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Protect Your Identity While Traveling this Summer Summer TRIP Tips

Whether it's a beach escape, a trip to a foreign country, or an outdoor vacation, according to travel security expert, Dr. Peter Tarlow, people tend to lose their inhibitions and be less careful when traveling. To protect your money and credit cards, the TRIP Information Center suggests the following tips:

- Be aware of your surroundings when using an ATM, and search for indoor locations when available.
- Avoid using your credit card number on public computers. If you have to do this, be sure the site is a secure one and that your information is removed prior to leaving the computer.
- When staying at a hotel, don't give your credit card information to anyone over the phone, even the hotel staff, if requested. Instead, visit the front desk to confirm the reason for the request.

For more tips, and what to do if you become a victim of identity theft while traveling, visit TRIP.

More travel health, safety, and security tips are available on TRIP at http://trip.ustia.org. Developed by the US Travel Insurance Association as a public service, TRIP is designed to provide helpful information for anyone planning a trip. The TRIP acronym stands for "Travel Responsibly, Informed and Protected." With a motto of, "Empowering you to travel safely," the site offers useful articles, tips and links on various aspects of staying healthy, safe, and secure while traveling.

For more information on travel insurance and a listing of UStiA members, visit ustia.org.

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Editor note: This is #3 in a three-part series on summer travel tips from UStiA.

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