

SWIMMING AND BEACH SAFETY

Only swim in pools, tidal waters, rivers, lakes and other waters where it is permitted to do so and you know it is suited to your swimming ability.

Swimming pools

- Read the pool rules before you swim and remember, most holiday accommodations do not employ lifeguards.
- Shower before entering the pool.
- Check the pool layout to know where the deep and shallow ends are, especially before jumping or diving in. Never dive into water less than 1.5m deep.
- Don't jump or dive from any raised features or from poolside furniture.
- Don't swim if suffering from an upset stomach. Leave 48 hours before entering the pool following a stomach-related illness.
- Don't swim immediately after a meal and never swim when you've been drinking alcohol.
- Check the hours of pool operation and never use the pool when it is closed.
- In the event of an emergency, know how and where to get help.
- Children in and around the pool area must be supervised by an adult at all times.
- Don't change nappies at the poolside.
- Young children and babies should wear appropriate swimwear e.g. rubber-lined swimming trunks.
- In the event of a faecal accident in or around the pool, report it immediately.

The Beach

Spot the dangers

- Check warning flags, signage and follow safety information on the beach.
- Beware dangerous currents and underwater hazards, such as reefs, rocks, sudden changes in depth and marine life.
- Don't swim near or dive from rocks, piers, breakwaters and coral.

Follow safety advice

- Swim where there's a lifeguard on duty.
- Never swim where a sign says not to e.g. in zoned areas for jet boats or jet skis.
- Only use jet skis with appropriate safety equipment and supervised by an instructor.

Don't go alone

- Never swim alone.
- Always supervise children.
- Never swim at night, after drinking alcohol or on a full stomach.

Learn how to help

- If you see someone in difficulty raise the alarm.
- Find out what to do in an emergency e.g. call the local coastguard.

OUT AND ABOUT

Excursions

- Always book through a reputable supplier; ask your representative or travel provider for more details.
- If you are planning to go scuba diving, allow at least 24 hours between your last dive and flying or travelling to altitude (over 1,000 feet).
- Jet skis and other such watercrafts should only be used with appropriate safety equipment and under the supervision of the instructor.

Pedestrians and driving

- Be aware that in some countries traffic isn't required to stop at pedestrian crossings.
- When walking on unpaved or unlit roads in the evenings carry a torch.
- Before driving ask the car hire company about the traffic laws and any specific local rules e.g. carrying a breathalyser in France, and a spare pair of glasses in Spain.
- Check that your car hire insurance is adequate for the driver and all passengers.
- Always wear a seat belt.
- Always carry emergency/breakdown telephone numbers.
- Never drink and drive.
- We strongly advise that you don't hire mopeds or motorbikes.
- We strongly advise that you don't independently hire quad bikes.

CARE IN THE SUN

- Apply high-factor sunscreen frequently and drink plenty of water.
- Build up the time you spend in the sun gradually and avoid sunbathing between 11am and 3pm – the hottest part of the day.
- Never expose babies less than six months old to the sun.
- Take extra care with children – use plenty of high factor sunscreen, make them wear a t-shirt and hat.
- In mosquito prone areas during daylight hours spray your repellent on top of your sunscreen.

PERSONAL SAFETY

- Avoid carrying too much money or wearing excess jewellery when you're out and about.
- Keep all valuables, wallets, bags etc. close to you at all times.
- Avoid poorly lit areas and if possible never walk home alone.
- If you're out as part of a group, look out for one another.
- Consider very carefully whether you should leave a pub, club or event with someone you've just met.

- Do not invite strangers back to your room.
- In busy bars and clubs take time to check for fire exits and follow all emergency instructions in the event of an incident.
- If you feel threatened stay calm, and try to be firm and direct.
- If you feel uncomfortable or in danger, don't be afraid to draw attention to yourself. Shout, make a fuss and make people aware that you feel threatened.
- If you are the victim of a crime, report the matter to your travel provider and the local police immediately.

Alcohol and drugs

- Never accept drinks from strangers or from anyone you don't completely trust.
- Do not share or exchange drinks.
- Keep your drink with you at all times or nominate a friend to watch your drinks.
- Be aware of how much you've had to drink and remember alcohol will dehydrate you.
- Avoid using recreational drugs – they're likely to be illegal in your holiday destination.
- The quality of local imported spirits varies greatly, buy well known brands where possible.

Using a taxi or minicab

- Never accept a lift from an unlicensed taxi, a stranger or someone you don't completely trust.
- Try to share a taxi with a friend.
- Always sit in the back of the taxi, and if you chat to the driver don't give them any personal details.

How to have a safe and healthy holiday in the sun



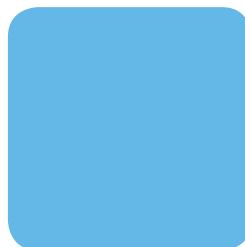
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GOING ON HOLIDAY IS EXCITING!

New surroundings, experiences and cuisine.

While relaxing and letting your guard down is all part of the holiday experience, you may encounter difficulties that could affect your holiday enjoyment. Here are some useful pointers to help you enjoy your holiday and avoid some possible pitfalls. Please read the information carefully and ensure that other members in your party are also aware.



HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY!

INSURANCE

Never travel without travel insurance

- Make sure you have valid travel insurance with sufficient cover for your holiday and check any holiday activities are covered before participating.
- Take a copy of your policy and the emergency assistance contact number with you.
- Remember the free European Health Insurance card (EHIC) only entitles you to basic state medical care in participating countries, and it does not cover you for repatriation.

YOUR JOURNEY

Plan and pack for a safe journey

- Allow sufficient time to get to the airport/port/station.
- Follow the luggage policy of your transport provider, including any weight or carriage restrictions. Carry a supply of medication in your hand luggage.
- Leave your travel details with your next of kin or an emergency contact.
- Keep a copy of your passport somewhere safe throughout your holiday.



ACCOMMODATION

Be aware and be safe

- When you arrive, check out the accommodation facilities and the safety features.
- If you notice any defects or hazards at your accommodation, report them to reception and your travel provider, representative or their local agent.
- If on a cruise participate in the emergency evacuation drill.
- Take extra care in bright sunlight as it may not be obvious whether the windows or patio door are open or closed.
- Surfaces such as tiles or marble floors can be very slippery.
- Never leave children unsupervised.
- If you're self-catering, check how the cooking appliances work and ensure they are switched off when you leave your apartment or go to bed.
- If smoking is permitted always ensure that all smoking materials are safely extinguished and never smoke in bed.
- If you smell gas, report it. Black sooty marks or stains, lazy orange flames and excessive condensation in the room could indicate a faulty gas appliance.

When you arrive

- Familiarise yourself with the escape routes and locate the fire exit nearest to your room.
- Read the fire instruction notice displayed in your room.
- Keep your key by your bed when sleeping or leave the key in the inside of the door whilst locked.

If a fire occurs

- Evacuate the room/area immediately – don't stop to collect personal belongings. Use the nearest escape route.
- Close any doors behind you.
- Raise the alarm.
- If you can't leave your room, close all doors, put wet towels or clothes round the door seals, telephone reception and shout for help from the window.

Security

- If available, use the safety deposit box for your money, travel documents, passports, jewellery and other valuables.
- Lock your door even when you're inside your room.
- Don't leave windows or patio doors open.

Balcony safety

- Never leave children unsupervised on balconies.
- Don't climb or stand on balcony furniture. Keep all furniture away from the balcony wall/railings.
- Never lean over, sit or climb on the balcony wall/railings.
- Do not try to pass items to someone on another balcony or climb from one balcony to another.
- Never jump into the pool from your balcony.

ACCIDENTS AND ILLNESS

- If you or one of your party fall ill or have an accident during your holiday, seek medical advice and report it to the reception, your travel provider, representative or their local agent.

FOOD AND DRINK

- Where appropriate, drink bottled water and avoid ice in drinks.
- Be aware that alcohol measures abroad may be larger than in the UK – drink in moderation.
- Make sure your food has been thoroughly cooked and is still hot when served.
- Avoid any uncooked food apart from fruits and vegetables or food that can be peeled or shelled.
- Ask for information on meal ingredients if you have food allergies.
- Take care when handling lava grills and other equipment.