



## Don't Be a Target of Crime

Unfortunately, crime is a reality in South Africa, and being aware of potential risks can help you stay safe. While you cannot always control circumstances, you can reduce the risks of being a target of crime.

- **Avoid displaying signs of wealth in public spaces**, e.g. expensive jewellery, watches, etc.
- **Avoid carrying large amounts of cash**. If you need to, keep it hidden from prying eyes.
- **Carrying a cell phone makes you a target** – keep your phone out of sight, and don't use it in public spaces where you are a target for cell phone snatchers.
- **Criminals take advantage of isolated areas**. Avoid walking and running in isolated areas.
- **Avoid ATMs in isolated or poorly lit areas**.
- **Keep vehicle safety in mind**, especially if you drive a high-value vehicle:
  - Don't leave valuables in plain sight
  - Keep windows and doors closed and locked
  - Be cautious when travelling in high-risk areas
  - Keep an eye on your fuel gauge and ensure you have enough fuel for your journey



## Fine-tune Your Personal Alarm

### Trust Yourself

Your eyes, ears, nose, skin, and tongue often give clues indicating that something threatening is ahead. Another powerful indicator, widely known as a sixth sense, can indicate danger. Trust your sixth sense!

### Be Aware of Your Surroundings

No matter how safe you think a neighbourhood might be, leaving the front door open, your valuables in the car, your purse on your office desk, or flaunting your expensive belongings is not a good idea. Bad things happen in safe areas. Would-be attackers lurk around places where they can catch people off-guard and remain anonymous.

### Pay Attention to the People Around You and Act Confident and Focused

You can often sense people's intentions just by how they look at you. Heed warning signs even when you are with people you know and trust. Just as you can sense people's feelings, others can sense yours. Predators look for people who are meek, mild, weak, unfocused, and distracted. Present yourself in an assertive manner, e.g. when walking down the street, make eye contact with people who look at you.

### Understand that Alcohol and Drugs can Cloud Judgment

Certain substances can dull your senses and slow your reaction time to danger. They can also lower other people's inhibitions, making them more aggressive or belligerent.

**#SafetyFirst**

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