# DRIVING SAFETY

When you rent a car, don't go for the exotic: choose a type commonly available locally. Where possible, ask that markings that identify it as a rental car be removed. Make certain it is in good repair. If available, choose a car with universal door locks and power windows, features that give the driver better control of access to the car. An air conditioner, when available, is also a safety feature, allowing you to drive with windows closed. Thieves can and do snatch purses through open windows of moving cars. Keep car doors locked at all times. Wear seat belts. As much as possible, avoid driving at night. Don't leave valuables in the car. If you must carry things with you, keep them out of sight locked in the trunk. Don't park your car on the street overnight. If the hotel or municipality does not have a parking garage or other secure area, select a well-lit area. Never pick up hitchhikers!

The customs about drinking alcohol vary from culture to culture. The level of alcohol determined to impair your ability to drive and the level considered public intoxication is likely to be different than you may be familiar with at home. Play it safe - Do not drink and drive.

### PHOTOGRAPHS

In some countries, you can be harrased or detained for photograhing such things as police and military installations, government buildings, border areas and transportation facilities. if you are in doubt, ask permission before taking photographs.



# MBUSI GENERAL EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO

WWW.MBUSI.com/travel

Password: team

This website will display current travel warnings and advisories.

You are encouraged to check this website while traveling abroad. Share the password with your family so they may stay abreast of situations that could effect your travel schedule, in the event of unexpected circumstances.

Our travel information hotline will have similar information - 205-507-2155.

To contact All Seasons Travel assistance 24 hours per day, please call the following:

Travelers in the US 1-866-283-4758

Travelers in Germany 00 800 87854357

MBUSI ID Code: P91



Mercedes-Benz U.S. International, Inc.

# TRAVELER'S GUIDE

For traveling abroad



P.O. Box 100 Tuscaloosa, AL 35403 (205)507-3300

Version 1 02/10/03

MBUSI is a global company with customers and business worldwide. Our team members frequently travel internationally. There are many countries in the world where national security and political stability are different than we are familiar with at home. Your personal safety can be significantly enhanced through security conscious behavior and adherence to simple guidelines. This brochure contains key concepts which can be an important part of your safe travel abroad. Your safety is the #1 priority at MBUSI.

# What to Bring

Avoid clothing that would bring attention to yourself. Dress conservatively. Avoid clothing with the American flag,university logos, Sports teams, or military styles. Don't wear expensive looking jewelry. A flashy wardrobe or one that is too casual can mark you as a tourist. As much as possible, avoid the appearance of affluence. Don't wear Team Wear or company logo on jackets and clothing when traveling.

Avoid handbags, fanny packs, and outside pockets that are easy targets for thieves. Inside pockets and a sturdy shoulder bag with a strap worn across your chest are somewhat safer. One of the safest places to carry valuables is in a pouch or money belt worn under your clothing.

To avoid problems when passing through customs, keep medicines in their original, labeled containers. Bring copies of your prescription and the generic names for the drugs. If a medication is unusual or contains narcotics, carry a letter from your doctor attesting to your need to take the drug.

Pack an extra set of passport photos with a photocopy of your passport information page to make replacement of your passport easier in the event it is lost or stolen.

Put your name, address, and telephone numbers inside and outside of each piece of luggage. Use covered luggage tags to avoid casual observation of your identity or nationality. Do not use your business card as a luggage tag.

## Safety on the Street

Use the same common sense traveling overseas that you would at home. Be especially cautious in or avoid areas where you are likely to be victimized. These include crowded subways, train stations, elevators, tourist sites, market places, festivals, and marginal areas of cities.

Avoid public demonstrations.

Keep a low profile and avoid loud conversations or arguments. Do not discuss religion or politics. Do not discuss travel plans or other personal matters with strangers.

Try to seem purposeful when you move about. Even if you are lost, act as if you know where you are going. When possible, ask directions only from individuals in authority.

Eat, socialize, and travel with others known to you when possible. Avoid going alone to local bars and drinking establishments.

# Handling your Money Safely

To avoid carrying large amounts of cash, change your traveler's checks only as you need currency.

Countersign travelers' checks only in front of the person who will cash

them. Deal only with authorized agents when you exchange money, buy airline tickets, or purchase souveniers. Do not change money on the black market

Your passport, cash, and credit cards are most secure when locked in a hotel safe. When you have to carry them on your person, you may wish to conceal them in several places rather than putting them all in one wallet or pouch. Bring travelers checks and one or two major credit cards instead of cash.

### **Public Transporation**

Public transporation in many countries is an effective means to travel. Common sense, awareness of your surroundings, and extra caution when traveling at night, are essential for a safe experience.

#### **TAXIS**

Beware of unmarked cabs. Only take taxis clearly identified with official markings. Be sure there is a functioning meter or agree on the price, in advance, with the cab driver.

#### **TRAINS**

Well organized, systematic robbery of passengers on trains along popular tourists routes can be a serious problem. It is more common at night and especially on overnight trains. If you see your way being blocked by a stranger and another person is very close to you from behind, move away. This can happen in the corridor of the train or on the platform or station.

Do not accept food or drink from strangers. Criminals have been known to drug food or drink offered to passengers.

Take special precautions when traveling by train overnight. Where possible, lock your compartment. If it cannot be locked securely, take turns sleeping in shifts with your traveling companions.

Do not be afraid to alert authorities if you feel threatened in any way. Extra police are often assigned to ride trains on routes where crime is a serious problem.

### BUSES

The same type of criminal activity found on trains can be found on public buses on popular tourist routes. For example, tourists have been robbed while sleeping on buses or in bus staions.