

Safe Travel Guide



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Holiday season is filled with the promise of new experiences and relaxation. To help you maximize holiday enjoyment and minimize stress, Kaspersky experts have compiled this guide offering a collection of tips and tricks, designed to help you navigate common travel scenarios smoothly.



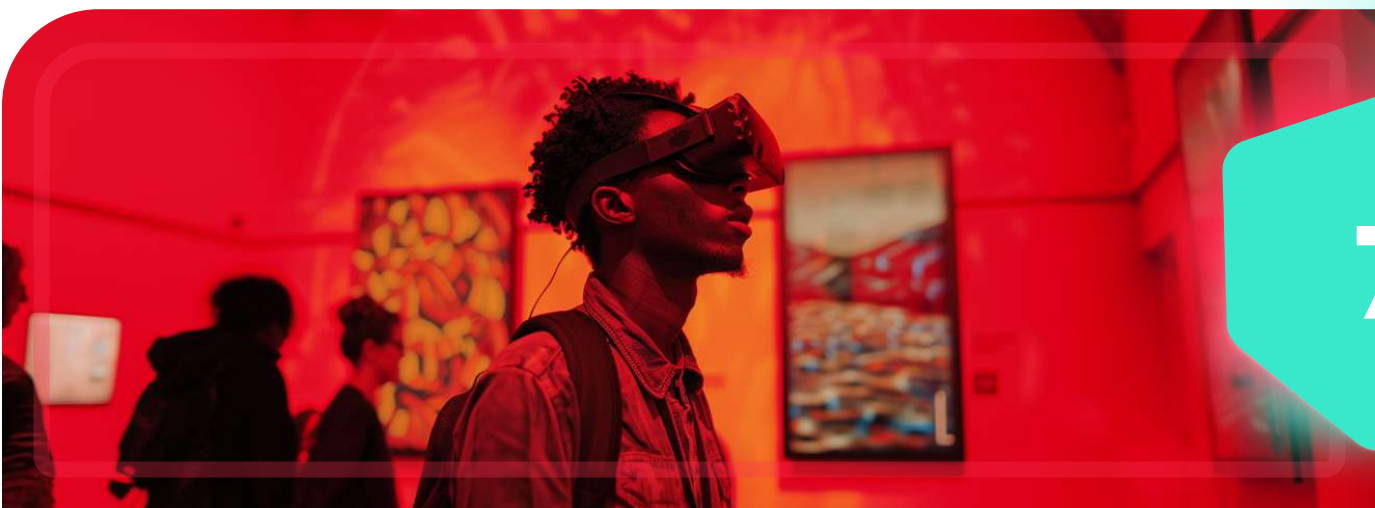
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Transport



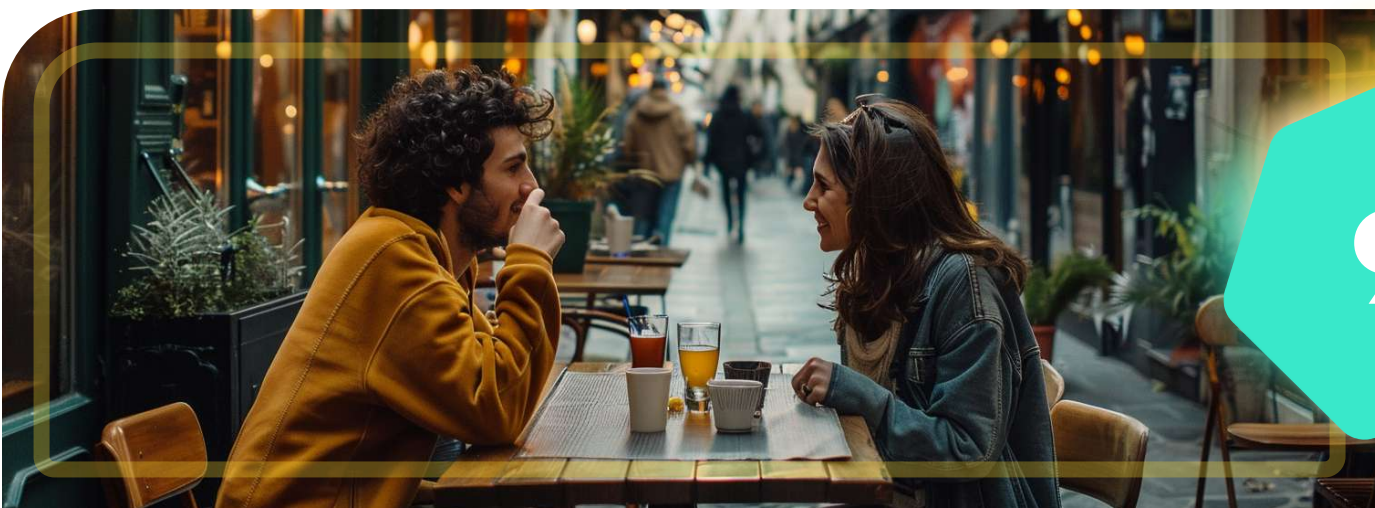
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Transport

Navigating through new destinations brings its own set of challenges and adventures. A good understanding of your travel options is key to a seamless and enjoyable journey, letting you focus on the excitement of exploration rather than the details of transit.

Research local transport options

1. It's wise to research the available transportation options at your destination such as public transit, taxis, rideshares, and bike rentals. A good option is to download transportation schemes and offline maps at your smartphone, in case you encounter any internet issues.

Use a navigation app popular in the area

2. Local apps often provide better guidance than more common options like Google Maps. Ensure you download these applications from official stores and keep your [security solution](#) active to avoid installing malicious or phishing software.

Pre-plan your transport payments

3. Decide how you'll pay for transit before you arrive. Whether it's a travel card or mobile payments, having this sorted make travelling smoother.

Stay aware of your surroundings

4. Keep alert, especially in unfamiliar places. Reducing distractions such as headphones can help you stay safe and responsive.

Avoid peak travel times

5. Traveling during off-peak hours is more comfortable and reduces the risk of dealing with crowds or pickpocketing.

Manage your money wisely on public transport

6. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash when using public transport. It's safer to distribute your money across different pockets to minimize potential loss.

Observe local driving laws

7. If you plan to drive or cycle, familiarize yourself with local traffic rules to prevent accidents.

Keep emergency contacts accessible

8. Save important local emergency numbers in your phone and carry a backup written list. Being prepared can make all the difference in urgent situations.





Accommodation

Choosing the right accommodation is crucial for a successful trip as it affects everything from budget to daily schedule. Often, the entire impression and enjoyment of your vacation depends on the choice of place to stay. Here are some recommendations to ensure you make the best hotel choice.

Explore the geography of the destination

1. Research different areas of your destination to determine which neighborhoods are most enjoyable and safest. This will help you select a hotel that matches your needs, preferences and budget.

Verify payment security

2. Use trusted search engines dedicated to holidays to access booking sites directly, avoiding links from emails or social media to prevent fraud. Enhance your security with [solutions](#) that detect unsafe and phishing websites.

Let staff know about special occasions

3. Hotels often go the extra mile for guests celebrating special events such as an anniversary or birthday, offering complimentary treats, upgrades, or personalized services.

Choose a corner room

4. Corner rooms usually offer more space and better views, and they also tend to be quieter as they share fewer walls with other rooms.

Download the hotel's mobile app before your arrival

5. Many hotels offer mobile check-in, keyless room entry, and the ability to request services directly from your phone, which can streamline your experience and reduce waiting times. But remember to get applications only from official stores.

Seek out newly opened hotels to save money

6. These establishments often offer promotions or lower rates as they try to build their reputation and attract initial guests.

Book business-oriented hotels during weekends

7. They are usually busy during the week and might offer lower rates and greater availability on weekends when business travel drops.

Consider room upgrades

8. Inquire about possible room upgrades at check-in. Hotels sometimes offer free upgrades if higher category rooms are available, especially during less busy times.

Monitor rates even after you book

9. Some hotels will let you rebook your room at a lower rate if prices drop after your initial booking. Use websites like [Hopper](#) or [Kayak](#), which can send you notifications if the price of your hotel room decreases.





Entertainment

Exploring a new destination is not just about sightseeing; it's about immersing yourself in the local culture and events. Look at some tips to help you obtain tickets, find the best deals, and fully enjoy cultural offerings.

Set your VPN to your destination's location

1. Use a [VPN](#) set to the location you plan to visit. This makes your searches more local, showing you events that are popular among the residents rather than those tailored for tourists.

Look for discounts and package deals

2. Explore package deals on travel platforms such as [Expedia](#), [Booking.com](#), or [TripAdvisor](#) that might include extras such as transportation or meals.

Utilize student discounts

3. Search for student discounts and consider using the [ISIC](#) (International Student Identity Card), which is accepted by many travel services for cheaper rates on attractions.

Buy tickets from official sources

4. Using well-known ticket platforms or the official event websites together with a reliable [cybersecurity tool](#) can safeguard your transactions.

Take advantage of early bird or last-minute discounts

5. Many events offer discounts if you book early or, alternatively, offer reduced prices on last-minute tickets to fill seats.

Use a VPN on public Wi-Fi

6. When accessing public Wi-Fi, protect your data with a [VPN service](#), which encrypts your internet connection and secures your online activities from security risks.

Connect with locals for advice

7. Talk to locals either online or in person to get recommendations for events and tips on securing the best deals. Utilize platforms like [Couchsurfing](#) or [Meetup](#) to make connections before your visit.

Explore social media and local forums for events

8. Use platforms like [Facebook Events](#) or [Meetup](#) to find local happenings, many of which are affordable or free. Local forums and community boards are also great for insider tips on lesser-known events.

Discover local events through Instagram

9. Check posts using geotags of the area and relevant hashtags for real-time insights and updates on local events. It will help you find exciting activities and experiences directly from the perspectives of those who are participating.





Dating

Dating or holiday romance while on vacation can add an exciting dimension to your travels, allowing you to meet new people and potentially form a lasting connection and close friendship. Navigating this aspect safely and enjoyably requires a thoughtful approach.

Choose reputable dating apps

1. Go for well-known dating apps and always download them from official stores to avoid malicious software. Using a trusted [security solution](#) will also enhance your safety by controlling the amount of data an app collects about you.

Use the built-in messenger function of dating platforms

2. For added security, keep conversations within the dating app rather than switching to other messaging platforms. This helps maintain the safety features provided by the app and protects your personal information.

Meet in public settings

3. Arrange to meet in cafes, restaurants, or busy tourist attractions. These places are not only safe but also create a comfortable environment to get to know someone.

Keep a contact informed

4. Always let a trusted friend or family member know the details of your date, including the location, who and when you'll be seeing.

Guard your personal information

5. Be mindful about the amount of personal information you share, such as your hotel room number, travel itinerary, or financial details.

Use unique dating app photos

6. Avoid using photos on dating apps that are already public on your social media profiles. This helps prevent others from easily finding your online profiles and accessing more personal information.

Don't feel obligated to stay

7. Therapists also recommend always trusting your instincts. If you have an uneasy feeling about a person, remember you don't have to continue the date.





Shopping

Shopping during your travels lets you experience local culture firsthand. We've compiled some recommendations that can enhance your shopping experience, giving you unique stories to tell and better deals to enjoy.

Explore local markets and artisan shops

1. Venture into areas where authentic and often less expensive items are available as these markets provide a window into the local lifestyle and crafts.

Use a dedicated travel card

2. Consider getting a separate bank card for travel purposes and load it with a limited amount of money. This way, in case of theft or fraud, your main funds remain secure.

Learn to negotiate

3. Bargaining is expected in many places. Check if it's culturally appropriate for your destination. Research common negotiation practices in advance to better understand local customs.

Understand local laws and customs

4. Be aware of regulations related to exporting certain cultural or natural items to avoid legal issues, as some may be protected or require special permissions. You can find this information on official government websites or in travel advisories.

Use secure ATMs

5. Use preferred ATMs located inside bank branches to avoid devices such as skimmers that can steal card data.

Install a security tool for online purchases

6. Employ a [cybersecurity solution](#) that alerts you about phishing attempts and dubious links to ensure safe transactions during your travels.

Secure your belongings

7. Store valuables in a safe place and only carry essential items with you. Keep money, credit cards, and important items in a secure manner, such as in a money belt or a zippered cross-body bag.

Keep all receipts

8. Saving receipts can help with customs or tax declarations when returning home and can be useful for returns, exchanges, or international warranty claims.





Bringing kids on vacation —

Traveling with children introduces a different rhythm to your journey, mixing challenge with joy. Thus effective planning transforms trips into delightful adventures for the whole family, filled with fun and comfort.

Choose family-oriented accommodations

1. Select places that offer family-friendly amenities such as swimming pools, playgrounds, and kids' clubs. This can significantly improve the comfort and enjoyment of your stay.

Plan lighter travel days

2. Keep schedules flexible and less packed on travel days to reduce stress. Make time for regular breaks, snacks, and some fun activities to keep everyone relaxed.

Use digital tools for safety

3. Implement [digital parenting solutions](#) to keep track of your children's whereabouts and monitor the battery life of their devices. This ensures you can stay in touch and adds an extra layer of safety.

Be prepared for health and safety needs

4. Keep a list of nearby medical facilities on a mobile phone and bring necessary medications and a basic first aid kit. Being prepared for minor health issues or emergencies is crucial.

Seek out child discounts

5. Many places offer discounts for children, and some attractions allow younger kids free entry. Always ask about these options to save on travel and activity costs.

Pack wisely for children's needs

6. Bring along essentials like snacks, water, extra clothes, and entertainment options such as books or games. Downloading a film or TV series they like in advance to a digital device is great for long haul flights or car rides – and avoids Wi-Fi and roaming costs. This helps manage common travel challenges like hunger, thirst, and boredom.

