

To: New expats/assignees
From: SIRVA Relocation Malaysia Team
Subject: Crime and Security Briefing

CRIME in Malaysia takes many forms. Visitors may find themselves victims of snatch thieves, burglars or con artists. As in any other country and with all crimes, the best protection is awareness and vigilance.

SNATCH THIEVES

These thieves often travel in pairs, sometimes in cars, but more often on a motorbike. As the driver rides alongside you, the passenger grabs your bag and in the worst cases, victims get dragged along behind.

Though the police have cracked down on snatch thefts, these incidents still occur, and you should protect yourself as best you can. Wear your bag across your body, walk against the flow of traffic, keep anything you are carrying on the side of your furthest from the street. Snatching is a crime of opportunity and if you make things too difficult for thieves, they may not find you worth their effort.

PICKPOCKETS

Cities are full of crowded places, and this is where pickpockets strike. In crowds, keep your wallet where you can feel it and continually check that it is there, especially after you've been jostled. Pickpockets use distractions to make their move so be constantly aware of your surroundings.

BURGLARS

You can minimise the fear of home invasions and burglaries by staying in a guarded condo or hotel. As always, be vigilant; consistently lock your doors, and don't forget to activate your security system.

CON ARTISTS

Beware of "stranded tourist" who tries to borrow money, the "newly-arrived businessman" who asks to see what Malaysian money looks like, or any situation that involves pulling out your wallet. Also check credentials of tour guides, or anyone offering investment opportunities or shortcuts to getting your official paperwork done.