

Security Advisory for Indian Nationals in Guyana

General safety tips:

- Always be aware of your surroundings while walking on the streets.
- Keep changing your timings and routes to and from work.
- Always keep your car doors locked and windows closed while driving.
- Always maintain a low personal profile by not doing anything that draws attention to you. Do not, for example, wear jewelry, show your cell phone, or display any other indication of wealth.
- Be alert of suspicious persons in your neighborhood and report them to the authorities.
- Remain alert and pay particular attention to motorcycles that carry a passenger; two people on a motorcycle seems to be the preferred method of attack.
- Travel with a partner or in a group.

Tips for home:

- Don't open your residence gates/doors to unannounced and unidentified persons.
- Vendors, policemen, and service personnel should only be admitted if they are properly identified and expected.
- Doors, windows, gates, and garages should be closed and locked at all times - whether or not you are at home; alarms should be activated no matter how short the time you are away.
- Double lock exterior door locks at night.
- Try to keep valuable items at your residence out of plain sight.
- Ensure all of your family members are briefed on security measures.

Tips for arrival and departure:

- Always be aware of your surroundings when you are leaving your vehicle.
- Walk along the perimeter of the fence, not on the street.
- Do not leave any valuables inside your vehicles unattended. These items could make you or your vehicle an attractive target.

Personal Vehicle Security:

- Use caution when travelling at night (between 20:00 hours and 06:00 hours) and minimize movements, as crime dramatically increases during this time frame. Police operations and road blocks are much more present and there is a high risk of other drivers operating vehicles under the influence of alcohol, drugs or both.
- Always be vigilant and on the look-out for suspicious activity - be aware of your environment. Always keep your vehicle doors locked and your windows up;

- Minimize travelling alone, whenever possible, particularly at night (between 20:00 hours and 06:00 hours).
- Know your destination and how to get there. Ensure that you have a planned secondary route;
- Ensure that you have a functioning cellular phone with you at all times.
- When stopped in traffic or at road signals, always ensure there is enough space between the car in front of you and your vehicle in order to manoeuvre out of the area quickly should an incident arise;
- Avoid walking long distances when parking in designated public parking areas (especially at night) to limit potential risks. Park near pedestrian traffic and as close as possible to the front entrance of your destination;
- Make all attempts to park in secure parking areas which are equipped with security lighting/camera and are manned by Security guards or Parking attendants;
- Choose parking spaces where your vehicle will not be obstructed by any large objects and away from areas of concealment;
- Always back into parking spaces to ensure that the front of your vehicle is facing out. This will facilitate a quick and safe departure, if required;
- Always have your keys in your hand, ready to unlock the doors when you return to your vehicle. When approaching your vehicle, use the exterior car mirrors to observe what is happening behind you; and
- Conduct a quick check around your vehicle prior to entering. If time permits and it is safe to do so, look under your vehicle and check the back seat for suspicious objects or hanging wires.
- Avoid transporting valuables inside your vehicle. Keep lucrative or items of value out of plain view. Secure all valuables in the trunk

ROAD AWARENESS AND SAFETY

- Ensure you know your routes and are familiar with any road work, closures, protests or demonstrations so that you can set your route to by-pass these obstacles.
- Know where gas stations are located on your route.
- While driving in Georgetown, you will have several alternative routes available. Familiarize yourself with the different options to go to work, to school, to the airport, etc.
- It is always wise to have a planned secondary route mapped out.
- In the event that you need to ask for directions, do so only in a secure location, such as a gas station or police station.

- Remember that simple interactions with others like washing your vehicle's windows, pan handling for spare change or street vendors can become a distraction - criminals often work in pairs or groups. **NEVER roll down your vehicle windows.**
- Remember - obstructions and traps are easier to notice during the day.
- Driving at night is more dangerous; vision is diminished, roads are less travelled or deserted, there is a greater risk of an ambush or attack and there is slower reaction / response time from the local authorities.
- If you encounter a protest, demonstration or riot during your travels, ensure your vehicle doors are locked and windows are up. If a potential threat is noted, sound your vehicle horn and push through as quickly and safely as you can.

CARJACKINGS / THEFT OF VEHICLES

Carjacker Profile

- They watch their victims at road signals and traffic lights, along the side of the road, parking areas, gas stations and residences.
- Most carjackers will give motorists a reason to exit the vehicle and then strike.
- They operate by forcing their victims off the road.
- In some instances they also pose as police officers or security guards and may follow you to your home.

ATTACK POINTS

Approaching and entering your driveway

- If you have a non-electric gate, perpetrator(s) may wait until you are out of your vehicle.
- If you have an electric gate, culprit(s) may study the manner that you enter.
- They usually strike as you wait for the gate to open.
- It is recommended to begin opening the electric gate as you are approaching the entrance, once the gate is insight. If the gate is manned by a security guard, notify the guard of your imminent arrival so that they can open the gate for you.

Entering or exiting your car

- Ensure you are aware of your surroundings as you pull into public parking areas.

- Check for irregular activity or suspicious persons.
- When entering, check to confirm that there are no objects behind your tires and that your license plate is still affixed to your vehicle.

Road Signals and Traffic Lights

Most carjackers will wait for motorists to come to a stop and then strike.

Persons in distress on the road

In some incidents, carjackers will pose as someone who has been a victim of a car accident, experiencing car trouble or as someone who has suffered an injury and require assistance. It is recommended not to intervene and to contact local authorities for their immediate response.

DO NOT TRY TO RUN DOWN THE CARJACKER - YOU MAY BE SHOT

- Do not fight as this may cause the situation to escalate and become violent.
- Do not talk to the carjacker(s) unless requested and avoid eye contact.
- Do not make any sudden movements or go for your purse or bag. This may be interpreted as you reaching for a weapon.
- Remain calm and always cooperate with the perpetrator(s).
- Follow all directions by the assailant(s), especially if they are armed.
- If you are with your family, make an attempt to negotiate with the culprit(s) by mentioning that you have children. Let them take your vehicle and personal belongings. This approach will definitely assist in keeping you and your family safe.
- Contact the local Police when the incident is over and it is safe to do so.

Theft of Personal Vehicle

- If your personal vehicle is stolen while parked at a public place, proceed to an area or establishment with a lot of pedestrian traffic.
- Contact the local authorities to report the incident.

ROAD INCIDENTS

- In the event that you observe a vehicle following yours, remain calm. Slow down and pull over, but do not get out of your vehicle.
- If the vehicle pulls over when you do, accelerate and take the next available exit. Proceed to a populated location or an area with a lot of vehicle circulation.
- Remain focused and proceed to the nearest Police Station.

- Try to get a description of the vehicle and the license plate number.
- Provide details of the incident to the Police Officers on duty. Details would consist of the time/date, location of the incident, description of the vehicle, the driver and of any passengers. Provide as much information as you can recall.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

- If you are implicated in a traffic accident, remain calm.
- If you are not injured, exit your vehicle and check if other parties involved are injured. Contact the local Police to report the accident. DO NOT move your vehicle from the original accident scene unless it becomes unsafe. Take photographs of the accident scene prior to moving your vehicle.
- DO NOT admit guilt. Exchange vehicle information (Insurance documents, Vehicle Registration and Drivers Licence with other parties involved in the accident; however, do not surrender official papers. Remain at the accident scene until the arrival of the local Police.
- Do not provide your home address or home phone number. Provide the address and phone number of the office.
- If you are implicated in an accident at night and you fear for your safety, remain in your vehicle, keep your doors locked and windows up. Call the local Police for assistance. Make every attempt to communicate with other parties involved in the accident through your door window. Inform them that you are contacting the local Police. Also advise that you will remain in your vehicle until they attend the scene.
- If any time the situation escalates and you believe that violence may occur, take note of the licence plate numbers of the other vehicle(s) involved, depart the scene and proceed to the nearest Police station to report the accident.

POLICE OPERATIONS AND CONTROLLED ROAD BLOCKS

- If you are approaching a Police Operation or Controlled Road Block, cooperate with the officers in charge.
- Do not try to avoid the stop. This will only alert the Police and possibly escalate the situation.
- Answer their questions (in most situations they will wave you through when they observe a diplomatic licence plate).

HOME INVASIONS

- DO NOT fight or argue with the home invader(s) as they are normally armed and very dangerous. Let them take what they want and make no attempt to stop them. Avoid eye contact and follow their demands. COOPERATION will be the key in keeping you and your family safe.
- Contact and report the incident to the Police when the culprit(s) have departed the scene.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

- Only use registered taxi companies or shuttles in Georgetown and other taxi services approved by Hotels/Resorts in Guyana.
- Avoid flagging down taxis and do not enter a cab occupied by other clients.
- Call in advance and confirm that you and your party will be the only individuals transported to your requested destination (No pick-ups of other clients/strangers).
- **DO NOT** discuss work related issues if you are riding with friends or colleagues.
- Keep IDs and valuables concealed and know your routes