Reference: Official - La prefecture de police, au service du public de l’agglomeration parisienne <http://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/Pied-de-page/English/Publications/Paris-in-complete-safety>

#### Be careful in the street:

* preferably use a small bag or a waist-bag / fanny-pack rather than a backpack ;
* take little cash with you ;
* do not put your wallet in your back pockets ;
* if an assailant tries to snatch your bag, do not resist, or you may be injured ;
* beware of individuals who may divert your attention in order to steal your personal belongings.



* Some swindlers may impersonate police officers and ask for your identification and money. First of all, bear in mind that a real police officer will never ask for money. Ask for their white plastic three-colour card indicating "Police" in the centre, diagonally crossed in blue, white and red and bearing markings on both sides.

#### Be careful in public transport:

* do not leave your luggage unattended ;
* do not let any individual go through the turnstile / gate directly behind you ;
* never buy tickets from scalpers who will charge you extra (up to ten times their value). Use ticket counters or ticket-issuing machines in (train / bus / subway) stations.

**Never accept rides from someone who may offer their transport services in airports or in the street : this could be a "bogus/illegal" taxi, a crime punished by the French Labour Code**

#### In public places:

* do not handle money in public and never change currencies in the street, use bureaux de change / currency exchange offices instead ;
* use small denominations, bank cards or cheques (of course if they can be cleared in France) for any purchases ;
* do not leave your methods of payment in cloakrooms or in your coat on a chair (at restaurant or in cafés for instance), a pickpocket could sit behind you and steal your belongings ;
* never lay your bag at your feet and do not leave your mobile phone or your wallet on the table in a café or a restaurant
* do not put your phone in an outside pocket of your bag or garments ;
* do not lend it to a stranger ;
* in restaurants and bars, do not hesitate to ask for the menu and pricelist, so as to avoid any unpleasant

Reference: Blog- Travel lady

<http://www.travellady.com/Issues/January05/1171ParisIsaSafeCity.htm>

**Some interesting facts:**

Even with the increase in certain crimes Paris is a relatively safe city, compared to many others in Europe, with a far lower rate of violent crime than in the US. Most crime takes the form of petty theft and purse snatching, and represents approximately 65% of all reported crimes. A majority of these robberies have taken place around train stations, in the metro system or at cafes crowded with tourists.

The following tourist sites are frequented by pickpockets and other thieves: Madeleine, Arc de Triomphe, Champs Elysees, Sacre Cœur, L’Opera, Chatelet, Les Halles/George Pompidou Center, Porte de Clingnancourt flea market, and the Eiffel Tower.

The following stations/ Metro stops are also hot spots for theft- Chatelet, Les Halles, Barbes Rochechouart, Gare du Nord, Auber-Opera-Harve Caumartin, Charles de Gaulle-Etoile, Concorde, Strasbourg-Saint Denis, Republique, Montparnasse, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Bastille, Care de l’Est, Nation, Gare de Lyon.

There has been an increase in the number of pickpocket crimes on the metros. While in the past it was not unusual to see young women leaving their bags unattended on chairs or tables. That too is changing, as tourists are reporting stolen bags and other items more often now than in the past. This is not to say that you must be fearful when navigating solo around the city, but it is to say that a little precaution never hurts.

**Do’s/Don’ts:**

* When walking at night, stick to busy, well-lit streets and avoid dark alleyways, parks, parking lots, and deserted areas.
* Be smart, and safe. Stay away from the parks at night.
* The same as you would in your own city. Trust your ‘’gut’’ feelings. If you have a bad feeling about an area or situation, you are probably right.

**Emergency Numbers**

* Call 112 – for all emergencies across Europe, and to speak in English
* Fire: 18   
  Police: 17   
  SAMU (24 hour ambulance): 15  
  **In Paris**SOS Doctors: 01.47.07.77.77   
  SOS Dentists: 01.43.37.51.00   
  Poison antidote: 01.40.37.04.04
* **Loss or Theft**  
  In cases of loss or theft, you must fill in a statement of loss or theft and present it to the following:
* **For a passport:** the nearest police station and the nearest Consulate to get a 3-month temporary passport.
* **For a handbag or personal objects:** the lost property office
* **For a car:** the nearest pound in large towns or the nearest police station
* **For a credit card:** ring the emergency service (below) and make a statement at the police station.
* **Lost Property Office:**   
  Prefecture de Police  
  36 rue des Morillons  
  75015 Paris   
  Telephone: 01.45.31.14.80