



## GOOD SAMS FOUNDATION'S SAFE TRAVEL - GUIDANCE FOR EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

Please read and prepare for your travel to our Asia Pacific Ministries with these travel safe precautions.

### Research your destination

In addition to visa requirements, local culture and the seasonal temperatures, look into destination-specific perils. These can range from typhoons, fire and major climate events. We recommend you visit <https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au> for regional information.

### Have an emergency plan in place

Keep numbers programmed on your phone for local police, the Australian Embassy and contacts at the ministries. Give copies of your itinerary and travel documentation to your family and office staff and keep copies in several locations while you travel – including in your luggage and hotel safe – for easy access.

### Take the proper health precautions

In addition to getting the required vaccinations for your destination, bring extra prescription medications. Carry a first aid kit for minor incidents. Ensure you pack sunscreen, a hat and insect repellent.

### Map your local transportation

It is likely that you will be picked up by the Sisters however if not please only use an accredited taxi for on the ground travel.

### Take precautions against common theft

You can be easy targets for pickpockets and scammers. Seemingly harmless requests (to sign a petition, to buy a friendship bracelet) can be excuses to distract you while an accomplice takes your wallet or belongings. Secure your passport and valuables away from easy access and keep only a small amount of currency in handy pockets. Be hypervigilant about strangers – even innocent-looking children or families.

Don't leave your bags in a hire car, which can be a focus for thieves. Don't let seemingly "helpful" locals watch or carry your luggage for you.

## Prevent being targeted for violent crime

Foreigners often stand out, so don't make yourself an easy target.

- Use your planning tools and/or trusted local advisors to identify and stay clear of dangerous areas.
- Don't hang around on the street with your mobile phone or an open map. Go into a busy café or shop to plan your route.
- Avoid over-indulging in alcohol, which makes you more vulnerable.
- Don't flash a lot of currency or credit cards.
- Steer clear of public disputes, demonstrations, or political rallies, where you might become an unintended victim of hostility.

## Guard against cybercrime

Make sure to connect your devices to the internet via a secure VPN. Avoid using free Wi-Fi networks in coffee shops or other public places; these are notoriously insecure and may offer cyber criminals a way to get your personal information or even hack into your company's network.

## Travel hazards

Despite precautions, the unexpected can happen — from a minor theft to a major medical emergency. Please discuss your travel plans with the Executive Director and familiarise yourself with who to ring at our travel insurer in case of emergency.