

TRAVEL SAFETY

PROTECTING YOURSELF

WHEN YOU'RE AWAY FROM

HOME



Presented by



American Burglary Protection
3100 North Academy Blvd Suite 205
Colorado Springs, CO 80917
719-433-1494 || vbjegovich@aisnation.com



Being Prepared Is The Best Travel Safety Precaution

According to The U.S. Travel association, travel in this country is still a pretty big deal, whether that travel is for business or pleasure. The association reported that during 2014 (the most current statistics):

Direct spending on leisure travel totaled \$644.9 billion More than 3 out of 4 domestic trips taken are for leisure purposes (78%).

U.S. residents logged 1.7 billion person-trips for leisure purposes The top reasons for leisure travel were visiting relatives; shopping; visiting friends; fine

dining; and beaches Here's a quick look at the situation for business travelers:

Direct spending on business travel (including expenditures on meetings, events and incentive programs) totaled \$283.0 billion U.S. residents logged 452 million person-trips for business purposes

That's a lot of miles and hours away from home—no matter why we travel. With that much time spent on the road (or in the air) safety has to be a concern. However, the concerns we have about safety today are different than they used to be.

Not that long ago, if you mentioned travel safety, people thought about making sure their cars were in good running order. When people flew, some bought flight insurance because they still weren't sure about the safety of air travel. Airports even had kiosks in them where passengers could buy insurance before getting on the plane! These days, people are more concerned about delays and making connections.

There are some other things, however, that travelers should be thinking about before they travel—whether by plane or by car. Here are a few things to keep in mind as you prepare that can ensure your safety—and your enjoyment of your trip.

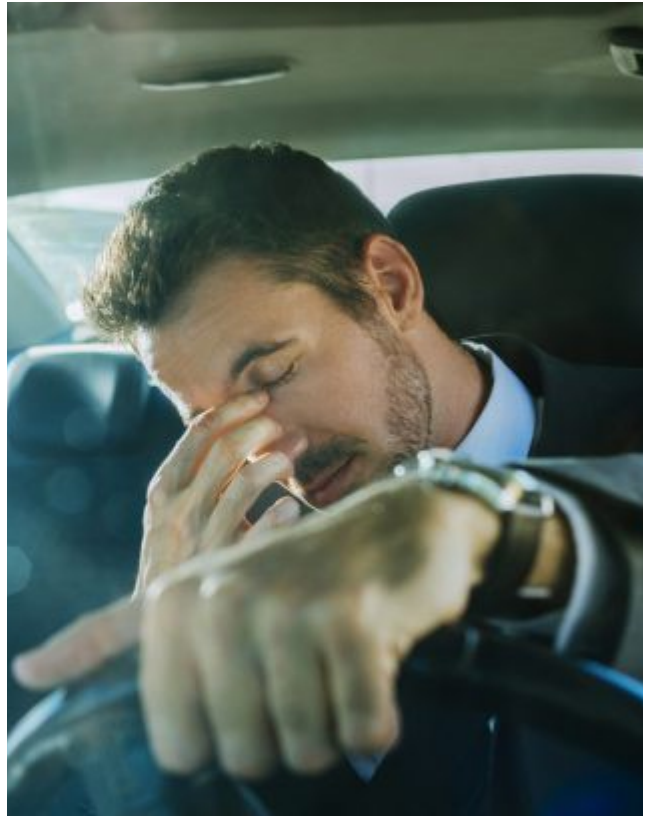
Road Trip Safety: Avoid “Get-Home-Itis”

We Americans love our road trips. We’ve written books and made movies about them. There’s something free-spirited and romantic about driving long distances. Of course most of those books and movies don’t focus on that last stretch, when you’ve been gone for a long while and it’s time to get home. That’s when something known as “Get-Home-Itis” can rear it’s ugly— and dangerous head.

This usually happens when we’re anxious to get home—but the distance is a little bit more than we can safely handle. There’s a temptation to gut it out, have another cup of coffee,

and just keep going. The problem is that when you’re tired your reflexes aren’t as good and you’re more likely to make judgment mistakes behind the wheel. Know your limitations. Take

breaks every few hours to stretch your legs and clear your mind. If you find yourself yawning, or nodding-off at the wheel, pull over. We all want to get home after a long trip, but one more night in a motel is a lot more enjoyable (and cheaper) than a night in the hospital.



Know Where You’re Going

We all know the jokes about men not asking directions. These days, however, there’s really no excuse. You don’t even have to ask a real person. You can simply ask your phone for directions. But knowing where you’re going isn’t just about having driving directions to your final destination. Even if you get a little lost, you can generally find your way with a little more exact searching on your phone or your car’s GPS.

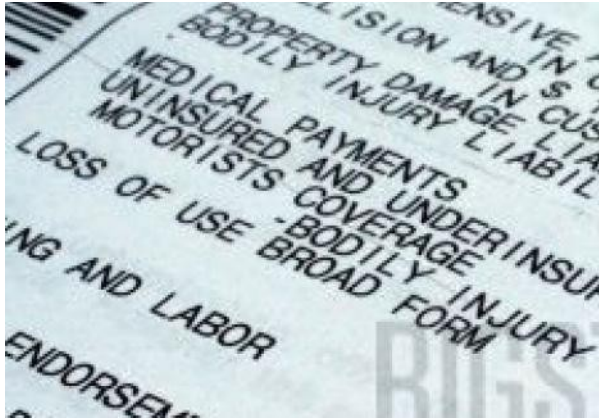
Those are great tools to have, but one thing those GPS systems don’t tell you is what the surroundings are really like in an area where you’re headed. Your smart phone and your car’s GPS won’t give you a “sketchy neighborhood” warning as you approach your destination. Check with friends in the area or with AAA to see if there are areas you should avoid because of safety concerns. And

while some apps may warn you about weather-related issues, it’s a good idea to check local weather reports to make sure you’re not headed into dangerous conditions caused by snow, ice, or flooding.



Protect Yourself Against Identity Theft

Not all travel dangers are physical, but virtual dangers such as identity theft can have equally serious implications. When we travel, we often carry extra documents with us that may contain sensitive information that could be used to compromise our identity. That could be on copies of itineraries, or flight tickets, or reservations. Before



you leave home, make sure that there is no information on any travel documents that you're uncomfortable with. You may also want to check documents before you discard them in a hotel or motel room—and manually shred them just to be on the safe side. Even if someone can't use your information to steal your identity, no stranger needs to know your itinerary.

Auto Break-Ins

Whether you are flying for your trip or driving to your destination, your car may be parked in some other location than the safety and security of your garage. Obviously you'll want to keep your car locked, but it's not just the theft of your

automobile you're protecting. Thieves often break into cars—not to steal the vehicle itself, but to steal the information in it. Car registrations may contain your home address (although some states, such as Colorado are no longer including that information on registration forms kept in the vehicle). Car insurance forms and even repair receipts could have your address on them—making your home vulnerable while you're gone. And if you happen to have a removable garage door opener in your car, you may have provided a thief with quick and easy access to your home. Make sure your papers don't have sensitive information (and that they're safely stored) and leave your garage door opener at home.

Guarding Against Personal Theft

If you're visiting an area where pickpockets are a problem, you need to be particularly vigilant. We tend to ignore this problem in the U.S and think of it as an international issue. To be honest, it can happen in any crowded area with high volumes of pedestrian traffic. It is an even bigger problem if you happen to be traveling overseas, where you will also be carrying a passport. Losing your passport while overseas is a huge and expensive hassle, and you can't get home without it. Whether or not you're carrying a passport, you'll have cash, credit cards, and a drivers license with you. Aside from the financial

loss you might incur, trying to replace those things while out of town (and perhaps without ID) as a colossal problem. How can you protect yourself?

If you're in a high-traffic area that's known for personal crime it's not enough to simply make sure your purse is closed, or that your wallet pocket is buttoned. Professional pick-pockets can slash a purse strap or slit a purse bottom or pants pocket without you even noticing. One smart thing to do is to wear a flat money pouch that attaches to your belt and is actually worn on the inside of your pants. These pouches can also be worn on a strap that goes around the neck with the pouch worn inside a shirt or sweater. These pouches can still be pulled out with relative ease (by you—not by a pick-pocket) when you need to pay. To make these items less bulk, only take one or two credit cards with you and only carry enough cash to get you through the day (or evening). Lock up extra cash and or cards in the hotel safe in your room.



Protecting Your Home While You're Away

Don't advertise your absence. Your Home also needs protection while you're traveling—particularly if no one will be staying in the house during your absence. A little bit of preventative preparation can make a big difference.

First of all, not everybody needs to know that you're traveling. It may be popular (and fun) to share images of your trips on social media such as Facebook. The problem is that you don't know for sure who might see posts (particularly if your friends share them with others or aren't as conscientious about safety as you are). So don't Post your agenda ahead of time. That could simply advertise the fact that your home is unoccupied. If you do want to post pictures during your trip, don't mention how long you'll be gone.



Other things can advertise your absence. Canceling your mail tells anybody watching daily mail deliveries that you're not home. It's better to have a friend or neighbor pick up your mail and put it in the house, or hold it for you. Have them pick up newspapers, and remove fliers, and door hangers that might be left on your front door. If you're traveling in winter, make sure someone shovels the sidewalk and driveway (or at least makes tire tracks on your driveway) so it looks like someone is home. If you're traveling in the summer, keep the sprinkler going and make sure the grass gets cut if you'll be gone for a couple of weeks.

Lights can be a great deterrent on dark nights, but simply having all the same lights on a timer can also be a signal if someone is paying close attention. If you can control your lights remotely, change up the pattern. When your friends

come over to check your mail, have them walk around the house on occasion—simply looking for any signs that someone might have been there.

Whether you're flying or driving, there's a good chance your car won't be in your garage. If your garage door has a window in it, someone prowling in the area can look in that garage window and notice that the car is gone—indicating that you're not at home. A simple step to take is to cover your garage windows from the inside using paper (even newspaper) and masking tape. It doesn't take long and it's easy to remove once you get home.

Whether you travel for business or pleasure, you need to protect yourself, your identity, and your home wherever you go and however you get there.

One of the best ways to protect your home while you're away is with an affordable, state-of-the-art home security that protects your home 24-7 365 days of the year. You can add features according to your specific needs and budget (including features that allow you to control heat, cooling, lights, and even sprinkler systems via your smart phone or tablet no matter where in the world you are). Because no matter where you travel, or how you get there, there's still no place like home!

*For more information about an affordable security system
that fits your specific needs, give us a call at
719-433-1494 or visit us online at getyouralarm.com*

