

# SUMMER FAMILY TRAVEL SAFETY CHECKLIST

Road Trips • Hotel Stays • Protecting Valuables

## ON THE ROAD

- Inspect tires (incl. spare), brakes, and fluids; confirm A/C works before departure.
- Never leave kids or pets in the car — check the back seat every time you exit.
- Plan fuel/rest stops in advance; choose well-lit, busy stations over isolated ones.
- Store luggage and electronics out of sight before arriving — not in the lot.
- Share your route and ETA with someone; check in at major stops.
- Keep doors locked and windows up while driving, especially in traffic or cities.

## AT THE HOTEL

- Request rooms on floors 2–6 — high enough to deter break-ins, low enough for fire access.
- Avoid rooms near stairwells, ground-floor windows, or exterior corridor ends.
- Teach kids to check the peephole and never open the door without an adult.
- Engage the deadbolt and chain/latch at night; use a portable door lock if desired.
- Set a family meeting point for hotels, pools, and theme parks if separated.
- Walk the family through the nearest stairwell/exit route at check-in.

## SECURING VALUABLES — IN THE VEHICLE

- Store bags, electronics, and gifts in the trunk, not visible seats — do this before you arrive, not in the parking lot.
- Never leave purses, wallets, or phones in cup holders or on seats, even “just for a minute.”
- Use a steering wheel lock or hidden kill switch for extra deterrence in high-risk areas.
- Photograph the contents of any bags left in the car in case of a claim later.

## SECURING VALUABLES — IN THE HOTEL

- Use the in-room safe for passports, cash, jewelry, and spare cards; confirm it locks properly.
- Keep the “Do Not Disturb” sign up rather than “Please Clean” when valuables are inside.
- Don’t leave devices or valuables visible from windows or balconies.
- Use TSA-approved locks on luggage left in the room.

## ON YOUR PERSON

- Split cash and cards between family members instead of one bag or wallet.
- Use a front pocket, zippered, or RFID-blocking wallet/pouch to deter pickpocketing.
- Keep kids’ ID info (photo, allergies, contact number) on a card in their pocket, not visible jewelry or tags.
- Avoid flashing cash, expensive cameras, or jewelry in crowded tourist areas.

**General reminder:** *trust your instincts, keep emergency numbers handy, and agree on a family plan before you leave home.*