Cape Town, South Africa

IAP Safety Guidance and Recommendations

The following guidance is intended to **supplement** the health and safety information provided by the University of Cape Town as well as Ida Cooper Associates. Please make sure that you have read all of the safety guidance provided to you from all sources.

Personal vigilance is key to remaining safe in South Africa. Like any big city throughout the world, Cape Town has its share of crime. South Africa is experiencing rapid political, social and economic change, and does have an undesirable incidence of crime, particularly petty theft. It is also a society where guns and other weapons are as prevalent as in the United States. You will hear about safety in your pre-departure materials as well as during your onsite orientation conducted by IAPO and Ida Cooper Associates. Speakers and resources at the onsite orientation will include other students and campus security officers. In addition, IAPO will issue you an emergency phone contact list during your onsite orientation, members of IAPO staff are available 24 hours a day in case of emergencies. Read the following information carefully and also read the Safety section of the Study Abroad Handbook to prepare yourself to take appropriate precautions for your personal safety while in Cape Town.

General Rules and Suggestions about Safety in Cape Town:

- Tourists are common targets of pickpockets. Be aware of your backpacks and cameras, especially on crowded buses. It is not unusual for criminals to carry weapons during robbery attempts.
- Avoid wearing headphones/earbuds while walking. This makes you less alert and aware of your surroundings.
- Keep valuables in a locked place. Do not carry large sums of money, wear expensive jewelry, or obviously display valuable items (cameras, iPods, laptops, etc.) when you walk on the street.
- Do not carry your passport with you on a daily basis. A photocopy of the front page should be adequate.
- Avoid leaving belongings in a parked car.
- Home invasion robberies are not uncommon. Lock your room/house/apartment when you are not home.
- Use common sense just as you would in any other big city. Do not walk alone at night, and if at all possible try to walk even in the daytime with other students. Avoid trains, buses and minibus taxis at night, and never use them at night alone.
- Go into a shop or ask security personnel for directions**.** Do not stop strangers in the street.
- Cape Town drivers are among the worst in the world; be very cautious of the traffic when walking and remember that drivers drive on the opposite side of the road than you are used to.
- Avoid exploring unfamiliar areas of town on your own.
- If you decide to explore the mountain trails around the city, do not go alone. Leave information about your whereabouts with others and make sure that your phone is fully charged and your location is visible.

- Report to the International Academic Programmes Office, any incident, harassment or threatening situation which you may experience. IAPO can assist you with filing a police report if necessary.
- Know where you can reach someone in case of an emergency. IAPO provides all study abroad students with an emergency phone sheet, and members of IAPO staff are contactable 24 hours a day, should the need arise.

Safety near the water

Tragic water accidents at the sea near Cape Town happen quickly, mostly due to a lack of safety knowledge. The following tips cover water safety as well as protection measures to take if you are planning on swimming near Cape Town.

- Read and obey the beach regulations and follow instructions or advice from lifeguards.
- Make sure you know how to swim if entering the sea.
- Swim in areas supervised by a lifeguard – usually in a zone between two red and yellow flags.
- Never swim alone.
- Swim parallel to the shore if you wish to swim a long distance.
- If caught in a rip current, swim sideways until free and don't swim against the current's pull.
- Avoid swimming near rocks, piers, jetties and breakwaters.
- Stay clear of coastal dune cliffs as they can collapse suddenly.

Safety on the UCT Campus

On the UCT campus, Campus Protection Services (CPS) operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. CPS should be called instead of the police. CPS has a 24-hour hotline 650-2222/3 (use the last four digits only if calling from a UCT extension). CPS operates from six service centers:

Burnage House - adjacent to Leo Marquard Hall, in Burnage Road, just off Main Road, Rosebank
Upper Campus - Robert Leslie Social Sciences Building, University Avenue
Middle Campus - Kramer Building
Medical Campus - Barnard Fuller Building
Forest Hills Residence - Main Road, Mowbray
Hiddingh Campus - Orange Street, Cape Town

Shuttle Services
The Jammie Shuttle provides convenient and safe bus transport between UCT campuses and residences during term time. The Jammie Shuttle provides a constant service during the day (Monday through Friday 07:30-18:00), but also operates a night service (Monday through Thursday 18:30-01:00, Friday 18:30-22:00). Pick-up points include:

Leo Marquard / Tugwell
Forest Hills / Varietas Residence
Liesbeeck Gardens
Clarinus
Medical School
Hiddingh Hall
Observatory

Mowbray
Claremont
Rochester

The Jammie Shuttle Offices are located at Lower Campus near Leo Marquard Residence. For more information, contact Jammie Shuttle at (0)21 685 7135

Safe Escort Service
In the event that the Jammie Shuttle does not function (after 01:00), CPS offers assistance to students by escorting them on foot or giving them a lift from campus to their residences. However, please understand that CPS's core function on campus is not transportation of patrons; some patience is required because of delays when their officers may be attending to other issues.

Tips for protecting yourself on the UCT campus

- Remember you are safer when walking in a group, especially at night.
- Practice using the "Blue Safe Walk," the preferred pedestrian route, when walking in University property - you have the advantage of being close to the emergency phones and the area is monitored by surveillance cameras.
- Avoid walking in dark and deserted areas and stay away from "short cuts".