

## Don't use your smart-phone or tablet while you are out walking in the street.

The most common type of robbery in this area is a mobile phone, tablet, or laptop being snatched from the victim's hand, often by a person riding past on a bike or scooter. This has even happened when people were using such devices just outside on the Hall steps.

## Don't get so drunk that you fall asleep / pass out on the ride home.

This makes you a sitting target for robbery or worse.

## Be aware of your surroundings when you use a cash machine.

Avoid using dispensers late at night or at other times when the streets are quiet. Be aware of anyone loitering nearby. Ensure no one can see you entering your personal identification number (PIN).

Don't use a cash dispenser that looks like it has any device attached to it, or has been modified in any way: devices exist that will keep your card and record your PIN when you enter it, then the criminal will retrieve your card and will know your PIN.

## If someone tries to snatch your bag, phone, or other item, give it up rather than risk injury.

## Plan your journey in advance.

Think ahead, plan your journey, and avoid going to deserted areas.

Try to avoid walking alone at night.

Keep to well-lit main roads where possible.

Avoid short cuts like alleyways, waste ground and wooded, bushy areas.

# TEN TOP TIPS for your personal safety in London

## If you think you are being followed...

Walk quickly across the road. Cross it again if necessary. Walk immediately to a busier area where you know there will be other people. Call the police as soon as you get somewhere safe.

## Be careful where you keep your possessions when you are in public places.

If something looks difficult to snatch, the opportunist thief may be put off.

Always keep your bag with you where you can see or feel it: on your lap or between your feet. Don't hang bags over the backs of chairs.

Don't leave your mobile phone or other valuables on the table in cafes and restaurants: never leave them exposed to view, anywhere.

## Keep your drinks safe.

Criminals may add hypnotic drugs to drink (drink "spiking") in order to abduct, rob, assault, or "date rape" their victim whilst they are drowsy and leave the victim with no memory of what happened.

Keep your drink in your hand. Don't leave your drink unattended. Never accept a drink from anyone you don't know or trust. Don't take a drink from a jug or bottle that is left out on the bar.

Don't share or exchange drinks, or drink leftovers. When possible, drink from a bottle rather than a glass because it is more difficult to spike a drink in a bottle.

## Walk confidently.

Hold your head up and look as if you know where you are going.

Walk down the middle of the pavement, facing oncoming traffic to avoid kerb crawlers.

Stay alert: be aware of what's going on around you.

## Never use an unlicensed cab / taxi.

Unlicensed cabs are very dangerous. Legally licensed minicabs can only pick you up if you have booked in advance by phone, an app, or at a cab office. People who offer you a cab on the street are breaking the law. Only official London "black taxis" are allowed to pick you up without a booking.

Get the free Transport for London CABWISE app for your smartphone.



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON | INTERCOLLEGIATE HALLS OF RESIDENCE

CONNAUGHT HALL