# Rome’s Trevi Fountain emerges as Europe’s pickpocketing hotspot for summer tourists



As British holidaymakers prepare for their summer trips across Europe, the risk of pickpocketing remains a significant concern in many popular destinations. An ex-detective recently highlighted on BBC Morning Live that while theft can occur anywhere, major cities in Europe consistently rank as hotspots for pickpockets. Rome has emerged as the most targeted city, with the Trevi Fountain particularly notorious. Tourists often throw coins into the fountain for good luck, but according to the expert, this tradition ironically leaves them vulnerable to thieves.

Other iconic cities such as Barcelona, Paris, Amsterdam, Prague, and Lisbon also feature prominently on the list of high-risk locations. Closer to home, London has been identified as the phone theft capital of Europe, underscoring the widespread nature of the problem even within the UK. This paints a vivid picture of how urban centres and busy tourist attractions provide ample opportunities for opportunistic thieves.

Supporting this, multiple reports have revealed that countries like France, Spain, Italy, and Germany consistently experience high volumes of pickpocketing incidents. Paris’ Eiffel Tower, Barcelona’s Las Ramblas, Milan’s Duomo, and Rome’s Colosseum are specific hotspots known for such activity. In Amsterdam, the Red Light District is particularly problematic, while Prague and Athens are also frequently mentioned as cities where tourists should remain vigilant.

Statistics show that these risks are often compounded by large crowds and distracted tourists—conditions that pickpockets exploit. Recent data indicates that the incidence of pickpocketing can be quantified per million visitors, with these cities ranking at the top. This context highlights the importance of travel safety awareness and preparation in reducing victimisation.

Security experts and travel advisors universally recommend practical measures to minimise risks. These include avoiding back pockets for valuables, using anti-theft bags or money belts, and keeping belongings in sight and securely fastened. Staying alert in crowded spaces and being wary of distractions or unsolicited approaches also form key parts of effective strategies against theft.

Moreover, authorities and travel resources suggest that tourists leave important documents in hotel safes and remain aware of common pickpocketing tactics, such as coordinated diversions or sudden commotions. By combining vigilance with smart choices in how personal items are carried and handled, travellers can substantially reduce their chances of falling prey to pickpockets.

In summary, while Europe offers an array of culturally rich and memorable travel experiences, visitors must approach certain urban areas with heightened caution. The prevalence of pickpocketing in top tourist destinations necessitates preparedness and vigilance to ensure a safe and enjoyable holiday.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/europe-pickpocketing-stealing-holiday-destinations-video-b2785910.html), [[4]](https://www.yourcoffeebreak.co.uk/lifestyle/26338763698/where-in-europe-are-you-most-likely-to-be-a-victim-of-pickpocketing/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/europe-pickpocketing-stealing-holiday-destinations-video-b2785910.html), [[3]](https://www.holidaypirates.com/travel-magazine/uk-the-10-european-cities-most-at-risk-of-pickpocketing), [[6]](https://www.mediabirdmag.com/pickpocketing-in-europe/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.euronews.com/travel/2024/05/02/remain-vigilant-europes-most-heavily-pickpocketed-tourist-spots-revealed), [[4]](https://www.yourcoffeebreak.co.uk/lifestyle/26338763698/where-in-europe-are-you-most-likely-to-be-a-victim-of-pickpocketing/), [[6]](https://www.mediabirdmag.com/pickpocketing-in-europe/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.travelguard.com/travel-resources/travel-tips/avoid-outsmart-pickpockets-in-europe), [[7]](https://www.openprivilege.com/lifestyle/travel/which-european-countries-are-most-at-risk-of-pickpocketing-6648cae2a6f8399b70ae0e43)
* Paragraph 5 – [[5]](https://www.travelguard.com/travel-resources/travel-tips/avoid-outsmart-pickpockets-in-europe), [[7]](https://www.openprivilege.com/lifestyle/travel/which-european-countries-are-most-at-risk-of-pickpocketing-6648cae2a6f8399b70ae0e43)
* Paragraph 6 – [[5]](https://www.travelguard.com/travel-resources/travel-tips/avoid-outsmart-pickpockets-in-europe), [[7]](https://www.openprivilege.com/lifestyle/travel/which-european-countries-are-most-at-risk-of-pickpocketing-6648cae2a6f8399b70ae0e43)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/europe-pickpocketing-stealing-holiday-destinations-video-b2785910.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.euronews.com/travel/2024/05/02/remain-vigilant-europes-most-heavily-pickpocketed-tourist-spots-revealed> - An article by Euronews highlights Europe's most heavily pickpocketed tourist spots, including Paris, Barcelona, and Amsterdam. It provides statistics on pickpocketing incidents per million visitors and offers advice on safeguarding belongings, such as using anti-theft bags and staying vigilant in crowded areas. The piece also notes that France, Spain, and Germany are among the top countries for pickpocketing incidents, with specific attractions like the Eiffel Tower and Las Ramblas being particularly targeted. The article emphasizes the importance of awareness and caution for tourists in these regions.
3. <https://www.holidaypirates.com/travel-magazine/uk-the-10-european-cities-most-at-risk-of-pickpocketing> - Holiday Pirates presents a list of the ten European cities most at risk of pickpocketing, including Milan, Copenhagen, Rome, and Stockholm. The article provides statistics on the risk of pickpocketing in each city and highlights specific areas where tourists should exercise caution, such as the Duomo in Milan and the Colosseum in Rome. It also offers safety tips for travelers, such as using anti-theft bags and avoiding back pockets, to help reduce the risk of theft while visiting these cities.
4. <https://www.yourcoffeebreak.co.uk/lifestyle/26338763698/where-in-europe-are-you-most-likely-to-be-a-victim-of-pickpocketing/> - Your Coffee Break discusses the most common areas in Europe where tourists are likely to be victims of pickpocketing. The article highlights hotspots in cities like Rome, Prague, Madrid, Paris, Florence, Amsterdam, and Athens. It provides specific locations within these cities, such as the Trevi Fountain in Rome and the Red Light District in Amsterdam, where pickpocketing incidents are prevalent. The piece also offers advice on staying vigilant and securing personal belongings to prevent theft in these popular tourist destinations.
5. <https://www.travelguard.com/travel-resources/travel-tips/avoid-outsmart-pickpockets-in-europe> - Travel Guard offers practical tips for avoiding pickpockets in Europe. The article advises travelers to avoid distractions, keep bags in sight, and not use back pockets to reduce the risk of theft. It emphasizes the importance of staying alert, especially in crowded areas, and suggests using anti-theft bags and money belts to secure valuables. The piece also recommends leaving important documents in hotel safes and being cautious when approached by strangers to prevent falling victim to pickpocketing.
6. <https://www.mediabirdmag.com/pickpocketing-in-europe/> - Mediabird Magazine provides a ranking of European countries based on pickpocketing risk for travelers. The article lists the top ten countries, including Italy, France, Spain, and Germany, and highlights specific areas within these countries where pickpocketing incidents are common. It offers safety tips for travelers, such as using securely fastened bags and keeping them in front, to help reduce the risk of theft while visiting these destinations.
7. <https://www.openprivilege.com/lifestyle/travel/which-european-countries-are-most-at-risk-of-pickpocketing-6648cae2a6f8399b70ae0e43> - Open Privilege discusses European countries most at risk of pickpocketing, including the Netherlands, Germany, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, and Greece. The article emphasizes the vulnerability of tourists in crowded areas and advises travelers to secure their belongings, avoid carrying valuables in accessible pockets or open bags, and stay cautious in crowded areas. It also highlights the importance of being aware of common pickpocketing tactics and taking necessary precautions to prevent theft.