SAFE TEA TIME

Say YES to Year End Safety!

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IT is that time of the year when we all look forward to a long break with our families. Let us start by keeping our family and home safe, and our holidays enjoyable. Here are some tips (assuming no one is home):

Preparation:

1) Inform the newspaper vendor to stop delivery. Uncollected newspapers indicate that no one is at home - an inviting sign to burglars.
2) Make arrangements with your relatives, neighbour or local police to have a look every once a while.
3) Clear your fridge of perishables in case of an electrical trip.
4) Take a picture of your check-in luggage in case it gets lost. This will help airport authorities to identify the luggage.

Just before going off:

1) Disconnect and shut-off the gas and water. Switch off non-essential power supply.
2) Clear the water containers.
3) Valuables – keep them locked up properly (i.e. in a bank safe).
4) Set your alarm and check connection to the security firm.
5) If you have light timers, set them to turn on at night and off during your normal bed time to create the illusion that someone is at home.

Have a look at your vehicle if you are driving:

1) Have the vehicle you are driving serviced.
2) Pack refreshments, change of clothes and towels if it is a long journey.
3) Plan the time and allow for sufficient rest stops.
4) Buckle up!!!

Prepare your family:

1) Rest the family well.
2) Vaccinations – is it required in the place you are travelling to?
3) Check that the kids' needs are covered-Infant?
4) Medication and Medical Kit – check that you pack essential medication and medical kit in original or clinic-labelled packs.
5) Check tickets, passports (if required), hotel confirmation, itinerary, maps, weather details, emergency contact numbers, etc. – photocopy essential documents.
6) It is a good practice to pack one hand carry bag with one change of clothes, medication and nightwear in case it is a long flight and your bag does not arrive or is delayed. This saves a lot of hassle while the bag is being traced.
7) Inform your credit card company and put your credit cards in separate places (wallet, passport and bag). Spread your risk!
8) Travel insurance – it is best to have the travel insurance include coverage for emergency services if you are taking part in extreme sports.

During your holiday:

1) Drink plenty of water during the flight.
2) Maintain proper hygiene – including food.
3) Put the money you want to spend in your shirt pocket to reduce the frequency of pulling out your wallet.
4) Lock up valuables and passport if you do not need them during day tours!
5) Find out the dos and don'ts in the place you are visiting.
6) Carry your photocopy passport when you are sightseeing.
7) Do not simply divulge your itinerary to strangers no matter how friendly they seem.
8) Be aware of slips, trips and falls – one of the highest causes of injuries on a holiday!

Although not exhaustive, these tips are practical enough to use. Enjoy!

To share your travel tales and to exchange information, email me at *kengyan.shum@gmail.com*. ■

SKY hopes to visit 150 World Heritage listings before retirement (75 listings and counting….). Have a good vacation!