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## Women's Travel Tips



## Checking Into Hotels

### When calling for reservations

Ask about these features:

- Is the neighbourhood safe to walk alone outside?
- If you are driving, you want a hotel with valet parking so you won't end up walking through a dark parking garage alone.
  - Are there in-room safes or safe deposits at the reception?
  - Does the hotel health club have an attendant?
  - Does the hotel use keycard locks that are changed with each guest's use? They are safer than metal keys that can be duplicated.
- Does the hotel conduct criminal background checks on employees?
- If there are sliding glass doors, are there metal bars to secure them?



### When calling in

Insist on these requirements:

- The front desk clerk should never announce your room number; if he does, return the key and ask for another.
- Ask for a room between the second and seventh floors. You want to be above ground level, but not too high for fire ladders to reach your windows.
- Ask for a room near the elevator but not too close to an outside exit which allows thieves to escape unseen.
- Don't accept a room at the end of a long hallway. You could be trapped if someone follows you from the elevator and boxes you in.
- Let the bellman take your bags to your room and have him check your closets and bathroom.



### Once in the room



Follow these guidelines:

- Look behind the curtains, in closets, under the bed while the door is open, if the bellman cannot escort you.
- Before unpacking, review the emergency exit procedures. Know where the nearest fire escape is.
- Keep your keys, flashlight, glasses at your bedside when you sleep.
- When you order a pizza or expect a package from a messenger, have it delivered to the front desk, not your room.
- Put your last name and only the first initial of your name on doorknob menus or health club sign-up sheet.



### When you leave the room



- Secure all valuables in safe deposit at front desk if you do not have one in your room.
- If you are leaving particularly expensive items in the main hotel safe, get a signed receipt.
- When you go out to dinner, leave the lights and TV on and put the DO NOT DISTURB sign on your door.