



## Vecinos Cooperando y Colaborando de España Neighbourhood Watch Association in Spain



### TOURISTS AND HOLIDAYMAKERS

Neighbourhood Watch in Spain know we all like to feel safe and secure, especially when on holiday with family or friends and keeping safe is something we all need to think about, but sometimes take for granted. Personal safety is all about planning ahead, thinking about the possible risks and taking realistic, practical steps to avoid them if possible.

No amount of precautions can make us completely safe but we can learn to avoid many of the dangers and learn how to react quickly when we are at risk. The following simple, practical tips will make for a safer holiday.

- Don't leave cash or valuables unattended when swimming
- Don't leave your bags, cameras or jackets lying around on chairs in café or bars (always keep an eye on your belongings in public places).
- Beware of gangs of child thieves in cities such as Madrid and Barcelona, pickpockets and over-friendly strangers.
- Always remain vigilant in tourist haunts, queues and anywhere there are large crowds, and never tempt fate with an exposed wallet or purse or by flashing your money around.
- One of the most effective methods of protecting your passport, money, travellers cheques and credit cards is with an old-fashioned money belt.
- If you are renting a property and going out at night, you might want to draw the curtains and turn a light on so it looks like someone is at home.
- Close all windows and doors whenever you leave your home
- When going out only take those items you may need.
- If using a hire car remove the sticker from the rear window, you do not want to advertise you are on holiday ( holiday makers are a prime target for thieves) and keep all personal items in the boot.
- Do not stop to help anyone on the road, especially if you are alone. Instead, go to the nearest safe telephone and call the police for assistance.
- Do not stop if another motorist indicates to you that your vehicle has a fault. Instead, go to the nearest service station or police station to investigate. An alternative would be to stop next to a police vehicle and ask them for assistance.