arriving at your hotel, note down the name and address of it, make sure to protect your documents, valuables and personal items; if possible, use the safe of the hotel;
- ❖ Exchange currency at bureaux de change only, since abusers may deceive you with counterfeit money;
- ❖ Enlist the help of travel agencies when renting a house; always close the windows and doors of the rented house upon leaving, never leave valuables in the courtyard unattended;
- ❖ If you need a taxi, order it by phone: the ride is cheaper and more reliable this way;
- ❖ If you are looking for a bar or night club, ask for the help of the hotel reception;
- ❖ Do not let your bag unattended in night clubs or restaurants;
- ❖ When using public transportation, it is recommended to pay close attention to your luggage, valuables and documents, as pickpockets usually operate in crowded places;
- ❖ Do not bring costly electronic devices to swimming pools; never leave your personal items, documents, wallet or ignition key at the beach unattended.
- ❖ As far as possible, leave your car in guarded, illuminated parking places; do not leave valuables or luggage in the vehicle in plain sight;
- ❖ In order to avoid tricky thefts, close the doors of your vehicle every time you leave it, even if you stay close. If you are not travelling alone, one of your company should always stay by the car.
- ❖ If you withdraw a significant amount of cash in the bank, never lose sight of the money when leaving it in your vehicle and never leave your car unlocked as criminals may spot it;
- ❖ According to the legal regulations in force in Hungary, police officers are not allowed to take cash. If a police officer imposes penalty for having committed minor offence, he or she is to hand over a postal payment form;
- ❖ Police officers can be identified by their uniform, identification badge or police service ID card;
- ❖ If police assistance is needed, call the international emergency telephone number **112**;
- ❖ If you become involved in a police procedure as a victim or for other reasons, you can ask for consular assistance with the proceeding authority, they immediately inform the consulate;
- ❖ If you fall victim to a crime, the Victim Support Service of the Central Office of Justice is to inform you of your rights (www.kih.gov.hu, or by calling 06 80 244 444 – free of charge to call from Hungary).