



Travel Safety: Essential Tips During Major Events

Traveling to host cities during major events can be exciting but challenging. Even travelers who are not going to an event like the Olympics, the FIFA World Cup or the Super Bowl need to take extra steps to ensure a worry-free trip.



Travel that coincides with large-scale events can mean:

- Expensive flights
- Limited accommodation options, mandatory minimum stays at hotels and increased prices
- General inflation of prices in the destination
- Travel delays due to increased security, high volumes of travelers, traffic congestion and crowded transportation services
- Crowded tourist sites, restaurants, shops and other traveler-centric locations
- Increased concerns of crime, scams and cybersecurity issues
- Protests and event-related violence
- Terrorism risks

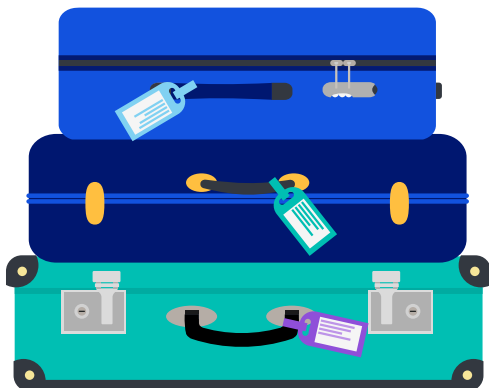
Before and during travel, all travelers should:

- Understand the existing security, health, legal, environmental and logistical concerns in the destination and how they might be exacerbated by the event. Be aware of any additional entry requirements, local laws or other directives issued by authorities.
- Book flights, accommodations, transportation and activities well in advance and take price inflation into account when budgeting.
- Plan itineraries and transportation ahead of time and have backup activities and transportation options.
- Program emergency numbers into your phone and keep a printed copy. If you do not speak the local language, create a list of phrases so you can ask for help in an emergency.
- Pack a first aid kit and extra medication, including over-the-counter medications.
- Leave expensive jewelry at home.
- Be aware of event locations and timings – even if you are not attending – and anticipate potential travel delays due to increased security, traffic and demands on public transportation.
- Keep track of local news that may impact travel, health or safety. This could include planned protests and strikes, weather events, security warnings and travel advice.
- Carefully monitor credit/debit card activity, only connect to trusted WiFi networks and, if possible, use a VPN when accessing sensitive information.
- Always maintain heightened awareness:
 - Avoid protests and other large gatherings.
 - Keep credit cards, mobile phones and cash secure.
 - Avoid sharing too much information with strangers.
 - Report suspicious behavior or other incidents to authorities.



If you are attending the event:

- Only purchase tickets and travel-related services through reputable vendors.
- Access any information on travel logistics, health, security and safety released by official event organizers. Be aware of scams that imitate official emails, websites and apps.
- Understand the venue(s), including security issues in the surrounding areas, event security protocols and the general layout (including parking areas, transportation pick-up/drop-off zones, entry/exit points, your seat locations and emergency exit routes).
- Make a communication plan with your fellow travelers and set meeting locations near your accommodations, at itinerary stops and both inside and outside event venues in case you are separated.
- Know how to respond to incidents in large venues:
 - Try to stay on the edges of the crowd. If this is not possible and you sense the crowd dynamics changing (agitation, decreased mobility, etc.), move to the edges as quickly and calmly as possible.
 - In the event of an emergency, such as an attack or an outbreak of violence in the crowd, quickly assess your surroundings before acting. In many cases, it is better to choose an emergency exit/route that is further away from you but not as crowded.
 - If you do get caught in a crowd crush, keep your arms folded in front of your chest to facilitate movement and breathing. Do not try to move in the opposite direction of the crowd; instead, try to maintain the same pace as others and avoid walls, railings and other barriers. If possible, take a diagonal path toward the edges of the crowd.
- In a major security incident or disaster, it may be necessary to completely evacuate the venue grounds for safety and to avoid interfering with emergency responders. If you do not require medical assistance, leave the area, and connect with fellow travelers via phone or at a designated meeting point near your accommodations. Contact authorities with any eyewitness details once you have made it to safety.



Pack a Travel Guard travel insurance plan:

<https://www.travelguard.com/travel-insurance/trip-types>

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