



Hotel or **Safe Haven?**

Why not Hotel and Safe Haven?

By Richard Downing, Instructor, InDefence Personal Safety Specialists

Everyone enjoys a good holiday, specifically the thought of being able to switch off and unwind, conversely, business travellers rely on having accommodation that enables them to get adequate rest before important meetings. This is why choosing a hotel carefully is a requirement of planning any getaway or business trip.

What hotel should I choose?

Do I book by star rating, guest reviews on a trip advisor type forum, by location or hotel chain brand?

The answer is to use a combination of the available mediums for assessing if a property is safe for and fit for purpose.

Is the property safe?

The general assumption of many travellers is that the higher the star rating, the safer and more secure the property. This is a very subjective test. Let's add some objective tests to ensure that you have a safe, secure and comfortable stay.

Some considerations:

1. Location:

- a. Is the location in a populous area?
- b. Are there crime statistics available that you can obtain?
- c. Is the location close to a transport hub?

2. Property Considerations:

- a. How many entry and exits does the hotel have?
- b. Is the building a high or low rise property?
- c. What methods does the property offer to get to floors above ground level? (stairs, lift)
- d. Are there fire extinguishers and detection systems?
- e. What on-site facilities are available?
 - i. Currency exchange?
 - ii. Restaurants and bars?
 - iii. Pool/Gym/Recreational facilities?
 - iv. Meeting rooms or business centre?
 - v. Cable TV?
 - vi. Justice of the Peace or Notary Public?
 - vii. News stand

3. Security:

- a. Are there any problems that have been encountered around theft/assault/unlawful entry? (Check reviews online)
- b. Is reception staffed 24/7?

- c. Is there a security system?
 - i. CCTV
 - ii. Swipe access
 - iii. Lock down of reception after hours
- d. Are the surrounds of the property well lit?
- e. Is there onsite security?
- f. Are there barriers or bollarding at the entrance?
- g. Is there a security telephone extension in the hotel? What is it?
- h. Is there a hotel safe deposit box facility?
 - i. Are there in room safes?
 - j. Are there local dialling procedures next to hotel telephones?

4. Room Specifics:

- a. Where is the nearest emergency exit?
- b. Do windows have locks?
- c. Smoke detectors and sprinklers are present.
- d. Safe is in working condition.
- e. Does the hotel phone work?
- f. Does the room air conditioning and heating work?
- g. Does the TV work?
- h. Are there any hazardous objects in the room?

Whilst the above is not an exhaustive list, it is intended to give a broad overview of considerations when choosing between hundreds of properties as potential accommodation options. The above will increase your chances of being able to switch off, unwind and recharge on your next holiday or business travel.

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Ph: 0400 333 363

Email: info@indefence.com.au