

7TH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE ON LOCAL SAFETY AND SECURITY



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SECURITY IN TOURISM IN POLAND AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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Poland

- around 36,2 million tourists in 2023
- population: over 38 million
- capital city: Warsaw
- major cities: Kraków, Poznań, Łódź, Gdańsk, Wrocław



Czech Republic

- more than 22 million tourists in 2023
- population: 10 million
- capital city Prague
- 7 500 000 tourists
- South Moravia - Brno
- Ostrava
- Giant Mountains



Tourism and crime

- tourism is an interactive relationship between tourists, locals, public host governments, and communities (Glensor and Peak, 2004)
- crime is an action which is contrary to written or case law in either the tourist-generating or tourist-receiving country (Ryan, 1993)



Tourist security issues

- Tarlow (2006) defines perpetrators and victims of crime in tourism
- Crotts (1996) comes with The Theory of Hotspots
- property-related crime against tourists

Crimes committed by	Crimes committed against	Type of crime	Goal of crime
Locals	Tourists	Assaults, petty theft, con artists, crimes of distraction	Economic gain
Tourists	Tourists, locals, tourism personnel	Robbery, pickpockets, small-scale stealing	Economic or social gain
Tourism Industry	Tourists	Fraud, business misrepresentation	Economic

Poland, tourism and crime

- tourism accounts for approximately 4,5 percent of Poland's GDP
- 14th safest European country and 30th in the world (World Safety Index 2024)
- usual safety precautions before arriving
- 860,000 crimes recorded throughout Poland (2022)
- 55,000 crimes recorded in Warsaw (2022)



Main safety risks in Poland

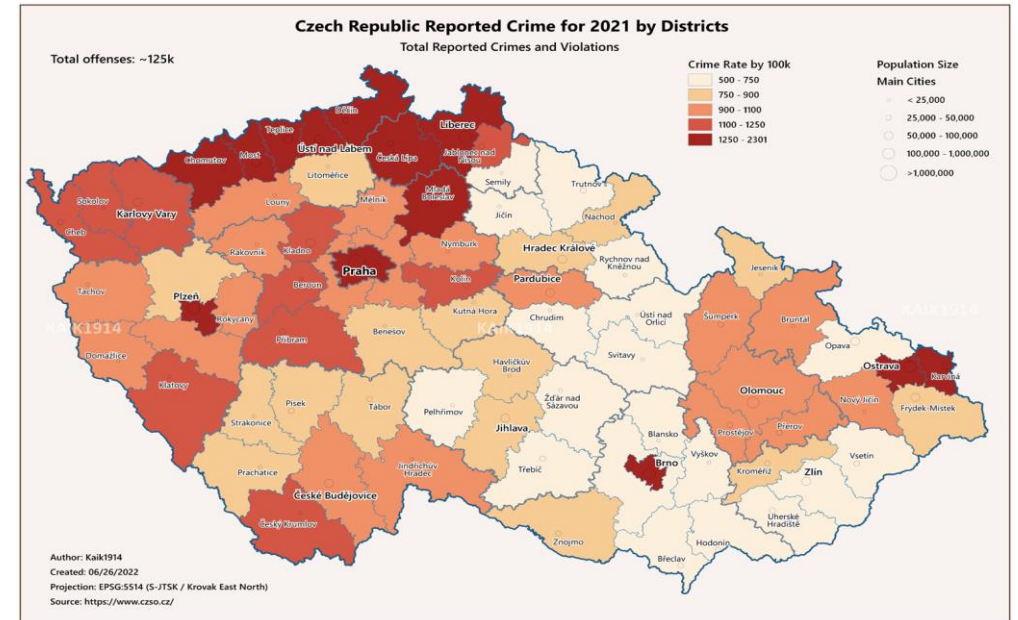
The most common crimes tourists should be aware of in Poland:

- pickpocketing
 - according to the pickpocketing index, made in 2023, Poland has the 10th place in Europe
- assaults in unregulated taxis
- violence against LGBT people
- fraud
- cybercrime



Czechia, tourism and crime

- 2,18 % of GDP in the national economy from tourism
- World Safety Index 2024: 35th safest country
- usual safety precautions before arriving
- 41 000 reported crimes in Prague
- 8 000 reported crimes in Brno



Main safety risks in Czechia

- crime hotspots - Prague, Brno
- economic gain

The most common types:

- pickpocketing (10 % increase between 2022/23)
- petty robberies including swarming techniques of criminal groups
- car thefts
- financial frauds - ATM, currency exchanges, restaurants and bars
- natural hazards - floods, storms, hail storms, avalanches



Prevention

- check the current situation in the country and any potential risks - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- be vigilant and actively participating in the tourist's safety
- know the basic safety rules
- know the emergency numbers
- report the crime at the police station



Prevention

- check the forecast and potential warnings issued by authorities
- **RCB ALERT in Poland**
 - message system notifying people about possible threats.
 - reaches all mobile phone users, including subscribers of foreign networks who use in Poland
- know local laws - alcohol drinking is forbidden in public



