



Of course, opinions and experience vary about the subject. Here are some of the more obvious locations where old Fagan's advice, you've got to pick a pocket or two, seems most practiced.

Las Ramblas: Barcelona, Spain: The town's famous wide, pedestrian walkway is full of life, music, and people at all hours of the day and night. It's the perfect place to get your purse, smartphone or wallet stolen. Enjoy yourself, but always be careful.

Rome, Italy With its ancient buildings and astounding historical and cultural attractions, Rome is crowds of tourists and incredible things to sightsee. With thousands admiring the Trevi Fountain or the Pantheon, it's easy for pickpockets to lift a camera or purse with a quick snip of scissors or some clever handiwork with a zipper or button. **Madrid, Spain** El Rastro fleamarket and the crowded metro are often cited as spots where pickpockets can put a damper on a visit to this beautiful city. Travelers should also beware that in museums pickpockets can be crafty as well, preying on distracted tourists.

Paris, France: The City of Light draws enormous crowds from the base of the Eiffel Tower to the steps of Sacre-Coeur and everywhere in between. Busy crowds can also be found below ground, in the city's Metro subway system, where travelers should be especially cautious.

Florence, Italy: It's easy to see why tourists are distracted by the majestic beauty of Michelangelo's David and the other incredible and awe-inspiring works of art and pieces of history. When admiring Michelangelo's creation, or at its replica in busy Piazza della Signoria, be alert that others may have their attention on your smartphone, wallet and/or purse.

Amsterdam, Netherlands: Don't be too taken in by the canals, museums, cafés, parks and the friendly, laid-back atmosphere. Pickpockets take advantage of clueless, distracted tourists in this enchanting city.

Message: When traveling in busy cities, always be aware of your surroundings. Keep valuables secure in zipped pockets, and handbags nestled tight under a shoulder. Cameras and

smartphones should have straps that keep them safe on your wrist.