



THE MACKINS AT BLEAKLEY FINANCIAL GROUP

TRAVEL SECURITY

ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS BY:

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AUGUST 2021

The Challenges

INCREASING RISKS AND CHALLENGES

Natural disasters, terrorism, the continued risk of COVID-19 including new variants and the increased unrest due to economic hardships caused by the pandemic are just some of the few risks we are facing now.

While the world has opened back up — at least for the time being — and more people are choosing to travel over the last few months of the year and into 2022, there are imminent threats that need to be considered and mitigated where possible.

The exponential number of headlines over the recent years is a strong indication that physical security risks are evolving and increasing. The scope, severity, and complexity of these threats — such as cyber extortion, stalking, assaults and street crime are growing and becoming more dangerous and destructive, especially for those traveling outside of the U.S. While rarely publicized, kidnapping, extortion and wrongful detentions are more common than most would think and travelers need to take extra precautions even before booking their flight.

As a first step in planning any trip abroad, for business or pleasure, it is essential that you check Travel Advisories, OSAC and the Embassy of your destination(s) for the latest travel updates, political climates and the most recent COVID-19 requirements (such as proof of vaccination, timely negative tests and quarantine time when you arrive.)

Currently, there are approximately 71 countries listed on the 'Do Not Travel' list** provided by the U.S. Travel Advisory and changes are made frequently.

*Source: <https://www.businesstravelnews.com/Global/Complex-New-Travel-Risks-Spur-New-Approaches-for-2021>

**Source: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>



79%

of 1,425 risk professionals surveyed by International SOS in September and October said **risk for business travelers will rise in 2021. ***

COMMON THREATS TO BE AWARE OF

Kidnapping	Assault
Extortion	Child Abduction
Threat	Evacuation and repatriation
Disappearance	Cyber extortion
Hostage Crisis	Stalking
Wrongful Detention	Business Interruption
Hijacking	

INCREASING SECURITY RISKS

Physical Threats
Street Crime
Local and private transportation
Civil unrest
Sensitive Information
Laptops/computers
Secure communication

SECURITY ADVICE BEFORE TRAVELING

Always pre-plan your trip.

Gone are the days of winging it. Begin by checking in with the **embassy of your destination(s), Travel Advisory, The Smart Traveler**, and **OSAC** (to name a few) for the most updated travel restrictions, guidelines, and COVID testing and quarantining requirements.

Know the laws.

Look into cultural etiquettes, customs, and local laws. You could be fined or detained for something as simple as having cannabis medication which may be illegal in the country you are entering.

Consider travelers/health insurance.

You don't want to have an emergency in another country and not be covered. Look at **World Nomads** and **Chubb 360** for tailored insurance plans — including transportation if you need to leave the country and additional costs due to an illness or injury.

Plan your routes.

Yes, even this should be done before leaving the U.S. Plan your car rides to and from the airport and any meetings or social gatherings you may have scheduled. This helps prevent kidnappings by drivers or being taken on a "shortcut" and possibly robbed or assaulted because you don't know the lay of the land.

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL CRISIS INSURANCE OPTIONS

When traveling to certain destinations, consider speaking with an expert to help you identify additional coverage. Travel insurance providers now offer a multitude of options including private kidnap and ransom insurance and crisis coverage. These offerings can broad coverage for expenses related to ransom/extortion and more, security consultancy services, prevention and response consultancy services, around-the-clock coverage claims expertise, and more.

SECURITY ADVICE ONCE AT YOUR DESTINATION



Avoid eye catching jewelry or accessories (such as designer handbags, etc.) If you do take jewelry, its better if its worn but out of sight and never check it in your bag.



Travel in pairs if possible, especially in areas known for high street crime and ensure you are back at your hotel before dark.



Avoid taking shortcuts and stick to your pre-planned routes to and from meetings.



Separate your large bills and pay using smaller currency. If you do get robbed, you won't lose all of your cash.



Avoid giving away too much information about your stay, your work and be situationally aware at all times (i.e. when checking in at the hotel.)



Refrain from using unknown, unsecured, or public Wi-Fi if at all possible. Purchase VPN to use a more secure connection.



Turn off 'auto connect' features and institute stringent privacy controls as much as possible on electronic devices.



Try to 'blend in' with the locals. Avoid gaudy and expensive attire whenever possible.



Use your common sense. If an offer, invitation, or opportunity seems too good to be true — it probably is.

Planng to work to
ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS

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