

Safe Holiday Guide for Tourists



Portugal is one of the safest destinations in Europe, receiving millions of visitors each year. To help keep it safe and help you have an enjoyable holiday, please following this guide.



In your villa

- ✚ When leaving your villa ensure doors and windows are closed and locked, alarm (if installed) activated and valuable items locked in the safe if there is one.
- ✚ Do not leave valuable items unattended in places such as terraces, where they can be seen from outside, when you are in another area of the property
- ✚ When going out at night leave one or two lights on, and lock car if left in driveway.

In your hotel

- ✚ Avoid leaving valuables in your room - keep them in the hotel safety box or safe – avoid setting safe combination for year of birth. Keep a record of your personal belongings such as cameras, credit cards, passports and travellers cheques.
- ✚ When leaving the hotel, make sure the door of your room is firmly closed. Always hand your key in to the reception staff or use the key box - don't leave it on the reception desk.
- ✚ Remember that hotel lobbies and reception areas are open to the public so don't leave your bags or any valuables lying on the floor unattended at any time.
- ✚ When using computers provided in hotel business centres make sure you log off after using the internet

On the Road

- ✚ Drink drive laws are strictly enforced. The limit is 0.5g/l and at 1,2g/l it becomes a criminal offence. DO NOT DRINK and DRIVE.
- ✚ In car parks, do not park in places which may obstruct others.
- ✚ No not leave valuable items in your car, make sure you close windows and lock doors when leaving the vehicle. Remember that foreign-registered and hire cars are often targeted by thieves
- ✚ Take care that you are not observed placing items in the boot of your car.
- ✚ As a pedestrian take extra care when crossing the road, as traffic may be coming from a different direction than you are used to in your own country.

Out and about

- ✚ Avoid carrying large sums of cash, valuables credit cards, passports and travel tickets together. Use side or front pockets for wallets and carry handbags underarm.
- ✚ Keep your bag or camera where you can see them by wearing them in front of you, not over your shoulder. This is especially important if you are in a crowded areas such as on a bus or the metro.
- ✚ In markets and shops, do not place wallets and handbags on stalls and counters. In restaurants and bars etc., do not hang handbags and jackets containing valuable items on the backs of your chair. Keep it where you can see it.

- ✚ Beware of distraction crime, e.g. someone asks you for directions etc and whilst off guard someone else steals your handbag etc.
- ✚ Avoid using ATM machines in dark places and ensure the machine has not been tampered with.

Late night out and entertainment

- ✚ Drink alcohol responsibly. Drink water and/or eat between drinks – this reduces the effects of alcohol. Do not let your drink out of your sight.
- ✚ After late night drinking take a taxi or public transport, and be accompanied with friends if under the effects of alcohol.
- ✚ Late at night be prudent, familiarize yourself with local surroundings and if walking alone avoid dimly lit and remote routes.
- ✚ Never accept alcoholic drinks from a stranger or someone you do not trust.
- ✚ Portuguese gambling laws may be very different to your own country. Gambling and games of chance such as bingo in bars are prohibited. Being present in a place where gambling is taking place can place you on the wrong side of the law, so beware.
- ✚ Say no if you are offered any drugs.

On the Beach

- ✚ If alone, find a beach space in view of others.
- ✚ When paying for items, take money from a pocket rather than a wallet or purse.
- ✚ Try to avoid packing and repacking valuable items, which will avoid small items being lost in the sand.
- ✚ If alone on the beach keep valuables in a bag and use this as a pillow.
- ✚ If going for a swim, ask someone appearing trustworthy to keep an eye on your belongings.
- ✚ Avoid consuming large amounts of alcohol – not good in the sun and increases the risk of crime if under the influence of drink.

Protecting the environment

- ✚ In summer and at other times of the year the fire risk is often extreme. Take extra care to avoid causing a forest fire.
- ✚ Do not light BBQs in forest or rural areas during the designated critical fire period (normally July – September).
- ✚ Do not throw lighted cigarettes from car windows or drop lighted matches. Smoking is prohibited in forest areas.
- ✚ Avoid leaving glass bottles in rural and forest areas.

Dealing with emergencies

In case of an emergency dial **112**, which is the national emergency number for police, ambulance and fire services.
If you lose your valuables and/or passport, or they are stolen:

- ✚ Immediately contact your bank security centre to cancel your credit cards
- ✚ Report the matter to police
- ✚ Contact the local Consulate to obtain a temporary passport

More information about crime prevention, as well as the contact details of police and bank security departs can be found on our website www.safecommunitiesalgarve.com and www.safecommunitiesportugal.com

HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE HOLIDAY

