



Because they attract the most tourists, several European cities have well-documented reputations as places where pickpockets flourish. The criminals may be sly men and women who approach tourists with smiles. They also may be packs of pre-teen kids who surround victims and expertly and quickly take wallets and purses. Here are several cities with the dubious reputation:

**Barcelona, Spain:** One reviewer actually compares Barcelona pickpocketing to a generally practiced and accepted sport, like soccer. For those who'd rather stay off the field, take caution. Las Ramblas, the famous wide, pedestrian walkway, is always full of life, music, and people at all hours of the day and night. It's the perfect place to get your pocket picked or purse poached.

**Rome, Italy:** With ancient buildings and astounding historical and cultural attractions, Rome is full of incredible things to sightsee. With thousands of people admiring the Trevi Fountain or the Pantheon at any time, it's easy pickings for pickpocket. Lift a camera or purse with a quick knife snip or some clever handiwork with a zipper.

**Madrid, Spain:** El Rastro flea market and the crowded Metro are often cited as spots where pickpocket schemes can put a damper on a visit to this beautiful city. However, travelers should also beware that in museums and other cultural sites, pickpockets can be crafty as well, preying on distracted tourists.

**Paris, France: City Of Light Fingers:** It draws enormous crowds from the base of the Eiffel Tower to the steps of Sacre-Coeur and everywhere in between. But enormous crowds can also be found below ground, in the city's always jam-packed metro 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. There are other incredible and awe-inspiring works of art and pieces of history all around Florence. When admiring Michelangelo's creation, or at its replica in busy Piazza della Signoria, be alert that others may have their attention on your wallet or purse.

8. Amsterdam, Netherlands. It's easy to get carried away there with so many fun things to see and do. However, don't be too taken in by the canals and the friendly, laid-back atmosphere.

Because of the tolerant laws on drugs, the city is a destination of many wandering young addicts. To satisfy their addictions, many take to the streets as petty thieves. Pickpockets roam freely among the tourist crowds in this enchanting city.