



Q: In broad daylight in front of the Trevi Fountain, some innocent-looking kids moved in on us. While several stood in front begging for money, two slipped behind, cut our purse straps, grabbed the bags and took off. As traveling seniors who've been all over the world, this is the first time we were mugged. How can we prevent it in the future? *MBMcK, Boston MA*     A: In large cities, robbers seek the easiest targets. Senior tourists are at the top of the list. They carry lots of money, move slowly and are least physically able to fight back or pursue the thieves.

If you're a vulnerable oldster, prepare and always be alert for trouble. First, before touring a busy city, add the local police number to your smart phone. Be ready to click it if you suspect immediate trouble aimed your way. Always be aware of your surroundings, especially kids and others approaching too closely. Get away from them and into the crowd.

If you're carrying handbags, keep them under your elbows, and wallets in buttoned or zipped pockets. The safest way to tour in a large city is in groups, preferably with a local guide. And, to brightly-dressed senior American tourists, consider wearing less showy clothes, so you'll blend in with the crowd.