Safety Tips for Prometeos
PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS

On the street

- Get to know which places are unsafe in your city and do not visit them.
- If possible, don’t walk alone during late-night hours. Walk in groups whenever you can.
- Keep a close eye on your belongings when in public places, such as restaurants, bus terminals, parks, etc.
- Let a family member, friend or co-worker know your destination and your estimated time of arrival or return. That way, appropriate authorities can be notified as quickly as possible if there is a problem.
- Stay in well-lit areas as much as possible. Avoid alleys, vacant lots, construction areas, and other short cuts or secluded areas.
- Walk on the sidewalk whenever possible. Walk close to the curb, avoiding doorways, bushes, and other potential hiding places.
- If you have to walk in the street, walk facing traffic. Most street robberies occur when a thief gets out of the vehicle and attacks its victim from behind. If this happens try to memorize the vehicle license plates.
- Walk confidently, directly, and at a steady pace. Don’t stop to talk to strangers.
- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large sums of cash, displaying expensive jewelry or talking by phone while walking on the street.
- Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or leave the area.
- Know the neighborhoods where you live and work.
If someone tries to rob you

- Don’t resist. Give up your property — don’t give up your life.
- Report the crime to the police immediately. Try to remember details; your description of the event will assist in follow up Police investigations.
- Self-defense measures are most effective when applied as preventive steps; these measures include running away, hiding, screaming, and raising an alarm — remember, more people will respond to someone yelling “fire” than they will to “help”.

When you are indoors

- Make sure all doors (don’t forget sliding glass doors) and, well installed locks, and use them. Keep entrances well lit.
- Never open your door to strangers. Offer to make an emergency call while someone waits outside. Check the identification of sales or service people before letting them in. Don’t be embarrassed to phone for verification.
- Be wary of isolated spots — apartment laundry rooms, underground garages, parking lots, and offices after business hours. Walk with a friend, co-worker, or security guard, particularly at night.
- Know your neighbors, so you have someone to call or go to if you’re uncomfortable or frightened.

When you are outdoors

- Avoid walking or jogging alone, especially at night. Stay in well-traveled, well-lit areas.
- Be careful if anyone asks you for directions or wants you to take a pamphlet or papers; keep your distance and be alert.
- Have your key ready before you reach the door — home, car, or office.
- If you think you’re being followed, change direction and head for the nearest Police station.

**On taxis**

- Whenever possible, call a radio taxi rather than hailing a taxi on the street. If you must hail a taxi on the street, take note of the license plate number and take a good look at the driver before entering the taxi; selected an older driver. In Quito, all taxis should have security cameras (with a white security seal) in the back and front sets as well as a panic bottom.

- Never enter a taxi that offers the promise take you to unknown locations, if you did not ask to go there.

- If you find yourself involved in a robbery, be non-confrontational and cooperate with the criminal. Nothing material is as valuable as your safety.

**Using an Automated Teller Machine (ATM)**

- Try to use machines you are familiar with, and try to use terminals located in banks rather than independent terminals. In Quito and Guayaquil, it is recommended that you use ATM inside shopping malls that are well lit with much foot traffic.

- Be aware of your surroundings. Look around before conducting a transaction. If you see anyone or anything suspicious, cancel your transaction and go to another ATM.

- If you must use an ATM after hours, make sure it’s well lit.

- Never walk away from an ATM with cash still in hand. If you are going to count your money, discreetly do so at the ATM.

**In Hotels**
• Most major hotels typically have sufficient security measures in place to safeguard their guests. However, make sure to securely lock their hotel doors and ensure they use the provided security features (peepholes, privacy chains, Do Not Disturb signs, etc.).

• Make sure to secure all valuables inside the in-room safe, hotel safe, or inside a locked piece of luggage.

• The vast majority of hotel-related crime occurs outside the hotels (sometimes as close as a block or two away) as guests walk to popular restaurants and malls. Try and limit your excursions outside hotels to daylight hours and be vigilant to suspicious people loitering or following you.
Contáctenos

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