

Travel advisory for Spain

Spain is a tourist's delight and its multiple facets are a big attraction but, taking cognizance of recent incidents in Barcelona, Indian citizens visiting Spain and particularly Barcelona are advised:

- i. Pick pocketing, theft of valuables including passports, pull-over scams on roadways are not uncommon. Theft statistics have gone up.
- ii. Such incidents usually take place at major tourist spots (like La Sagrada familia, Casa Mila among others) pit stops on highways, bus/metro/railway stations, airport waiting areas, queues for tickets even lobbies/restaurant of hotels.
- iii. Modus Operandi
 - Your vehicle could be stopped on any pretext including fake police or highway patrol and your valuables forcibly taken away.
 - Handbags are picked from coffee shops and lobbies of hotels.
 - Your valuables, including trolley bags are targeted while waiting for check-ins at airport and railway/bus stations.
 - Liquids including paint can be thrown to distract you and your valuables can be targeted on the pretext of offering help.
- iv. Physical intimidation is not uncommon in robberies.
- v. The Spanish police are helpful, but may have limited success in returning stolen property.

2. Some Travel Tips:

- i. Always carry a copy of your passport, but keep the original document safe in your hotel.
- ii. Do not carry too much cash. Use plastic money which is freely acceptable.
- iii. Jewellery is the easiest item to be stolen.
- iv. In case of any such incident call the police. A police report will be needed, if you require a duplicate passport.

3. Assistance:

- i. Indian Embassy: **Emergency Contact Number: +34 632813288 (Only in case of loss of Indian passport, death or serious illness).**
Embassy reception Number is +34-913098882
- ii. CALL 112, a general emergency number, *which offers help in different languages*. You can call this number from any line, including phones that do not have a local SIM card. This number can direct you to police, ambulance and fire services.
