



Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Recife (Brazil), Increase in Robberies around Shopping Rio Mar

Crime; Transportation Security; Theft

Western Hemisphere > Brazil; Western Hemisphere > Brazil > Recife

3/14/2014

The U.S. Consulate General in Recife alerts U.S. Citizens traveling to and residing in Recife to the increased number of crimes in the area around Shopping Rio Mar.

The media has reported an increase in the number of armed robberies that have occurred as people exit the mall and find themselves stuck in traffic. Criminals have typically targeted smartphones, wallets, jewelry, and purses, but there have been reports of cars being stolen.

These types of crimes are more common during the evening and weekends, but can occur at any time. We do not have any information or indication that U.S. citizens are specifically being targeted.

U.S. citizens are encouraged to maintain a high level of security awareness at all times and to adhere to the following advice:

- Be constantly aware of the environment around you while walking or driving/riding in a vehicle. Avoid walking alone if possible especially after-dark.
- Do not wear/display expensive jewelry or watches and avoid carrying large amounts of cash on the street.

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- Take only the necessary amount of money with you to cover costs of transportation and food. Leave enough money at your residence to cover the cost of a taxi in the event that you are the victim of robbery.

If you are a victim of a robbery attempt, do not resist. The majority of crimes in Recife end without injury to the victim if no resistance is rendered. Remain as calm as possible, do not make any sudden movements, and give the robbers what they want as quickly as possible. Do not attempt to follow or chase criminals after the robbery. Immediately remove yourself from the area.

Only attempt countermeasures if you are convinced your life, or the life safety of another person, is in jeopardy.

- Avoid areas where local Police activity is occurring.
- Avoid traveling into favelas at all times.
- If you are bringing children to an event, identify them with their name, contact phone number, and address of a responsible person in case they should become separated from you.
- While driving, keep all windows rolled-up and doors locked. Do not roll-down windows to give money to children or beggars or to purchase items from street vendors. Exercise caution when approaching your vehicle or exiting it.

If you are the victim of a crime, REMAIN CALM AND DO NOT RESIST. Immediately notify

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the closest policeman on the street or call 190.

If you should require assistance, please contact Consulate General Recife using the information below:

U.S. Consulate Recife

Rua Goncalves Maia, 163

Bairro Boa Vista Recife, PE - 50.070-060

Phone: (81) 3416-3050

After-Hours Emergencies: (81) 9916-9470 or (81) 3416-3060

Email: RecifeACS@state.gov

Travelers may obtain updated information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. U.S. citizens should also consult the Department of State's Country Specific Information for Brazil.

U.S. citizens who travel to or reside in Brazil are urged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) in order to receive the most up-to-date security information. By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy and Consulates to contact them in case of emergency. U.S. citizens without Internet access may enroll in person with the U.S.

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Embassy or the nearest Consulate. Travelers may also consult the Mission Brazil website at <http://brazil.usembassy.gov/service.html> for more information.

Stay up to date by bookmarking our Bureau of Consular Affairs website which contains current Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts. Follow us on Twitter and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on Facebook, and download our Smart Traveler App, available through iTunes and Google play, to have travel information at your fingertips.

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